



2023

CULTURAL HERITAGE

Guidelines and Application Instructions

ELIGIBILITY CHECK DUE: **TUESDAY, MAY 31, 2022 BY 4:30PM ET**

APPLICATION DUE: **THURSDAY, AUGUST 4, 2022 BY 4:30PM ET**

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GREETINGS!

Thank you for your interest in the 2023 Cultural Heritage Grant Program. Cuyahoga Arts & Culture’s [mission](#) is to inspire and strengthen the community by investing in arts and culture. CAC is excited to work with you to connect Cuyahoga County residents to arts and culture in our community.

LOCAL PUBLIC FUNDER

CAC is the local public funder for arts and culture, helping hundreds of organizations in Cuyahoga County connect millions of people to cultural experiences each year. Cuyahoga County residents created CAC in 2006 when they approved a tax to support arts and culture.

\$218 MILLION+ INVESTED

Since 2007, CAC has invested more than \$218 million in 445 organizations both large and small, making Cuyahoga County a more vibrant place to live, work and play. CAC funds nonprofit 501(c)(3) arts and culture organizations based in and serving Cuyahoga County residents.



OUR CORE GRANT PROGRAMMING INCLUDES:

PROJECT SUPPORT	GENERAL OPERATING SUPPORT*	CULTURAL HERITAGE
Annual grants of up to \$20,000 for arts and culture projects.	Multi-year core support grants to qualifying organizations with a primary mission of art and culture in Cuyahoga County.	Flexible support grants of up to \$30,000 for qualifying cultural heritage organizations with a primary mission of arts and culture.

* Not accepting applications for 2023: next cycle will be 2024-25

This document contains the guidelines for the 2023 Cultural Heritage Grant program. Organizations may only submit one application per cycle. To learn more about the differences between CAC’s grant programs, refer to the [2023 Grant Programs Guide](#).

Our team is here to support you throughout the application process. For additional information and resources, please contact a [member of the Grantmaking Team](#). Visit [cacgrants.org](#), to learn more about workshop opportunities, review the [library of tools](#) available for applicants, and [sign up](#) to receive email updates.



2023 CULTURAL HERITAGE GRANT PROGRAM

Eligibility Check Due	May 31, 2022 at 4:30PM
Application Due	August 4, 2022 at 4:30PM
Public Panel Review.....	Week of September 19, 2022
Board Approves Grants	November 9, 2022 at 4PM
Grant Agreements Sent and Signed	November and December 2022
2023 Grant Recipient Workshops	January and February 2023

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The purpose of Cuyahoga Arts & Culture's Cultural Heritage (CH) grant program is to support and strengthen the community by providing flexible support to organizations that are representative of a culturally-specific population. Eligible organizations must have a primary mission of arts and culture and have an annual budget of up to \$500,000. Grant applications are reviewed through a transparent panel review process. CAC is accepting applications for 2023 Cultural Heritage grants. All current CH grant recipients are required to submit an Eligibility Check. However, current CH grant recipients will not need to complete application and panel review to be recommended for 2023 funding. Contact your [program manager](#) to learn more.

ARTS & CULTURE DEFINED:

Arts and Culture is defined in the [Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3381](#), CAC's enabling law, as "including, but not limited to, literature, theater, music, dance, ballet, painting, sculpture, photography, motion pictures, architecture, archaeology, history, natural history, or the natural sciences."



CAC strongly encourages applications from BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color)-led and serving organizations, as well as other cultural heritage organizations representative of populations that have been historically excluded or marginalized.

CULTURAL HERITAGE DEFINED:

An organization that is representative of the culture of American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian, Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino/a/x, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, Middle Eastern, North African, or other culturally specific population, among others.

Successful CH applicants:

Have a primary mission to create, produce, present or provide arts and/or cultural services for the public;

Have a history of vibrant artistic and/or cultural programming;

Have strong organizational capacity to carry out their work; and

Are authentically representative of the culture of American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian, Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino/a/x, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, or other culturally specific population. This is demonstrated by:

- A clear expression of the organization being deeply rooted in and able to authentically express the experiences of that culturally specific population.
- Arts and culture programming that is focused on and reflective of that culturally specific population.

APPLICATION OVERVIEW

PRE-APPLICATION

- 1 **Get Connected with CAC**
 - Sign up for CAC's [email list](#)
 - Register with CAC's [online application and reporting system](#)
- 2 **Attend a Grant Programs [Workshop and Q&A Session](#)**
- 3 **Submit an Eligibility Check (May 31, 2022)**

Required documents include:

 - Most recently completed 990 or 990-EZ
 - Articles of Incorporation
 - Secretary of State Certificate of good standing
 - Verification of authentic representation of the culturally-specific population served

APPLICATION

- 4 **Attend Application [Workshop and Q&A Sessions](#)**
- 5 **Complete and Submit Online Application (August 4, 2022)**

Be prepared with the following information:

 - Organizational Overview
 - Funding Criteria Narratives
 - Institutional Goals
 - Additional Narratives
 - [SMU|Data Arts Cultural Data Profile Funders Report](#)
 - [Support Materials](#)
 - Statement of Assurances

POST APPLICATION

- 6 **Public Panel Review (Week of September 19, 2022)**
- 7 **Panel scores and grant amounts approved at the CAC Board of Trustees meeting (November 9, 2022)**

ELIGIBILITY

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY

To be eligible for the CH grant program, organizations must meet **all** the following criteria:

Have a **primary mission** to produce, present or create programs or activities in areas directly concerned with arts or culture heritage (as defined by the Ohio Revised Code) for the general public

Have a **permanent and viable base** in Cuyahoga County for at least two years prior to May 31, 2022. Applicant organization must have a business address in Cuyahoga County and conduct the majority of its local programs and services in Cuyahoga County for the residents of Cuyahoga County and visitors to Cuyahoga County

Applying organizations must be **authentically representative** of the population they serve, as evidenced by the following:

- A clear expression of the organization being deeply rooted in and able to authentically express the experiences of that culturally specific population
- Arts and culture programming focused on and reflective of that culturally specific population

Be a **501(c)(3)** organization as verified by [Guidestar's Charity Check](#) service

Be **incorporated and authorized** to do business in Ohio as verified by the [Ohio Secretary of State](#)

Complete an IRS Form **990/990-EZ** for 2021.

Have previously **received and successfully completed** at least two Project Support grants from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture

Have an annual **organizational budget** (expenses) up to \$500,000 as determined by the organization's IRS Form 990/990-EZ

WHO IS INELIGIBLE TO APPLY

The following types of organizations are ineligible to apply to the CH program (this list is not meant to be exhaustive):

- Organizations whose primary mission is not arts and/or culture
- Organizations that are not in good standing with CAC and/or not in compliance with previous grants
- Organizations that are serving as fiscal agents or fiscal sponsors for an organization or program
- Religious institutions without a separate 501(c)(3) organization that specifically administers non-sectarian public programming
- Organizations that have not received CAC funding in the past
- Organizations that are the primary responsibility of a government agency
- National or state service organizations supporting organizations
- K-12 schools, including parent-teacher associations and similar groups
- Colleges, universities, or institutions of higher learning
- Fundraising organizations of any kind or "friends of" or "foundation" established for the primary purpose of supporting the activities of or fundraising for another ineligible organization
- Private foundations of any kind
- Units of government, including component units
- Private libraries
- Cemeteries
- Individuals
- Organizations that are applying to another core (including either General Operating Support or Project Support) grant program in the same grant cycle

FUNDING CRITERIA

THE FUNDING CRITERIA ARE THE PRINCIPLES THAT ANCHOR THE PROJECT SUPPORT APPLICATION: PUBLIC BENEFIT, ARTISTIC AND CULTURAL VIBRANCY, AND ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY.

Why Funding Criteria Matter

As a public funder, the centering of residents and community vibrancy is central to our work. These criteria are meant to ensure grant recipients foster a sense of belonging for all residents through their publicly funded activities. Our application is designed for applicants to demonstrate how their work aligns with these priorities. Your organization’s commitment to these funding criteria should thread through your entire application. By demonstrating this commitment, organizations of any size and discipline can be successful in the panel process.

The list below each criterion helps demonstrate the funding criterion. Applicants may demonstrate the criteria by meaningfully addressing their progress toward each bullet.

NOTE: Learning and evaluation of current internal processes can be included as a meaningful demonstration of progress.

<div>PUBLIC BENEFIT</div> <div>An organization’s ability to meaningfully and authentically engage its community to achieve its mission.</div>	<div>ARTISTIC AND CULTURAL VIBRANCY</div> <div>An organization’s ability to create quality mission-driven work that inspires and challenges its community.</div>	<div>ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY</div> <div>An organization’s ability to successfully manage resources to their best use now and for years to come.</div>
Demonstrate that the organization share power with, understands, respects, engages, and responds to its community	Develop partnerships based on principles of mutuality, co-creation, authenticity, and collaboration	Equitably recruit, retain, and provide employment opportunities and board or volunteer engagement in order to engage a diverse team that is qualified to carry out the mission
Use articulated and demonstrated knowledge of its community to drive its work	Use equitable principles to engage a diverse team of arts and cultural professionals qualified to carry out the organization’s culturally specific work and to serve a diverse community and audience	Evaluate internal organizational processes and structures to ensure a culture of belonging where everyone can thrive in their role, identifying efforts for addressing diversity, equity, and inclusion
Build and strengthen meaningful relationships with its community, residents, and audiences, including through efforts to be inclusive and to engage diverse populations	Build the capacity of art and culture professionals and prepare them for rewarding careers locally and beyond, including through efforts to address diversity, equity, and inclusion	Plan as a team to set goals, measure progress and evolve
Be accessible and inviting to its community and the public	Incorporate a process of reflection that ensures fresh programming	Plan strategically to achieve a stronger financial position

APPLICATION & REVIEW PROCESS



ALL ELIGIBLE APPLICATIONS ARE EVALUATED BY A PANEL OF ARTS OR CULTURAL PROFESSIONALS FROM OUTSIDE THE REGION IN A TRANSPARENT PANEL REVIEW PROCESS.

Panelists are chosen to represent a cross-section of professionals qualified to provide expert knowledge of specific arts or cultural disciplines, as well as for their management experience, professional knowledge of the sector and prior panel experience. The CAC staff make every effort to ensure that the panel is diverse in all respects. All panelists receive an honorarium for their service.

CAC staff members provide the applications and support materials to panelists approximately four weeks prior to the panel review to allow panelists sufficient time for their evaluation. During the panel review meeting, the panel will evaluate all eligible applications based on CAC's Funding Criteria:

PUBLIC BENEFIT

**ARTISTIC AND
CULTURAL VIBRANCY**

**ORGANIZATIONAL
CAPACITY**

CAC staff review applications for completeness but do not score or provide opinions. Staff will manage all administrative and logistical tasks necessary to conduct a successful panel review; provide panelists all documentation necessary to evaluate applications effectively; inform the panel in matters of CAC policy and procedures; provide all available objective information regarding an applicant to the panel, and serve as panel chair.

APPLICATION & REVIEW PROCESS

PRE-APPLICATION

Get Connected with CAC

News, updates, and events, including technical assistance workshops and webinars, will be posted on the CAC website and distributed via email. Sign up [here](#) and opt-in to receive CAC Grant Information to learn more. Add CAC's URL and staff email addresses to your email safe senders list, address book, or contact list to continue receiving important information from CAC. CAC will not extend any deadlines if our emails are sent to your spam or junk mail.

Attend a Grant Programs Workshop and Q&A Sessions

CAC will offer a variety of technical assistance workshops/trainings in advance of the application deadline. Information regarding such trainings will be posted on the CAC website and all applicants will be notified by email. We strongly encourage and invite all perspective applicants to attend our [workshop and Q&A sessions](#).

KEY
DATE

ELIGIBILITY CHECK - DUE TUESDAY, MAY 31, 2022 BY 4:30PM ET



Submit the Eligibility Check

All CH applicants must submit an Eligibility Check via CAC's [online application and reporting system](#). CAC uses the Eligibility Check process to determine whether an organization meets the criteria to receive a grant.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS INCLUDE:

- Most recently completed 990 or 990-EZ
- Articles of Incorporation
- Secretary of State certificate of good standing
- Verification of authentic representation of the culturally-specific population served

CAC Staff will review documents, verify nonprofit status, and confirm eligible organization requirements. Within two weeks of the submission of the online Eligibility Check, CAC will reach out to applicants regarding their eligibility status.

APPLICATION & REVIEW PROCESS

APPLICATION

Complete and Submit Online Application

If your organization is deemed eligible through the Eligibility Check process, Cuyahoga Arts & Culture will notify you via email and provide access to the application. Applications must be submitted online using CAC's [online application and reporting system](#).

KEY
DATE

APPLICATION DUE - THURSDAY, AUGUST 4, 2022 BY 4:30PM ET



BE PREPARED WITH THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

- Organizational Overview
- Funding Criteria Narratives
- Institutional Goals
- Additional Narratives
- [SMU|Data Arts Cultural Data Profile*](#)
- [Support Materials](#)
- Statement of Assurances

THE FULL SET OF APPLICATION QUESTIONS AND AN EXPLANATION OF EACH REQUIRED ITEM CAN BE VIEWED [HERE](#).

Be sure to leave ample time should you have any unforeseen technology issues. Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted. After 4:30 pm ET, the online system will no longer accept applications.

SMU|DataArts Cultural Data Profile

Applicant organizations will complete a Cultural Data Profile for the two most recently completed fiscal years and will pull the CAC Funders Report to upload as part of their application.

*NOTE: We recommend starting the CDP well before the application deadline. It may require you to compile additional data about your organization. More information can be found [here](#).

APPLICATION & REVIEW PROCESS

POST APPLICATION



Public Panel Review Meeting

The Public Panel Review will take place virtually the week of September 19, 2022. CAC staff will notify all applicants of the panel review meeting times and will post all details on the [CAC website](#) in advance.

Appeals Process

CAC will only consider and review appeals that are evidence-based and due to materially significant CAC processing errors that could have compromised an applicant's grant proposal. This does not include information that was in excess of the application's space limitations or information that was submitted after the application deadline. Any requests for appeals must be filed with the Executive Director within 10 working days after the conclusion of the panel review meeting. Requests received after 10 days will not be considered.

Please note: The panel's analysis and scoring of applications are not subject to appeal and therefore will not be considered for appeal by the CAC Board of Trustees. Neither grant awards nor grant award amounts are subject to appeal.

KEY DATES

PUBLIC PANEL REVIEW - WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 19, 2022

BOARD MEETING - WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2022, 4 PM ET

Board Meeting

Panel scores and grant amounts will be approved at the November CAC Board of Trustees meeting. This meeting is open to the public, and applicants are welcome to attend but not required.

CH grant amounts are determined based on several factors including:

- The total amount allocated to be granted for that CH cycle;
- The budget sizes (expenses) for each organization, as determined by their 990;
- Grant amounts will range from \$5,000 to \$30,000.

Recommended grant amounts will be shared with applicants prior to the November board meeting.

PANEL SCORING FRAMEWORK AND DESCRIPTIONS

PANELISTS WILL USE THE FOLLOWING SCORING FRAMEWORK AND DESCRIPTIONS TO ASSESS EACH APPLICATION:

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points):

Weak: 1 – 23
Fair: 24 – 33
Good: 34 – 38
Strong: 39 – 42
Exceptional: 43 – 45

ARTISTIC AND CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points):

Weak: 1 – 18
Fair: 19 – 25
Good: 26 – 29
Strong: 30 – 32
Exceptional: 33 – 35

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points):

Weak: 1 – 10
Fair: 11 – 14
Good: 15 – 16
Strong: 17 – 18
Exceptional: 19 – 20

SCORING DESCRIPTIONS

Exceptional: The applicant has provided overwhelming evidence throughout the application that demonstrates this funding criterion is fully met. Responses are clear and directly address this funding criterion. The support materials are clear, highly relevant and lead to a deeper understanding of how the criterion is met.

Strong: The applicant has provided clear evidence throughout the application that demonstrates this funding criterion is met. Responses are clear and address this funding criterion. The support materials are clear, highly relevant and lead to a deeper understanding of how the criterion is met.

Good: The applicant has provided sufficient evidence throughout the application that demonstrates this funding criterion is met. Responses are generally clear but do not consistently address this funding criterion. The support materials are relevant but provide only some understanding of how the criterion is met.

Fair: The applicant has provided limited evidence throughout the application that demonstrates this funding criterion is met. Responses may not be clear and may not address this funding criterion. The support materials may not be relevant and may not provide additional understanding of how the criterion is met.

Weak: The applicant has provided insufficient evidence throughout the application that demonstrates this funding criterion is met. Responses are unclear and/or do not address this funding criterion. The support materials may not be relevant and may not provide additional understanding of how the criterion is met.

YOUR ORGANIZATION'S SCORE

During the panel review meeting, panelists will score each application on a point scale from 1 to 100 based on the Funding Criteria.

The panelists' scores will be averaged for each application to determine the panel score.

Any applicant receiving an averaged panel score of 75.00 or higher will be recommended for a CH grant; scores are not rounded.

Any applicant receiving a panel score lower than 75.00 will not be recommended for a grant.

CAC staff will notify all applicants whether they will be recommended for funding via email within two weeks of the conclusion of the panel review meeting.

GRANT RECIPIENT REQUIREMENTS

GRANT PERIOD: ALL FUNDED ACTIVITIES AND GRANT EXPENDITURES MUST OCCUR DURING THE GRANT PERIOD, JANUARY 1 – DECEMBER 31, 2023.



The grant amount is paid during each calendar year pending grant agreement compliance. All funded activities and expenditure of grant dollars must occur during the respective calendar year.

Grant Agreement and Compliance

If your application is recommended and approved for funding following the November Board meeting, CAC will prepare the grant agreement. CAC staff will be available to meet with new and returning grant recipients to review the grant agreement requirements. To be considered an active grant recipient and receive funding, recipients must sign a grant agreement and meet the requirements therein.

CAC grants are reimbursement grants and paid during the grant period pending grant agreement compliance. All funded activities and expenditure of grant dollars must occur during the respective grant year.

CAC Grant Funding Restrictions

Grant Recipients shall use the CH grant for organizational expenses relating to programs or activities directly concerned with arts or culture heritage. Prohibited uses of this grant are:

- costs of any programs or activities located outside of Cuyahoga County;
- activities that are not open to the general public;
- fundraising or benefits;
- regranting;
- scholarships, tuition assistance, awards or cash prizes;
- deficit reduction or elimination, trust endowments, cash reserves, penalty or litigation fees, loans, or interest on loans;
- capital improvements, facilities or equipment;
- religious ceremonies or events advancing or inhibiting a particular religious ideology;
- cost of receptions, food and beverages;
- agent's fees for programs contracted through commercial agencies;
- travel outside of the United States; or
- advocacy of specific political causes or candidates.

Matching Funds

Cultural Heritage grants are matching grants. Applicants are required to leverage CAC funds to secure additional income from other sources. This program requires a 1:1 cash match. This means that CAC will provide no more than half of the organization's total expenses.

The matching funds may come from any source. Sources of your matching funds can include, but are not limited to, foundation or government grants, private donations, ticket sales, and member dues.

Matching funds may not include other funds from CAC. This includes any CAC co-funded grants. As such, applicant organizations may only apply for one project to be funded. Additionally, multiple organizations requesting funds for the same project are not eligible. Contact [a grant manager](#) with any questions.

GRANT RECIPIENT REQUIREMENTS



Events Calendar and Credit Requirements:

Grant Recipient shall submit events through CAC's online event system in order to ensure a broad representation of their programming is included in the event system. Recipients shall have active events for each month that the organization has public programming.

Grant Recipients shall also acknowledge funding from CAC and the residents of Cuyahoga County at their publicly funded programs. Grant recipients that do not comply with these expectations may be subject to a reduced final grant amount. [Calendar and Credit Requirement details can be viewed here.](#)

Reporting Requirements:

All 2023 CH grant recipients will submit goals for the year and report on them at year-end. Reports consist of a narrative portion, financial documentation, and other required support material; instructions will be posted online at least 45 days in advance of deadlines. Grant recipients that submit a late final report, or do not submit a final report, may receive a reduced or revoked final grant amount.

Maintaining Good Standing:

To receive CAC funds, a grant recipient must maintain its good standing with CAC during the grant period. A grant recipient is in good standing if it:

- Fully and completely meets all requirements as stated in the grant agreement for the duration of the grant period;
- Accurately represents its organization and its activities in all documents submitted to CAC. This includes, but is not limited to, the eligibility check, application, final report and all other reports and forms; and
- Continues to meet the [eligibility criteria](#).

A grant recipient not in good standing with CAC will be officially informed of this status in writing.

LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION



CAC'S ONLINE
APPLICATION + REPORTING
SYSTEM



CULTURAL HERITAGE
ELIGIBILITY CHECK AND
APPLICATION QUESTIONS



TOOLS FOR APPLICANTS



CAC GRANT TEAM



GRANT PROGRAMS
WORKSHOPS AND Q&A
SESSIONS



SUPPORT MATERIALS



SMU | DATAARTS GUIDE
(CULTURAL DATA PROFILE)



2023 GRANT
PROGRAMS GUIDE



OHIO REVISED CODE,
CHAPTER 3381



GLOSSARY



CALENDAR AND CREDIT
REQUIREMENT DETAILS



CACGRANTS.ORG



ONLINE APPLICATION
REPORTING SYSTEM GUIDE



CAC FUNDING CRITERIA

