

DOWNTOWN
FAYETTEVILLE

CORE COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION
RESOURCE GRANT



FY26

ARTS COUNCIL
FAYETTEVILLE · CUMBERLAND CO.
COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION
RESOURCE GRANT

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.

Community Organization Resource Grants (C.O.RE. Grants) provide general operating support to 501(c)(3) Organizations with an Arts-, Culture-, or History-focused mission producing arts and education programming through artistic disciplines and whose community services uphold the Arts Council's mission. Awards range \$45,000 to \$250,000.

Contact: Michael Houck, Director of Grants and Allocations,
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ORGANIZATION ELIGIBILITY:

ORGANIZATIONS MUST:

- Be a 501(c)(3) organization which operates within Arts-, Culture-, or History- focused mission as evidenced in organization’s Mission Statement and annual programming and outreach.
- Be based in Cumberland County and provide ongoing arts programs, community services, and educational opportunities for the residents of Cumberland County.
- Provide programs, community services, and educational opportunities in at least six (6) months of the calendar year and must include outreach efforts that affect underserved populations in Cumberland County.
- Have a balanced annual budget which can sustain a 1:1 cash match.
- Have an independent audit performed annually (for organizations with an annual budget higher than \$250,000/year); others are required to submit 990.
- Have a governing Board that is representative of the diversity of Cumberland County with defined term limits.
- Contracts artists and arts professionals who are qualified and paid equitably, and who reflect the demographic diversity of the Cumberland County community.
- Employ at least one (1) full-time executive leader.
- Have been in continuous operation for at least five (5) years.
- Have successfully managed a minimum of three (3) Project Support Grant awards within the preceding three (3) fiscal years (first time applicants only).

INELIGIBLE ORGANIZATIONS:

- Educational Institutions
- Religious Institutions
- Municipal Entities
- Presenting Organizations
- Organizations operating within unplanned deficits on EOY financial statements the prior two (2) fiscal years (unless approved by Arts Council staff).

APPLICATION PROCESS:

- New Entities/Every third year: “Full Application.”
 - Narrative Questions on the subjects of: Community Impact and Collaborations, Program Excellence and Innovation, Management

Excellence and Transparency, Financial Stability and Accountability, Marketing, Cultural Tourism

- Work Samples
 - Three (3) year budget comparison
 - Organizational Documents
- Returning entities will complete an “Update Application” for the two cycles between years when full applications are due.
 - YTD Budget Update & Proposed Next FY Budget
 - YTD Scope of Services Update & Proposed Scope of Services for Next FY
 - YTD Education & Outreach Update & Proposed Education & Outreach Services for Next FY.
 - Impact Story.
 - Board Engagement Narrative.

EVALUATIONS:

A panel composed of Grants Assessment Committee and Executive Committee members review CORE grant requests.

Requests are evaluated along the following:

ARTS, CULTURE, AND/OR HISTORY PROGRAM EXCELLENCE AND MERIT (50 POINTS – 10PTS EACH)

- Organization shows ability to create and execute Arts-, Culture-, and/or History-focused community service which is innovative for Cumberland County.
- Organization demonstrates high-quality programming and community service that is consistent with contemporary industry standards and clearly aligns with the organization’s mission, vision, and values.
- Organizational work samples and partnerships show great knowledge and commitment to their discipline(s).
- Organization’s community services add to the cultural vibrancy of Cumberland County as evidenced through engaged and sustained audiences.
- Organization’s community services which clearly uphold the Arts Council’s mission to Embrace Diversity, Promote Individual Creativity, Advance Economic Development, Foster Lifelong Learning Through the Arts, and Connect Our Community.

COMMUNITY IMPACT (25 POINTS - 5 POINTS EACH)

- Programs and community services clearly establish the organization as a community connector, taking actions to develop and deepen partnerships across the community.
- Programs and community services are designed to embrace and reflect the various voices and demographics of the Cumberland County Community.
- Organization creates opportunities for positive economic impact on local artistic, cultural, and history-focused professionals.
- Evidence of the applicant's commitment to develop new participants and audiences, specifically underserved and underrepresented populations.
- Organization programming with equitable access that considers socio economic, racial/ethnic, geographic, and physical barriers.

ORGANIZATIONAL MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY (25 POINTS – 5PTS EACH)

- Commitment of the leadership to be transparent in conducting the business of the organization as evidenced through accurate reporting, site visits, and past performance with ACFCC staff and board.
- Professional staff expertise; staff diversity; staff training and appropriate means for evaluating staff performance.
- Active Board involvement and board development.
- Budget should include evidence of realistic planning, strong management, and an effort to generate income from other appropriate sources with internal controls policies that ensure financial accountability.
- Organization shows growth from FY to FY as evidenced by audience development and diversifying income.



Applicant Process	All Applications
Application Opens	Feb 3, 2025
Application Closes	Mar 31, 2025
Arts Council Panel Review Completed By	May 15, 2025
Awards Announced By	May 30, 2025
Projects Begin	Jul 1, 2025
Projects End	Jun 15, 2026
Final Reporting Due by	Jul 15, 2026



Do you have questions or concerns about the application process? Contact our Director of Grants and Allocations:

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