Frequently Asked Questions: Arts Education

What is the difference between the Vitality: Supporting Arts & Culture and arts education grant opportunities?

The Arts and Culture Action Area supports our goal to *strengthen regional vitality* by encouraging vibrant and diverse arts and cultural offerings and improving the capacity of local arts organizations.

The Arts Education grant cycle is specifically designed to strengthen local arts organizations' capacity to deliver **PreK-12 arts education** programs by expanding equitable access to arts education across our 8-county region (Monroe, Ontario, Wayne, Yates, Orleans, Seneca, Genesee and Livingston). This grant aims to ensure all students—regardless of location or circumstances—can experience vibrant and diverse arts and cultural offerings.

Can I apply for a grant from this process?

Yes, if you meet the eligibility requirements:

- 501(c)(3) organizations or 509(a)(1) public organizations
- Non-501c3 groups must secure a fiscal sponsor to apply.
- Operating in our eight-county region: Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, Seneca, Wayne, and Yates counties.
- PreK-12 programming only, provided at a school or community organizations
- Collaborations/partners identified
- Commitment to conduct surveys with participants.

What is considered capacity support for this grant process?

Examples include transportation, materials, supplies, professional development or staff training, participant retention, even child care, if it helps the applicant expand arts education access.

I've received a grant in the past. Can I apply for this grant again?

Yes. If it is for the same or similar programming in the same arts education cycle, you will be asked to provide a brief interim report status in the application -- if you are applying before submitting a final report. Organizations have 14 months from the grant award date to complete their programming and submit a report.

Are municipalities or schools eligible to apply for funding?

Yes, if they are collaborating with an arts organization or teaching artists.

My organization does not have its 501c3 status. Can I apply?

Yes, if you partner with a valid nonprofit organization and complete all fiscal sponsorship documentation listed in the application. That documentation includes:

- A signed Fiscal Sponsorship Agreement Form,
- Copy of Board meeting minutes where the fiscal sponsor's Board of Directors approved the fiscal sponsorship OR Letter signed by the fiscal sponsor board chair or authorized representative acknowledging the fiscal sponsor relationship,

- Fiscal Sponsor - Board of Director List
- Annual Operating Budget for your organization

Are field trips eligible?

Field trips alone are considered arts exposure and not eligible for an arts education grant. If they include a direct engagement/classroom engagement component with a teaching artist or arts organization, however, they may apply during this cycle. Similarly, one-day events are excluded.

Can I apply for funding to support a pilot program?

Yes. You can apply for funding to support a pilot program, provided that you meet the following requirements:
- Additional Funding Sources: You must have secured and/or applied to other funding sources to support the full cost of the program. Our funding is intended to supplement, not replace or be the sole source of financial support for your pilot program.
- Established Collaborative Partners: You must have established collaborative partners (school and/or arts organization) who are committed to supporting the pilot program. Documentation of these partnerships should be included in your application.

Will the Fund consider a multi-year request?

No. The Community Foundation acknowledges the value of consistent funding for the sustainability of organizations, however, grants are awarded on an annual basis. Organizations are welcome to reapply each year, and previous funding does not guarantee future awards. Each application will be evaluated on its own merits during that grant cycle.

Will partial funding be considered?

Yes

When are funds available?

Applications will be accepted **Feb. 16- March 27, 2026**. Fund awards will be announced in **June 2026**.

For specific inquiries about the application and application logistics, please reach out to Annette Jiménez Gleason at ajimenezgleason@racf.org.

Additionally, here is the link to the initial arts education webinar.