

When does the application open and what is the due date?

The application opened on Thursday, January 19, 2022, and the due date is Thursday, March 24, 2022, 11:59 pm.

Are there be opportunities to learn more about this program and ask questions?

Yes. We will be hosting a series of online info sessions in order to review materials relevant to the CCG application, provide information on the grant renovation process, and answer any questions that potential applicants may have regarding the program.

We encourage constituents to visit our website and sign up to attend one of the following public information webinars scheduled during the dates and times below. Recordings of each session will be made available for anyone who is unable to attend live.

Informational Sessions

- Thursday, January 27, 2022, from 10am – 11am
- Thursday, February 10, 2022, from 3pm – 4pm
- Thursday, February 24, 2022, from 10am – 11am
- Thursday, March 10, 2022, from 3pm – 4pm

Additionally, Arts Commission staff is available to answer questions by email or for one-on-one meetings to provide further information.

What are the priorities for this grant?

The purpose of the CCG program is to provide general operating support funds to organizations throughout Arizona's arts and culture ecosystem within a multiyear time-horizon.

Arts and culture organizations—from theatres to music venues, from museums to community arts centers—are a vital set of physical (and virtual) places that help shape the way all Arizonans interact with and engage one another to build healthy communities. From purchase-oriented transactions with an audience to engaging different communities through quality programs and services, organizations generate the local interactions necessary for meaningful quality of life and equitable economic development. As platforms of community engagement and social interaction, arts and culture organizations are core components of Arizona's social infrastructure.

Within this context, the CCG program outlines a more prolonged investment in Arizona's arts and culture organizations with the intention of helping organizations strengthen their capacity to deliver programs and services for the purpose of realizing their mission.

Was the creation of this new program informed by public input and feedback?

We are thankful to the many voices that informed the renovation process of the organizational grants program. These included leadership, staff, volunteers and partners of organizations from throughout our state.

The process itself consisted of comprehensive research, fieldwork, and constituent engagement that prioritized public input and feedback. Through direct outreach, our different cohort programs, as well as listening and dialogue sessions, we gained insight on how an organizational grantmaking program could be tailored to better serve Arizona's arts and cultural ecosystem.

It is also important to underscore that the revised organizational grants program very much reflects what many arts and culture organizations have been directly asking from our agency for over several years. Which is why it

was vital for our revision process to be constituent-guided and constituent-informed.

The following are some of the key revisions to the organizational grantmaking program:

- The Creative Capacity Grant program will operate on a 3-year funding cycle, meaning organizations will only submit a full application and undergo a public panel review once every 3 years
- The program will continue to utilize the streamlined DataArts/Cultural Data Profile as the financial tool with flexibility for both new and small applicant organizations
- The application's narrative component has been refined and pared back, thus asking a significantly reduced number of narrative questions
- The program includes updated criteria where organizations can more fully speak to their strengths

A more detailed description of the entirety of the public input process is available on our website.

My organization has received grants from the Arts Commission before, but I am new in my role and cannot access our Submittable account. What should I do?

Submittable accounts reflect individuals and not organizations. In other words, the staff member who was previously managing your organization's grant possessed a Submittable account on behalf of your organization. In some instances, as one staff member exits, they will leave behind their Submittable login credentials to their successor so they may access prior grant application materials and update the pre-existing account information. If you do not have access to a prior grant manager's Submittable login credentials, you will have to set up a new account.

One helpful remedy for this has been for organizations to utilize a generic grants-related email address under their domain name as the primary inbox for their organization's Submittable materials (e.g. grants@yourorganization.com). This way new accounts will not have to be made in the event of staffing changes and your organization can streamline access to prior application materials.

How do I generate a DataArts Funder Report?

Applicants to CCG Levels V - VIII will enter their financial data into the DataArts' Cultural Data Profile and generate a Funder Report to submit with their application. You can find resources on preparing your data for entry and getting started with the online platform at <https://culturaldata.org/what-we-do/for-arts-cultural-organizations/the-cultural-data-profile/>.

What organizational expenses does this grant fund?

Creative Capacity Grants provide unrestricted general operating support for the ongoing day-to-day operations of an arts organization, such as the following:

- Salaries and Personnel Expenses: creative workers (i.e., artists, tradition bearers, designers, educators, curators, program administrators, services providers and other creative contributors), production staff, administrators, teachers, contractors, consultants
- Artistic/Production Expenses: supplies, materials, equipment, venues, royalties, licensing
- Administrative Expenses: office space and supplies, insurance, professional services like accounting or payroll, fees for banking, online services and platforms, training and education costs, marketing and promotion costs

Does this grant fund or focus on new projects or new work?

No. The production or generation of new projects is not a requirement of the CCG program. CCG provides unrestricted general operating support, meaning that organizations may use CCG funds for many different types of operating expenses. However, there are some expenses which cannot be funded with public dollars; please be sure to check the funding restrictions list before determining how you will apply the grant funds.

Who is eligible to apply for a Creative Capacity Grant?

The Creative Capacity Grant (CCG) program is open to Arizona arts and culture organizations that:

- are incorporated as a nonprofit organization with tax-exempt status or are a unit of government (unincorporated organizations that are otherwise eligible may apply through a nonprofit fiscal sponsor)
- have a primary mission to produce, present, teach or serve the arts
- have a minimum annual budget of \$4,000
- will incur eligible expenses during the funding period of July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

Are multipurpose organizations eligible for the Creative Capacity Grants (CCG) program?

Multidisciplinary or multipurpose organizations are eligible for Creative Capacity Grants (CCG) if they meet the program's stated eligibility requirements (please see previous question) and are able to demonstrate that the arts comprise over 51% of the organization's public programming and budget.

Whereas multipurpose organizations may be eligible to apply for program-based or project-based funding, they are not automatically eligible to apply for General Operating Support (GOS) funding, which is intended to support the ongoing, general, and common day-to-day operations of an arts organization.

This specific grant program is intended to provide GOS funding to organizations whose primary mission is to produce, present, teach or serve the arts. We highly encourage multidisciplinary or multipurpose organizations to contact staff before submitting a CCG application to discuss eligibility.

My organization is eligible for other Arts Commission grants. Can I apply to those?

No. Across grant programs, the Arts Commission limits the number of applications that may be submitted by a given organization or unit of government to one (1) application per funding period (July 1 – June 30 of the following year). While an organization or unit of government may be eligible for more than one grant program, they may only apply for one of them in a given funding period. As an example, an applicant who applies to the Creative Capacity Grant program in Fiscal Year 2023 may not apply for the Festivals Grant program or a Youth Arts Engagement Grant that same year.

What is the review process for this grant?

Grants are awarded through a competitive review process. Applications are first reviewed by Arts Commission staff for completeness and eligibility. Late or incomplete applications will be ineligible for subsequent panel review or funding.

Eligible applications are then evaluated by independent review panels made up of arts and other professionals from communities throughout the state. Applications are not compared to each other, but rather each application is reviewed based on how well it demonstrates alignment with the evaluation criteria. Grant panel recommendations are then approved by the Arts Commission's Governor-appointed board of commissioners in June.

What does it mean that this is a multiyear funding program?

The Creative Capacity Grant will operate on a multi-year funding cycle, with organizations submitting a full application every three years. In the two alternate years, grantees will submit an abbreviated application update.

Because this is the launch of a new multiyear funding program, all FY2023 applications will undergo a public review process. Subsequent grantees of this new program will be organized into three multiyear funding cycles, determining when they will next submit a full application and undergo a full panel review.

When in their alternate years, organizations' abbreviated application materials will be reviewed by Arts Commission staff for completeness, eligibility, and any significant changes. They do not undergo panel review and maintain the same funding priority determined during their full-year panel review.

This alternate-year application cycle will be implemented beginning in FY2024.

Be advised: the Arts Commission's budget for the upcoming fiscal year is not known until well past the CCG application deadline, and thus any previous year's award amounts are not a guarantee of future award amounts. Actual grant award amounts are always determined based on availability of funds.