



CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Arts & Humanities Commission

COMMUNITY CULTURAL ARTS GRANTS

The Virginia Beach Arts and Humanities Commission's Community Cultural Arts Grant Program is designed to aid in building cultural equity in the arts in Virginia Beach by providing support for arts-based projects that reflect the changing communities in which we live through innovative, culturally-rooted, and/or participatory projects with the goal of bringing the community together to celebrate cultural and ethnic diversity. The grant also recognizes a need to support emerging organizations and existing organizations which are not historically/typically represented in traditional local funding infrastructures or are representative of a cultural/ethnic community that is typically underinvested within traditional local funding infrastructures.

A high strategic priority in the Virginia Beach Arts Plan 2030 is to develop, support and promote greater diversity of arts offerings - particularly in the area of culturally/ethnically specific arts. Actively expanding culturally diverse activities directly fulfills City Council's Goal 7 to be "An Inclusive Community that is Welcoming and Empowers All."

The goal of this grant is to foster cultural equity in the arts through:

- Enhancing Understanding
- Nurturing and Celebrating Authentic Cultures
- Increasing Access
- Strengthening Community
- Investing in underserved/underrepresented Communities
- Activating Innovation, non-traditional presentation, and/or participatory experiences that are reflective of the changing communities in which we live.

Applications for this grant must align with one or more of the following cultural equity outcomes:

1. Enhance understanding of and respect for diverse cultural traditions, heritages, and forms of expression.
2. Nurture, celebrate, and support of authentic traditional cultural presentations and creative modern expression of culture from/by/of populations not typically included in the majority of arts presentation and/or funding opportunities.
3. Increase access to and inclusivity in experiences of culturally rooted arts and creative opportunities for communities that have previously experienced less than adequate representation.
4. Connect individuals from diverse cultures, ages, and economic means in an effort to strengthen communities and/or neighborhoods through the arts.
5. Invest in communities with artists or organizations centered on building individual capacity and potential for economic growth and stability within communities historically experiencing lower levels of public investment.
6. Activate innovation, non-traditional presentation, and/or participatory experiences to provide alternative perspectives that reflect our changing communities.

ELIGIBILITY:

The grant program is open to 501(c)3 non-profit organizations whose mission is to represent, promote and develop arts programming derived from culturally and ethnically authentic sources, traditions, and inspiration for the purpose of increasing access, equitability, and opportunity for artists of culturally/ethnically diverse backgrounds and the surrounding community while increasing understanding and/or collaboration between diverse communities. Programs must take place within the City of Virginia Beach and be open to the public. Organizations applying must be accommodating, welcoming, and open to people of all ages, abilities, sexual orientation, gender identities, ethnicities, cultural backgrounds, religions, languages, socio-economic conditions in their policies, practices, and programs.

Groups representing underserved communities including culturally/ethnically diverse communities are encouraged to apply.

The grant will be awarded in three rounds or until funds are exhausted.

	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3
Application Deadline	Friday, August 16, 2024 by 5 p.m. EST	Friday, November 8, 2024 by 5 p.m. EST	Tuesday, February 4, 2025 by 5 p.m. EST
Presentation & Decision Date	Thursday, September 5, 2024 at 5 p.m. EST at Commission business meeting	Thursday, December 5, 2024 at 5 p.m. EST at Commission business meeting	March 27-28, 2025 by appointment
Funds available	Upon signed contract	Upon signed contract	Upon signed contract

Proposals submitted to the program will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- **Quality of Project:** clear, well-conceived, authentic relationship to neighborhood or other community of interest, promotes arts participation and community relations.
- **Community Impact:** project plan describes meaningful efforts to create community participation and reach a diverse audience.
- **Feasibility:** the organization has experience presenting this and/or other event(s); evidence of community involvement and support; and clear realistic budget for the event.

This grant will NOT fund:

- General operating support for cultural organizations, and funding **will not exceed 75% of the total cost of the project**
- **a project or organization already funded by the Commission through the “Project Grant”**
- fundraising efforts
- gifts
- organization’s administrative costs not directly related to the project
- purchase of administrative equipment or software
- food related costs
- activities that do not meet the program alignments
- projects which do not use the arts and culture as the lens to explore a subject
- events not open to the public