General Operating Support
2026 Organizational Goal Setting Form

Due: January 31, 2026

Please submit your report using the online application and reporting system. If you need help, start by reading our Guide to Online Reporting. **Questions?** Contact your grant manager.

About Your Grant Payment
CAC will release the first payment of your 2026 grant (as outlined in your grant agreement) once your 2025 Year-End Report (or 2025 Project Support Final Report) and 2026 Goals are approved, and your board chair and executive director/CEO have signed the 2026 grant agreement. No funds related to your 2026 grant will be released before January 31, 2026. Review and approval of your goals typically takes at least three weeks from the date of submission and will take longer if submitted closer to the deadline.

Contact Verification

1. **Organizational Primary Contact Information.** Please update the contact information if needed. This contact will receive all communications from CAC related to your organization's GOS grant during the 2026 grant year.

2. **CEO/Executive Director Contact Information.** Please update the contact information if needed.

Organization Leadership and Population Served

To improve CAC's understanding of the organizations served through its grants, we ask that you consider the following questions. These responses do not impact eligibility or grant decisions.

CAC does not make grants or funding decisions on the basis of race, color, sex, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, disability, or any characteristic protected by law.

3. Do the majority of your organization's senior leadership and board publicly self-identify as Black, Indigenous, or People of Color (BIPOC)? (yes, no, not sure/prefer not to answer)

4. Do the majority of the individuals your organization serves identify as Black, Indigenous, or People of Color (BIPOC)? (yes, no, not sure/prefer not to answer)

5. (Optional) Please share any additional context below. (up to 100 words)
   - Cuyahoga Arts & Culture recognizes additional historically marginalized communities including but not limited to: lesbian; gay; bisexual; queer; transgender and gender-variant people; people with disabilities; immigrants; and women. CAC strongly encourages applicants who are from communities that have been historically excluded or marginalized.

6. Please select all that apply:

- We collect self-reported demographic data for our staff and board.
- We do not currently collect self-reported demographic data around staff and board, but have plans to do so in the next year.
- We do not currently collect any demographic data on our staff and board, and do not have the capacity to do so.
- We share our organizational demographic data in our Candid Profile.
- We have collected demographic data on our staff and board in the past, but have stopped within the last year.
- Other (please share)

7. Share the link to your Candid profile. CAC requires all General Operating Support grantees to claim their Candid Profile. We strongly encourage grantees to update programmatic, financial, and any publicly-self-identified demographic data available for your organization.

Setting 2026 Organizational Goals

Identify organizational goals that relate to CAC's funding criteria.

Goals should be SMARTIE: specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, time-targeted, inclusive, and equitable. You will share your progress on these goals later in the year.

1. **CAC encourages grantees to choose goals for their CAC reporting process directly from your strategic plan, to show how your core, mission-driven work connects to CAC's funding criteria: Public Benefit, Artistic & Cultural Vibrancy, and Organizational Capacity.** Is your organization operating under a strategic plan or other planning framework? (yes/no)
   a. If yes, please upload a copy of your organization's current Strategic Plan.
   b. If no, please share how your organization plans for the future. *(up to 100 words)*

2. **PUBLIC BENEFIT - An organization's ability to meaningfully connect with its community to achieve its mission.**
   Examples of how an organization can demonstrate public benefit include, but are not limited to:
   - Understanding, respecting, and sharing power with its community
   - Listening and responding to its community
   - Building and strengthening relationships
   - Being inclusive and engaging diverse populations
   - Being accessible and inviting to its community and the broader public

   a. **Your organization's 2026 Public Benefit goal:** *(up to 100 words)*
   b. **How will you measure progress?** *(up to 100 words)*
   c. **Is this goal pulled directly from your organization's strategic plan?** (yes/no)

3. **ARTISTIC AND CULTURAL VIBRANCY - An organization's ability to create relevant and engaging work that furthers its mission**.

Examples of how an organization can demonstrate artistic & cultural vibrancy include, but are not limited to:

   • Incorporating a process of reflection to ensure that programming is relevant to or created with its community
   • Building the capacity of arts and cultural professionals, helping them to thrive
   • Engaging a diverse team of arts and cultural professionals qualified to achieve the mission
   • Identifying opportunities to promote diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging through its work

   a. **Your organization's 2026 Artistic & Cultural Vibrancy goal:** *(up to 100 words)*
   b. **How will you measure progress?** *(up to 100 words)*
   c. **Is this goal pulled directly from your organization's strategic plan?** (yes/no)

4. **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY - An organization's ability to successfully plan for and manage its resources.**

Examples of how an organization can demonstrate organizational capacity include, but are not limited to:

   • Setting goals, measuring progress, and evolving
   • Recruiting and retaining a diverse staff and board that can carry out the mission
   • Planning strategically to achieve and maintain a strong financial position
   • Evaluating organizational processes and structures to ensure a culture of belonging where everyone can thrive

   a. **Your organization's 2026 Organizational Capacity goal:** *(up to 100 words)*
   b. **How will you measure progress?** *(up to 100 words)*
   c. **Is this goal pulled directly from your organization's strategic plan?** (yes/no)

5. **(OPTIONAL) RACIAL EQUITY GOAL - What actions will you take during the grant period to work toward racial equity in your programming and operations?**

CAC defines racial equity as the condition that would be achieved if one's racial identity no longer predicted, in a statistical sense, how one fares. When we use the term, we are thinking about racial equity as one part of racial justice, and thus we also include work to address root causes of inequities not just their manifestation. This includes elimination of policies, practices, attitudes and cultural messages that reinforce differential outcomes by race or fail to eliminate them.

   a. **Your organization's 2026 Racial Equity goal:** *(up to 100 words)*
   b. **How will you measure progress?** *(up to 100 words)*
   c. **Is this goal pulled directly from your organization's strategic plan?** (yes/no)
   d. **Has your organization had to pivot or make changes regarding Racial Equity work since the enactment of the Executive Orders?** (yes/no) If Yes, please provide more detail. *(up to 100 words)*

Additional Questions

1. Which training and organizational development programming topics are your staff and/or board planning to participate in this year? Select all that apply.
   - Team Building
   - Leadership Development
   - Strategic Planning
   - Professional Development
   - Racial Equity and Inclusion
   - Other

   - Accessibility
   - Fundraising and/or Financial Management
   - Board Governance
   - Storytelling for impact

   If other, please provide 1-3 key words that would help to describe what training/organizational development programming you plan on participating in this year.

2. Share your events! Your 2026 grant agreement requires that you have active events on the CAC events calendar at ClevelandArtsEvents.com for each month of the grant year (with the exception of months where no programming is conducted). Please post all your upcoming public events that you have not previously added by logging in here.
   - I am aware of this requirement and have a plan to post my organization's upcoming public events on ClevelandArtsEvents.com.

3. (Optional) Do you have any further information to share with CAC at this time?

Statement of Assurances

Please check all of the boxes that apply below. Doing so certifies that your organization continues to meet the following eligibility requirements.

- My organization has a core mission to provide programs or activities in areas directly concerned with arts or cultural heritage, as defined by the Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3381, for the general public
- My organization continues to have a permanent and viable base in Cuyahoga County
- My organization is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit as verified by IRS Publication 78 and GoVerify
- My organization has an active board of at least three directors
- My organization is incorporated and authorized to do business in Ohio as verified by the Ohio Secretary of State

Closely review the form. If everything is correct, enter the name, title and email address of the person making the submission, hit the "Mark as Complete" button below, then hit the "Submit" button. The person submitting the form will receive an automatic email indicating that we have received the form.