



**Council on
the Arts**

Arts & Culture Facilities Improvement Grant Program

Large Capital Project Fund

April 27, 2018

Arts & Culture Facilities Improvement Grant

Funding Available: Up to \$5 Million

The Arts & Culture Facilities capital grant program has been established to:

- ✓ strengthen tourism
- ✓ promote business development and
- ✓ improve the quality, efficiency and accessibility of New York State arts and cultural organizations through targeted investments

Arts & Culture Facilities Improvement Grant

Program Information

Funding is available for eligible projects that include plans to improve the quality, efficiency, and accessibility of arts and cultural organizations within New York State, thereby increasing the economic impact in the corresponding region as a result of increased visitation and visitor spending.

Arts & Culture Facilities Improvement Grant

Program Information

Grant funds can be used for:

- renovations and/or expansions of space(s) that are open to the public;
- modifications to provide for sustainable, energy efficient spaces resulting in overall cost savings;
- accessibility renovations;
- as well as technology and other equipment that would benefit the public.

Only request amounts between \$250,000 and \$1,000,000 will be considered.

**For Facilities requests below \$250,000 , please visit NYSCA's website to explore alternative opportunities.*

Arts & Culture Facilities Improvement Grant Program

Eligibility Information

- Applicants must complete and submit a Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) to be reviewed the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) and the REDC for the primary region in which the project is located or headquartered if there is not one single project location.
- Applications must clearly demonstrate that the project is related to arts and culture in both the CFA application and the project plan. Projects that fail to establish this focus will be determined ineligible and will not be scored.
- Only Not-For-Profit arts and cultural organizations incorporated in NY State or registered to do business in NY State may apply for funding.

For more specific eligibility information refer to the Arts & Culture Facilities Improvement Guidelines.

Arts & Culture Facilities Improvement Grant Program

Funding Information

50% Match Required

- No more than fifty percent (50%) of the financing for *Arts & Cultural Facilities Improvement* projects will be considered.
- An actual cash match of 50% of the Total Project Cost is required, In-kind matches and/or staff time is not eligible for the match requirement.
- Additionally, funds from any other state agency are ineligible to be used for the match(e.g. I LOVE NY Matching Funds, ESD or other NYSCA Fund)
- *Match Example: A \$1,000,000 total project cost requires a \$500,000 minimum match, regardless of the grant amount being requested.*

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Eligible Costs Information

Eligible arts and culture costs include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Acquisition of land and/or buildings, new construction, renovation or expansion of leasehold improvements;
- Acquisition of fixed capital equipment;
- Acquisition of fixtures;
- Soft costs of up to 15% of total project costs;
- Design studies related to a specific capital project including conceptual, schematic, design development through construction documents.

For more information on eligible & ineligible costs refer to the Arts & Culture Facilities Improvement Guidelines.

Arts & Culture Facilities Improvement Grant Program

Applicant Information

- Awarded grants are not transferable.
- All project expenditures (grant and match) must be demonstrated to have been expended from Grantees accounts.
- Expenditures made by partners and/or consultants are not eligible unless the grantee can demonstrate that the partner and/or consultant was directly reimbursed for the expenses and/or services rendered.
- If the information on the application regarding a project match is determined to not show any demonstrated “match” for the program, the overall project may be deemed ineligible.
- Applicants must demonstrate how Large Capital Project Fund support for these expenses will be used to achieve the desired outcome of their enhancement project, and how these expenses are expected to stimulate increased tourist visitation and spending to the corresponding region of New York State.

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Applicant Information

- All grantees will be required to adhere to the terms outlined in the award letter and contract, including all requested documentation, including interim and final reports.
- All grantees are fully responsible for being aware of any taxes required to be paid as a part of accepting an awarded grant. New York State Council on the Arts is not able to provide assistance on your tax reporting status.
- Major changes to the scope of the project will cause a proportional reduction of award amount or termination of your awarded grant.

For more information on applicant information refer to the Arts & Culture Facilities Improvement Guidelines.

Arts & Culture Facilities Improvement Grant Program

Scoring Information

Eligible applications will be scored by applying the review criteria described below. Scores determined by NYSCA panelists will comprise up to **80 of the 100** possible points and will be combined with **up to 20 points** to be scored by the REDC for a final score.

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Scoring Information- NYSCA

NYSCA TECHNICAL REVIEW [80 Points Total]

Artistic/Programmatic Excellence

NYSCA believes in artistic excellence without boundaries, and its evaluation process embraces the widest variety of cultural and artistic expression being offered to the public in a broad array of settings and contexts, including classrooms and community centers, parks, open spaces, and traditional venues. The following are considered elements of Artistic/Programmatic Excellence.

Service to the Public

As a public funder, NYSCA must ensure that its grants support a broad array of cultural activity that fully represents the diversity of the state and that the supported events are accessible to the broadest possible public in every region of the state. In addition, it must ensure that the organizations and events it supports comply with public safety and accessibility laws. The following are considered elements of service to the public.

Project Timeline & Performance Measures/Metrics

How well does the project plan demonstrate:

- a timeline for individual project steps;
- performance measures/metrics to quantify the ROI and demonstrate the economic impact.

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Scoring Information- NYSCA

Additionally, NYSCA will look favorably on projects that meet one or more of the following priorities:

- Projects that improve, expand, or rehabilitate existing buildings to provide access for all.
- Projects that address known health and safety deficiencies.
- Projects that address issues of building stabilization.
- Projects from organizations that further cultural development in rural or minority communities.
- Projects that reduce an organization's operating costs.
- Projects that demonstrate environmental stewardship and/or sustainable building practices.

NYSCA shall have the discretion to consider additional factors in determining the relative merits of projects.

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Scoring Information- REDC

REGIONAL COUNCIL SCORE [20 Points Total]

Regional Economic Development Council scoring teams will score projects from their region up to a maximum of 20 points.

For more information on applicant information refer to the Arts & Culture Facilities Improvement Guidelines.

TOTAL POSSIBLE SCORE [100 Points Total]

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CONTACT INFORMATION:

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