



Core Mission Determination Guide

For use with Cuyahoga Arts & Culture's General Operating Support and Project Support Grant Programs

Through our application process, CAC determines if an organization demonstrates it has a core mission of arts & culture.

Why is this information important?

- CAC prioritizes funding opportunities for organizations with a core mission of arts & culture.
- This is used to determine eligibility for grant programs and grant request amounts.

Which nonprofits have a core mission of arts and culture?

Nonprofit organizations whose mission shows that the core activities and services of the organization are to produce, present or create programs or activities in areas directly concerned with arts or cultural heritage for the general public.

How does CAC make this determination?

- To have a core mission of arts and culture, an organization must have it articulated in their articles of incorporation and backed up by other publicly available materials. There is no application or appeal process for this determination.
- If it's unclear that arts and culture by Ohio Revised Code's definition is the *core* mission, then the organization does not have a core mission of arts and culture, for the purpose of CAC grantmaking.
- Some organizations may have an arts or cultural heritage discipline within their mission, but if their mission-driven work is not programming or activities for the general public, they do not have a core mission of arts & culture, for the purpose of CAC grantmaking.

What evidence/materials does CAC use to make this determination?

CAC reviews the following materials for applicant organizations:

- Mission Statement
- Articles of Incorporation
- Website
- IRS Form 990
- NTEE codes, subject areas, and mission as listed on GuideStar
- Other publicly available materials

When does CAC review these materials and decide?

- CAC reviews these materials during the application process.
- Determination may change from previous years based on new information; CAC reserves the right to change determinations of any applicant or grantee.

Where does CAC's definition of arts and culture come from?

- CAC's definition of arts and culture comes directly from the [Ohio Revised Code Section 3381.01](#):
"Arts or cultural heritage" includes, but is not limited to, literature, theater, music, dance, ballet, painting, sculpture, photography, motion pictures, architecture, archaeology, history, natural history, or the natural sciences."
- CAC embraces an expansive understanding of arts and culture that include disciplines beyond, but in the spirit of, this defined list.

If you have questions, please contact a member of the [grants team](#).