

GRANTS FOR ORGANIZATIONS



THRIVE

DEADLINE

October 2, 2023
5:00 p.m.

PURPOSE:

Support art organizations and art collectives led by and serving people of color through unrestricted funding and resources.

THIS GRANT IS OPEN TO:

Arts and culture organizations and existing art collectives that are led by and serving people of color.

AWARD AMOUNT:

Up to \$40,000 over three years.

- Year 1: \$10,000 unrestricted
- Year 2: \$10,000 unrestricted and \$5,000 for consultant
- Year 3: \$10,000 unrestricted and option to serve as a mentor and receive \$5,000 stipend

EVALUATION/NEXT STEPS:

Competitive – up to three awardees selected annually. Community panel review. Notifications 45 days after deadline.

STAFF CONTACT:

Alison Barret | 614-221-8406
abarret@gcac.org

Thrive - Purpose

To support art organizations and art collectives led by and serving people of color through unrestricted funding and resources.

Description

This program is intended to address disparities in inequitable funding in the arts and its impact on arts and cultural organizations led by and serving people of color. Thrive will provide unrestricted funding and resources to organizations of color that have historically experienced barriers to capital and resources.

In order to increase and develop the number of thriving BIPOC arts organizations in Columbus, we expanded eligibility in 2022 to include art collectives that do not currently have nonprofit status but have experience presenting public art events.

Who is eligible to apply?

Nonprofit Organizations

Applicants must meet the following criteria to be eligible:

- Be a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization
- The organization:
 - Have a mission that is focused on arts and culture;
 - Serve the city of Columbus through the majority of events/programs hosted within city limits;
 - Demonstrate at least one year of arts programming open to the general public; and
 - Engage and compensate local professional artists.
- Organizations must be led by and serve BIPOC/ALAANA communities. Both acronyms are inclusive of race and ethnicity.
 - Definitions:
 - BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People of Color)
 - ALAANA (African, Latinx, Asian, Arab and Native American) is an acronym used nationally by arts sector leaders like Grantmakers in the Arts and Americans for the Arts.

Art Collectives

- A community art collective that has experience presenting art events/performances to the broad public. In essence, this collective/group practically operates like a nonprofit but without the IRS designation.
 - Nonprofit status is not a requirement at the time of the application but should be a goal to attain status or have a concrete alternate plan for sustainability by the end of the three-year engagement period.
- The collective must:
 - Have a mission that is focused on arts and culture;
 - Serve the city of Columbus through the majority of events/programs hosted within city limits; and
 - Engage and compensate local professional artists.
- Collectives must be led by and serving BIPOC/ALAANA communities. Both acronyms are inclusive of race and ethnicity.
 - Definitions:
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Who is NOT eligible to apply?

- Organizations who receive Operating Support from GCAC. (General Support and Project Support recipients ARE eligible to apply.)
- Organizations/Collectives where the **majority** of programming and budget is dedicated to:
 - Arts education or youth programs
 - Therapeutic arts programs
 - Using arts as a tool for raising awareness about other issues
- Band/ensemble or individual artists.

NOTE: If you are unsure if your organization/collective meets the eligibility requirements, please contact Alison Barret at abarret@gcac.org, before starting the application.

How much is the award?

Up to three organizations/collectives will be selected annually to be part of a three-year engagement program. Grantees are awarded an unrestricted \$30,000, payable over three years, plus \$10,000 in designated support or stipends.

Year One:

- Grantees are awarded an unrestricted grant of \$10,000.
- Grantees are connected to helpful business resources and subject matter experts in the community and at GCAC.
- Grantees will gather as a group for peer exchanges.

Year Two:

- Grantees are awarded a second disbursement of \$10,000 following the submission of a progress report.
- Grantees are provided \$5,000 to hire a consultant for an assessment, strategy or specific plan, as identified by their board.

Year Three

- Grantees are awarded a third disbursement of \$10,000 following the submission of a final report.
- Each organization has the option to serve as a mentor to new groups awarded Thrive and will receive a \$5,000 stipend for their time.

How often can I apply?

Awarded organizations/collectives will only be selected for the multi-year program once. Organizations/collectives who apply and are not selected may reapply each year.

When are applications due?

Application opens	September 1, 2023
Application Due	October 2 at 5:00 p.m.
Applicants Notified	End of November
Year 1 Progress Report Due	October 1, 2024
Final Report Due	October 1, 2025

What assistance is available for completing an online application?

If you do not have access to a reliable computer, a computer lab is available for filling out applications. To reserve a computer, email Dayvon Nichols at dnichols@gcac.org.

For more information about additional accommodations, refer to [APPENDIX C](#).

What are the application questions?

Below you will find the current narrative questions to assist you in your grant preparation.

SECTION 1: ORGANIZATIONAL QUESTIONS

- Share your organization’s mission and history.
- Briefly describe your organization’s annual activities. Which programs are the most successful?
- What are your organizational goals for the next three years? Define at least three specific, measurable goals with a timeline for completion of each goal.
- How will funding be used to accomplish these stated goals?
- Other than funding, what resources, mentors and tools could be helpful to you in creating or executing a long-term plan for organizational sustainability and growth?

SECTION 2: DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

Basic demographic information is collected as part of the grant application process. Organizations/collectives are required to report on the demographics of their staff (paid or unpaid) and board of directors/advisors. We view data collection as an essential tool to our commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion. See [APPENDIX F](#) for details.

What are the required Supplemental Materials (uploads)?

- Most recently filed 990
- Current fiscal year Profit & Loss statement with budget and year-to-date actuals (also known as: statement of activities, income and expense statement).
 - If you are not yet a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit and you are not in the practice of managing P&L statements or budgets/actuals documents, please submit financial documents that you do have.
- Past fiscal year Profit & Loss statement with budget and year-end totals (also known as “statement of activities, income and expense statement”).
 - If you are not yet a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit and you are not in the practice of managing P&L statements or budgets/actuals documents, please submit financial documents that you do have.
- Board of directors, staff and key volunteers list (submit what is applicable).

AFTER SUBMITTING – NEXT STEPS

Review, evaluation and selection

Following the deadline, applications and supplemental materials will be reviewed by Grants & Community Engagement staff members for completeness and eligibility. Applications are evaluated on organizational leadership, community engagement, progress to date, vision/goals and sustainability of the organization. Grants are reviewed and ranked by the Thrive Committee, which include a GCAC Trustee and community leaders of color. Additional materials or application clarification may be requested by staff or committee members to assist in the evaluation process. The strongest applications (up to three) will be recommended to the Board of Trustees for approval.

Notification

Grant approvals are based on evaluations and available funding. Following a vote from the Board of Trustees, applicants will be notified by email of the application award status (approved, approved with contingencies, or declined). Emails are sent to the primary grant contact and the authorizing official, as listed in the online application system organizational profile.

AFTER YOU ARE AWARDED

Grant Agreement

Following the approval of a grant, a grant agreement specifying the terms of the grant will be available in the online application system under the “Requires Attention” heading. To accept the award, review the grant agreement and digitally sign by the date indicated. No major changes in the grant can then occur, either in activities, key leadership, or finances, without prior written approval from GCAC.

Publicity/Donor Acknowledgement

Once you are awarded, say “Thanks!” in a public way. GCAC requires that all organizations and artists receiving funding demonstrate the public value of the arts by making others aware of awards received and acknowledging public funders.

Thrive grantees should credit GCAC broadly for ALL of the activities of the organization on an on-going basis, where feasible. This includes acknowledgement utilizing all channels available, such as: website, social media, press releases, print materials, curtain speeches, special events, e-newsletters, on-location signage and on specific exhibitions or projects within a given year. Where possible, please include the following phrase “<Your Organization Name> is a proud recipient of GCAC’s Thrive grant. The Thrive program is intended to address disparities in inequitable funding and provides unrestricted funding and resources to arts organizations and art collectives led by and serving people of color.” Refer to [APPENDIX A](#) for more details of the contractual publicity requirements.

Payments

Grantees will receive 100% of their Year One award following the receipt of a digitally signed Grant Agreement. The Year Two award will be disbursed in full after the completion of a satisfactory Progress Report. The Year Three award will be disbursed in full after submission of satisfactory Final Report.

For faster and dependable delivery, all payments will be issued through ACH Direct Deposit. To set up, banking information is collected (or updated with changes) as part of the grant agreement and is stored securely.

NOTE: Payments may take up to three weeks to be processed.

On-Site Visits

GCAC makes its most informed funding decisions using documentation of an organization's activities, including planning and evaluation documents, progress updates and final reports. From time to time, staff and Board members may conduct on-site visits to Thrive recipients to better assess the impact of the grant awards.

Also, organizations/collectives should be prepared to make available up to four complimentary tickets for all performances, exhibits, or events funded at the request of the Grants & Community Engagement department so that staff or trustees can experience your programming live and to become better advocates for the arts in Columbus.

Required Reporting

A Progress Report is due 11 months after the initial award date; a Final Report is due 12 months after the Progress Report. To complete your reports, login to the online application system, scroll down to "Requires Attention" and click on the "Reports" tab. Extensions may be requested in writing before the Final Report due date. Failure to submit a report within 90 days of the due date may result in the cancellation of participation in the program. Overdue or failure to submit final complete reports may affect eligibility and impact grant awards in future applications.