

# **VIRGINIA BEACH**

## **Sustainability Grants for Large Arts Institutions Guidelines FY27**

**Deadline: June 12, 2026**



CITY OF VIRGINIA BEACH  
**Cultural  
Affairs**



CITY OF VIRGINIA BEACH

## Cultural Affairs

### FY27 Sustainability Grant Funding for Large Arts Institutions

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JUNE 12, 2026**

#### GRANT OBJECTIVE

This funding opportunity targets non-profit arts and cultural organizations based in the City of Virginia Beach with annual operating budgets exceeding \$750,000. This strategic investment aims to bolster the sustainability and expansion of the city's largest cultural institutions, fostering greater cultural vitality, enhancing economic impact, and reinforcing Virginia Beach's reputation as a premier arts and cultural destination. This grant category provides a one-year, unrestricted, renewable, and flexible grant to support the day-to-day operations or programs.

#### GRANT ELIGIBILITY

Eligible organizations must meet the following requirements:

- The organization's primary purpose and mission must be the creation, presentation, or utilization of arts and culture.
- The applicant organization must be based in the City of Virginia Beach.
- Nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization must be in "good standing" as a nonprofit corporation in the State of Virginia and 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).
- The organization must have an annual operating budget of at least \$750,000 for operations and programs (not including tangible collections, capital and/or endowment funds).
- The proposed program's primary purpose must be the creation, presentation, or utilization of arts and culture; programming must be publicly accessible.
- Timeframe: The activities and/or operations for which the applicant is applying must take place between July 1, 2026 and June 30, 2027.

#### GRANT RESTRICTIONS

These grants are not available for:

- Degree-granting institutions and educational institutions, including childcare centers, pre-school, elementary, middle, and high schools, and colleges and universities are ineligible to apply.
- Programs, projects, or events not accessible to the public.
- Benefits, fundraisers, or awards programs.
- Programs that are part of a religious service.
- Political advocacy.
- Construction, purchase, or renovation of facilities. (Design fees, preparing space for an exhibit, installation or de-installation of art, and community planning are eligible.)

- Cash reserves or endowments.
- Deficit or debt reduction efforts.
- Tuition assistance.
- Travel, lodging, or meal expenses for staff, artists, or board members.
- Costs of receptions and social activities (except related to arts activities.)

### **APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS**

Grant awards will be determined based on the established application criteria by an internal City leadership panel dedicated to advancing Virginia Beach's economic and cultural initiatives. The available annual funding for Sustainability Grants is not sufficient to meet applicant demand. The final distribution of funding is dependent on available funding, number of applications submitted, applicant score, and number of applicants awarded funding.

### **EVALUATION CRITERIA**

#### **Artistic Excellence (40%)**

- The organization produces or presents culturally and artistically significant work, contributing to the vibrant arts scene in Virginia Beach.

#### **Organizational Capacity, Economic Benefits and Sustainability (30%)**

- The organization has experienced leadership and effective governance practices that ensure transparency and accountability.
- The organization demonstrates sound financial management practices and a clear plan for utilizing sustainability funding to support ongoing operations and long-term viability.
- The organization contributes to the local economy through job creation, local spending, or other economic activities.

#### **Cultural and Community Impact (30%)**

- The organization has a significant impact on the cultural landscape of the community, promoting cultural diversity and inclusivity through its programs and activities. It actively engages with local communities and has strong community support.

### **AWARD NOTIFICATION AND GRANT AGREEMENT**

Applicants will be notified of award by email and/or mail. Grant recipients will receive a grant contract to be completed and signed before the grant award can be processed.

### **GRANT CONTRACTS & PAYMENTS**

Once reviewed and executed, grant contracts will be sent to the Finance Department for processing and payment.

### **FINAL REPORT**

The grantee agrees that it will promptly complete and submit any reports required by the City of Virginia Beach Cultural Affairs Department. The grantee will file a final report at the completion of the fiscal year with an overview of how funds were spent.