

ABOUT US

MISSION

To support and advance the arts and cultural fabric of Columbus.

VISION

A thriving Columbus where the arts matter to all of us.

OUR BOARD

The Greater Columbus Arts Council (Arts Council) Board of Trustees is composed of up to 32 members that includes five trustees appointed by elected representatives of the city of Columbus and three appointed by the Franklin County Board of Commissioners. The Board or a committee of the Board evaluates and approves all final funding decisions. To view a current list of the Board of Trustees, please visit our website: <https://www.gcac.org/about/board-of-trustees/>.

EQUITY STATEMENTS & DEMOGRAPHIC COLLECTION

The Arts Council adopted a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) statement and Racial Equity Statement on October 15, 2020. The Greater Columbus Arts Council's vision is "a thriving Columbus where the arts matter to all of us." We recognize to achieve this vision we must actively work to overcome complex inequities in our community including racism, sexism, homophobia, xenophobia, classism, and ableism, among others. We believe that the arts play an essential role in examining the issues of our time, encouraging thoughtful dialogue and prompting change as a pathway to equity. Please visit our website to read the full equity statements: <https://www.gcac.org/about/equity-statements/>.

Beginning in 2021, basic demographic information will be collected as part of the grant application and/or award process. Individuals will have the option to select "I prefer not to answer" on all questions. Organizations will be required to report on the demographics of their staff and board of directors. We view data collection as an essential tool to our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. The data collected will serve multiple purposes: to help us understand how we reflect the communities we serve, to utilize data to better serve the needs of our artistic community, and to track progress with our Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access (I.D.E.A.) efforts.

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

The Greater Columbus Arts Council prohibits discrimination and harassment on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), sex, gender expression or identity, pregnancy, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, genetic information, marital status, sexual orientation, political affiliation, military status, or any other characteristic protected by applicable federal, state or local law in all of its activities or operations.

Any arts and cultural organization or individual artist that receives funding through any of the Arts Council grant programs must ensure that no program participant, employee or applicant for employment is subjected to discrimination or excluded from participation based on any of the attributes listed above. Failure to comply may result in the termination of the grant agreement.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE

In accordance with Arts Council’s “Duality of Interest” policy, we maintain an annual written record of staff and board member’s duality of interest or any possible conflict of interest. A conflict of interest is defined as any artistic, financial or personal relationship that an individual has with an organization or individual that would prevent them from offering an unbiased evaluation, reaching an unbiased decision or any relationship that has a strong likelihood to lead an organization, individual or the public to perceive a conflict of interest. Staff and Board members who have disclosed a duality of interest or conflict of interest will refrain from participating in grant evaluations, scoring and voting.

APPEALS PROCESS

Applicants who dispute a recommendation on grounds of a procedural error may request a review of that recommendation by the Arts Council Board of Trustees. Procedural errors can include failure of a Board member with a known conflict of interest to abstain from a vote or a misinterpretation of factual data contained in the application. Appeals may not be made on any grounds other than procedural error. Appeals may not be made regarding grant award recommendation or the evaluation of the application.

To file an appeal, the applicant must submit a letter to the President of the Arts Council within 30 days of notification stating the reason(s) for the request for review. Appeals will be reviewed and acted on by the Executive Committee of the Arts Council Board after consultation with Arts Council staff. Such action will be reviewed and voted upon by the Arts Council Board of Trustees whose decision is final.

WHAT WE DO NOT FUND

The following activities, organizations, or expenditures will NOT be supported through the city of Columbus and Franklin County funded grants program:

- Units of government;
- Organizations that are not tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code;
- Independent projects that do not have an eligible Fiscal Sponsor as a collaborative partner;
- Instructional/educational programming, when not part of a larger project;
- Religious programming;
- Fundraisers;
- Elimination or reduction of existing financial deficit;
- Previously completed activities.

NOTE: Additional restrictions may apply. Review the specific program details for more information.

PUBLIC FUNDING

The Arts Council receives funding through annual contracts with the city of Columbus and the Franklin County Board of Commissions for the purposes of expanding cultural services and community enrichment, primarily through grants. This funding is derived from four primary funding sources:

- City of Columbus Hotel/Motel Excise tax (no less than 75% must be allocated to arts & culture community), since 1978
- City of Columbus Creation, Innovation and Inclusion Fund, since July 2019
- City of Columbus Facility Stabilization Fund (20% of Nationwide Arena's Arts & Culture Fee receipts), since July 2019
- Franklin County Board of Commissioners, since October 2019

In addition to the community funding programs, the Arts Council provides services to and advocates for arts organizations and artists, provides community-wide marketing for the arts and culture scene locally, regionally and nationally, and works closely with policy makers to foster an understanding of the economic and social impact of the arts on communities.

The Arts Council also receives an annual Sustainability grant from the Ohio Arts Council, Ohio's state arts agency.

OUR THANKS

Many thanks to Mayor Andrew J. Ginther, City Council President Shannon G. Hardin and Columbus City Council Members, Franklin County President John O'Grady and the Franklin County Board of Commissioners for their commitment to the Columbus arts and cultural community and the economic impact, education and quality of life that results from that investment.

Over the course of 15+ years Columbus conducted more than 30 studies to assess the impact of the arts on the economy, study peer city funding models, and identify Columbus' benchmark and determine the needed level of public funds for sustainability. In 2018, we stopped researching and took action. Together with our arts community, we advocated for new funding streams and our city and community leaders responded boldly. Columbus City Council passed legislation in December 2018 to administer a 5 percent arts and cultural admission fee, and in the fall of 2019 the Franklin County Board of Commissioners allocated \$2 million to the Arts Council for distribution through its grants programs. The County support continued in 2020 and 2021. We look forward to the impact these new funds will have on families, children, creative sector workers, businesses and residents in Columbus in the coming years.

MAJOR FUNDING FOR THE GREATER COLUMBUS ARTS COUNCIL IS PROVIDED BY:



Grants Overview & Process

The following grant programs are funded by the city of Columbus and Franklin County. Views expressed by grant recipients and their programs/projects do not necessarily represent those of the city of Columbus, Franklin County or the Greater Columbus Arts Council.

Grants for Organizations	
	<p>Project Support</p> <p>Annual Seasons Purpose: Provide unrestricted financial support for arts organizations presenting a full season of public activities.</p> <p>Events, Festivals, Short Series Purpose: Provide support for a broad range of arts and cultural projects, events, festivals and short series.</p>
	<p>Thrive</p> <p>Purpose: To support organizations led by and serving communities of color through unrestricted funding and resources.</p>
	<p>Operating Support</p> <p>Purpose: Provide an unrestricted source of financial support for core arts and cultural organizations that are well-managed, firmly established, have significant impact and broad community engagement.</p>
Grants for Professional Artists	
	<p>Individuals</p> <p>Purpose: Assist artists in making new art, growing artistic skills and marketing to a broader audience.</p>
	<p>Groups</p> <p>Purpose: Assist groups of artists creating together on a permanent basis in making new art, growing artistic skills and marketing to a broader audience.</p>
	<p>Big Ideas</p> <p>Purpose: Uplift artist ideas and projects that bring art to the public.</p>
	<p>Project Support: Events, Festivals, Short Series (w/fiscal sponsor)</p> <p>Purpose: Provide support for a broad range of grassroots arts and cultural projects, events, short series and festivals.</p>