Grassroots Arts Program Federal Funding (ARPA)

North Carolina legislature has designated $10 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to be distributed through the Grassroots network over two years with no match required.

ARPA funds will be distributed in two installments:
• $5 million in FY 2022-23
• $5 million in FY 2023-24
Grassroots Arts Program ARPA

The Grassroots Arts Program is a partnership between local arts council and the North Carolina Arts Council. All 100 counties in N.C. receive ARPA funds on a straight per capita basis.
Grassroots Arts Program ARPA

In counties with populations of 50,000 or more, the local arts council must distribute 50 percent of the Grassroots Arts ARPA funds to local arts organizations through a competitive grant process.
Grassroots Arts Program ARPA

Grassroots Partners are required to assign a percentage of the funds to support BIPOC* arts organizations and/or multicultural programming.

*Black, Indigenous people of color
Strategy for ARPA funds

BUILD
sustainability of your arts organization or art programs (beyond projects, investing in operations, and staff).

DEVELOP
new relationships with BIPOC* arts organizations and artists.

*Black, indigenous, and people of color.

INVEST
in capacity building for your organization (shared trainings, specific capacity-building tailored to your organizations, strategic planning).
Eligibility for application

• While nonprofit status is preferred, organizations that have been in operation for at least one year may apply.

• All organizations must reside and carry out projects in Henderson County.

• Projects must take place between July 1, 2022 and June 15, 2023.

• Only complete applications received by the due date will be considered.
Examples of ARPA fund investments
Capacity building

• Consultants for strategic-planning
• Developing a fundraising plan
• Professional marketing plan
• Website refresh
• Program evaluation
• Board training
• Staff training or professional development
• Diversity, equity, accessibility, and inclusion training.
Sustainability

- Hiring staff or contractors
- Equipment purchases or upgrades
- Small capital expenditures up to $25,000 (total in two years)
- Full financial audit
- Arts & Economic Prosperity (AEP) study participation
Expanding relationships with BIPOC* artists

• Developing new partnerships, programming, and outreach, including:
  • Small-scale creative placemaking projects with BIPOC artists
  • Piloting new events or programs beyond Black History Month or Native American Heritage Month, etc.

*Black, indigenous, and people of color.
Application
How to apply

• Start a conversation with your local arts council
• Schedule a meeting to discuss your organizations recent history
• Prepare a list of organizational needs and intended goals
• Discuss the possibility of shared trainings with other organizations in your county
• Applications are available at acofhc.org
II. Project Description

Grant Amount Requested: ________________
Project Start Date: ________________
Project End Date: ________________

Project Narrative:

Please attach a narrative providing the information requested below for the project you propose. Please be concise and specific as possible:

1. Project title or summary description

2. For capacity-building projects, please list intended goals/outcomes.
Evaluation

How applications are evaluated
Subgrant Panels

• Panel of community members review each grant
• Panelists base funding decisions on the quality of the grant application, not on their relationship with, or knowledge of, the organization
• Panelists review overall completeness of the grant and score applications on specific criteria
Criteria

• Investment will address specific organizational needs and goals

• Identification of consultants or community partners to implement project

• Ability to communicate specific outcomes or goals for the grant

• Ability to plan and implement

• Stability and fiscal responsibility of the organization
If you get funded...

Your organization will enter into a contractual agreement with the Arts Council of Henderson County

- Submittal of No Overdue Tax Debts Form
- Your organization is required to complete a final report by June 30 with:
  - Audience numbers
  - Audience demographics
  - Demonstrate use of N.C. Arts Council logo and credit line on promotional materials
If you get funded...cont.

Late final reports = no funding next grant cycle.

Keep local arts council updated on the progress of your program. If something changes and you can’t use all the funds, your local arts council must know by April. They will need to roll the funds into one of their programs.
Questions?

If you need help with your application, or have specific questions, contact:

Patty Smyers
info@acofhc.org

North Carolina Arts Council
www.NCArts.org

NC DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

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