



FY26

PROJECT • • •  
SUPPORT GRANT

ARTS COUNCIL  
FAYETTEVILLE • CUMBERLAND CO.

Project Support Grants support programs and activities which proliferate the arts within the Cumberland County community. Eligible programs will produce arts, culture, or history-focused content through an artistic discipline including but not limited to visual arts, performing arts, literary arts, folk and traditional arts, public art, digital and media arts, arts education, and/or other innovative artistic mediums not listed here. Eligible entities may request up to \$15,000 per request.

The Arts Council of Fayetteville/Cumberland County connects our communities, embraces diversity, promotes individual creativity, advances economic development, and fosters lifelong learning through the arts. Arts Council grant programs support projects and activities which promote the arts in Cumberland County and uphold the Arts Council's mission.

The Arts Council's grant programs support projects in the arts and projects with a culture- or history-focus which are expressed through artistic disciplines. In general, Arts Council grant programs support Non-Profit Organizations, Individual Artists, Institutions of Higher Education, Municipal Offices, and unincorporated collectives and guilds operating as a nonprofit in nature.

Contact: Michael Houck, Director of Grants and Allocations,  
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## UPCOMING WORKSHOPS:

### Cycle 1 Workshops:

January 8 (digital), January 21 (in person), February 5 (in person), February 19 (digital)

### Cycle 2 Workshops:

TBD - check back in May 2025.

## ORGANIZATION ELIGIBILITY:

- **501(C) ORGANIZATIONS MUST:**
  - Be based out of Cumberland County and provide arts related activities, programs, and services for the residents of Cumberland County.
  - Have Federal IRS Tax Exempt Status evidenced by a 501(c) letter obtained by time of award contract.
  - Maintain a current Charitable Solicitation License (where applicable).
  - Be in good standing with the Federal IRS and NC Secretary of State.
  - Maintain a governing Board that is representative of the diversity of Cumberland County.
  - Have completed all prior grant requirements for ACFCC contracts (if applicable).
  
- **INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND MUNICIPAL ENTITIES MUST:**
  - Be based in Cumberland County and provide cultural activities, programs, and services for the general public of Cumberland County.
  - Maintain a governing Board or Committee that is representative of the diversity of Cumberland County.
  - Have completed all prior grant requirements for ACFCC contracts (if applicable).
  
- **UNINCORPORATED GROUPS, COLLECTIVES, AND GUILDS:**
  - Unincorporated Groups, Collectives, or Guilds who have been in operation for more than one (1) calendar year and who have financial history which detail near-nonprofit operations are eligible to apply using a Fiscal Agent but must first meet with the Director of Grants and Allocations to discuss operations and programs.

## USING A FISCAL AGENT:

- 501(c) organizations who do not meet minimum eligibility may elect to apply via a Fiscal Agent who does meet all eligibility requirements and must adhere to the following:
  - Fiscal Agent Agreement must be submitted as part of application to include how finances will be tracked, how records will be kept, and through which means the Applicant will receive the funds disbursed from the Fiscal Agent.



- Fiscal Agents cannot be a recipient of NCAC funds through the States Arts Resource grant program.
- Fiscal Agent must also attend Project Support Grant Workshops
- Fiscal Agents must attend an Arts Council Project Support Grant Workshop in advance of an applicant's grant submission.

## FUNDING PRIORITIES:

1. 501(c)(3) organizations with an Arts-, Culture-, or History-focused mission
2. 501(c)(3) organizations whose primary mission is to promote diversity, equity, accessibility, and inclusion.
3. Institutions of Higher Education & Municipal Offices in Cumberland County
4. Other 501(c) organizations / Unincorporated Groups & Collectives

## PROJECT SUPPORT CATEGORIES:

- **Series Programming**
  - Festivals, Performing Arts seasons, Gallery exhibitions
  - Programs lasting two (2) or more days.
- **Inclusive Outreach Projects**
  - Community focused programming, adaptive art workshops and programs, cultural heritage programs, intergenerational arts programming, programs which reach underserved and underrepresented communities in Cumberland County
- **Educational Opportunities**
  - Arts education programs for youth and/or adults
- **Military Arts Initiatives**
  - Programs which support military families and personnel (active-duty, veterans, retirees, Gold-star families, National Guard, and US Reserve members).
- **Public Art Initiatives**
  - Programs which result in installation of public art in Cumberland County
  - Art may be permanent or temporary with a 6 to 12 month lease.
- **Cultural Tourism**
  - Art programs and presentations which drive cultural tourism to Cumberland County.
- **Residency Programs**



- Programs led by Cumberland County based artists within a 501(c) organization.
- Require written agreement between parties as part of application to include: roles and responsibilities and a financial policy on expenses and tracking.

Organizations may submit up to two (2) unique requests per funding cycle and may receive two (2) awards per fiscal year.

First time Project Support Applicants must attend a Project Support Grant Workshop and may only apply for one request and may receive only up to \$5,000 during their first fiscal year.

## INELIGIBLE PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS:

- Programs and Projects that lack significant arts engagement
  - ACFCC funds programs which contain more than 50% arts engagement/activities
  - 100% of grant funds goes towards only arts activities and programs
- Programs created for or engaging closed populations
- Programs which advocate, promote, or proselytize any specific dogma or faith
- Initiatives for or exclusive to K-12 academic institutions (see AIS for opportunities)
- Art Therapy programs which do not include a Licensed Art Therapist with board certification in North Carolina.
- Programs and projects with duplication of services
- Fundraisers/fundraising activities for non Arts-focused organizations
- Multiple grants requests which contain duplication of services.

## ALLOWABLE EXPENSES:

- Artist Contracts
- Other Contracted Services & Fees
- Material Needs
- Marketing
- Space Rental (temporary for specific program/project needs)
- Travel and Lodging for Artist Contracts or Other Service Contracts (to Cumberland County)

## INELIGIBLE EXPENSES:

- Indirect Costs (operating support, general salaries, utilities, rent/mortgage, etc.)
- Contracts for current staff- and board-members of applicant institutions.
- Payments towards deficits, loans, fines, or litigation costs
- Lobbying expenses
- Fundraising expenses



- Capital expenditures
- Food/beverage (catering, etc.)
- Grants funds may not be subgranted, used for prize/award money, or scholarships
- Miscellaneous and/or Contingency funds

## EVALUATIONS:

Project Support Grant applications are evaluated by a panel composed of Arts Council Board of Trustees members and additional community members who represent the diversity of Cumberland County and who have professional experience in arts, culture, history, education, grants, marketing/cultural tourism, finance, and project management.

The Project Support panel reviews applications and provides a recommendation for funding to the full Arts Council Board of Trustees who decide on the final awards.

Project Support Grants are competitive. Requests are evaluated based on their own merit and are not compared to other organization’s requests. Each grant reader provides each request with a preliminary score of 0-100 pts.

All panel member’s scores are averaged to produce an aggregate score of up to 100 points. Funding is recommended to programs who score the highest.

### **PROGRAM EXCELLENCE & MERIT (50 POINTS – 10 PTS. EACH)**

- Program/Project narrative suggests work that is unique to and located in Cumberland County.
- Work Samples show programming of high artistic, cultural and/or historic excellence.
- Program/Project uses innovative Arts, Culture, and/or History-focused approaches to reach underserved and underrepresented populations.
- Project/Program increases awareness of underrepresented artistic disciplines.
- Program/Project utilizes artistic, cultural, and history-focused professionals with detailed experience in their fields.

### **PROGRAM IMPACT (25 POINTS – 5 PTS. EACH)**

- Use of Cumberland County based professionals with adequate and competitive compensation.
- Project/Program details plans to develop Cultural Tourism through travel to and lodging in Cumberland County.
- Programs that respond to the racial and cultural diversity of the county and broaden/diversify the organization’s reach.
- Organization seeks to work collaboratively with other community groups and key personnel/professionals.
- Project/Program attracts persons or groups who have limited opportunities due to educational, geographic, cultural, physical, economic, or other constraints.



## PROGRAM MANAGEMENT (25 POINTS)

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- Organization's financial documents suggest stability.
- The proposed project includes selection of key participants, partner organizations (where applicable) and scope of services prove to be feasible based on organization's history and apparent abilities (staffing, management, etc.).
- Effective marketing and communications strategies for the project.
- Appropriate evaluation strategies that are matched to program goals.
- Applicant organization's past performance as an Arts Council grantee (where applicable), including the ability to manage and execute deliverable actions (the program) as stated in the application.



# APPLICATION TIMELINE



Applicant Process	Cycle 1	Cycle 2
Application Opens	Jan 7, 2025	Jul 1, 2025
Application Closes	Feb 28, 2025	Aug 15, 2025
Arts Council Panel Review Completed By	Apr 30, 2025	Oct 31, 2025
Awards Announced By	May 30, 2025	Nov 30, 2025
Projects Begin	Jul 1, 2025	Jan 1, 2026
Projects End	Jun 15, 2026	Jun 15, 2026
Final Reporting Due by	Jul 15, 2026	Jun 15, 2026



## APPLICATION CONTENT



### Organization Information:

- Organization Type
- Organization Mission Statement
- Federal & State Tax Status
- Scope of Service
- Board Composition
- Three-year budget figures
- Prior Year 990 / Audit
- Required 3 high quality examples of prior work

### Project Details:

- Program Type
- Project Budget
- Project Description
- Project Goals
- Success Story
- Outreach & Marketing Strategies
- Impact on Cultural Tourism

### Partnership Information (if applicable)

- Resume of proposed contracted professionals/key personnel
- Work samples of proposed contracted professionals/key personnel

### Fiscal Sponsor Information (if applicable)

- Federal & State Tax Status
- Board Composition
- Three-year budget figures
- Prior Year 990 / Audit
- Fiscal Agent Agreement





GETTING  
HELP  
ALONG THE WAY



**Do you have questions or concerns about the application process?**

**Contact our Director of Grants and Allocations:**

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