



Creative Mornings Workshop, ViBe Creative District

Organizational Development Grants

FY26 PROGRAM GUIDELINES

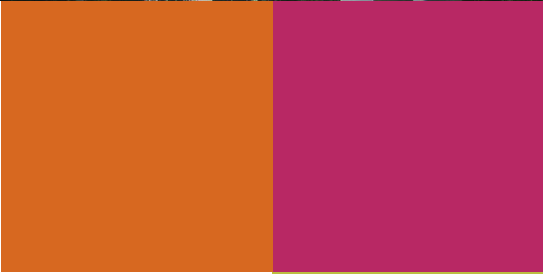
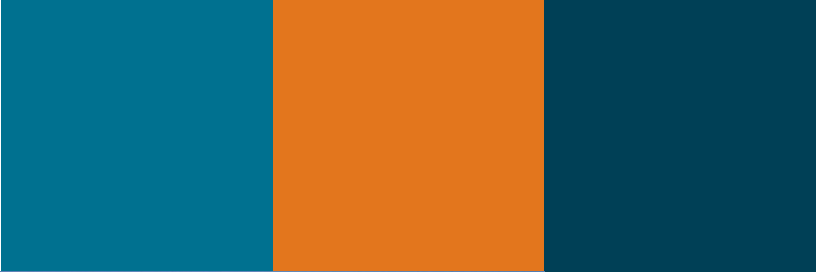
ROLLING DEADLINE | **Ending April 30, 2026**

WWW.VIRGINIABEACH.GOV/CULTURE



CULTURAL AFFAIRS

**Arts & Humanities
Commission**



Pennant, Lin Emery

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Mille Colori, Dale Chihuly

Wings, Lin Emery

VIRGINIA BEACH ARTS AND HUMANITIES COMMISSION

The Virginia Beach Arts & Humanities Commission is dedicated to fostering a vibrant cultural community by supporting and promoting excellence in the arts and humanities. The Commission plays a vital role in enriching the lives of Virginia Beach residents by ensuring access to diverse and meaningful cultural experiences.

Key Objectives

- **Advocacy:** Championing the value of the arts and humanities to strengthen community engagement and public support.
- **Leadership Support:** Empowering arts organizations with resources, guidance, and leadership development to ensure their long-term sustainability and growth.
- **Program Development:** Providing funding and assistance to expand arts and humanities programs that serve all Virginia Beach residents.

By enhancing Virginia Beach's cultural identity, the Commission celebrates the city's diversity and fosters creativity that inspires pride, unity, and community connection.

VIRGINIA BEACH CULTURAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

As Virginia Beach continues to grow in population and visitation, having a vibrant, thriving cultural scene is a necessity and provides well-rounded and diverse options for tourists and residents.

The Virginia Beach Cultural Affairs Department is making a more vibrant Virginia Beach - using art and culture as tools for revitalization, to cultivate community pride and create new landmarks through creativity.

Arts-based, community-led transformation is happening throughout Virginia Beach thanks to the strong partnerships developed between Cultural Affairs, the Arts and Humanities Commission and area non-profit organizations, as well as the department-led initiatives that engage residents and visitors in meaningful arts, heritage, and cultural experiences.

The Cultural Affairs Department supports various initiatives, including public art, cultural programs, and neighborhood-based art projects, to ensure that art remains accessible and engaging for everyone. Its efforts are aligned with the goals of Virginia Beach's Arts Plan 2030, which envisions a city where arts and culture thrive as essential components of everyday life.

One by one Cultural Affairs' exciting projects are changing the face of our city and establishing Virginia Beach as the leader in the arts and culture in Virginia.

Skate Park, Jeff L.Hall





ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANT OVERVIEW

The Organizational Development Grant supports non-profit arts and humanities organizations in their growth, by improving visibility, organizational productivity, and proficiency while benefiting anyone at any level within an organization.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

QUALIFIED APPLICANTS MUST:

- Have a stated purpose in their mission statement serving the arts and humanities through the provision of services and programming.
- Be non-Profit organizations exempt from federal income tax under Section 501 which includes the 501(c)3 designation of the Internal Revenue Code, or units of government, educational institutions, or local chapters of tax-exempt national organizations.
- Comply with all current and applicable laws and state and federal nondiscrimination acts (including, but not limited to, Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Immigration and Control Act of 1986).

The Commission may review other arts and humanities organizations' requests at their discretion.

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

The following are examples of activities eligible for funding. Additional activities may be considered on a case-by-case basis.

- Technology and software improvements
- Professional Development
 - Conferences and Seminars
 - In-Office Training/Guest Facilitators
 - Board Development/Education
 - Skill Courses
- Services, Subscriptions, Training or Consulting/Freelance
 - Communications
 - PR/Marketing
 - Accounting/Auditing
 - Strategic Planning
 - Succession Planning
 - Fundraising
 - Intern stipends
 - Freelance projects

Activities can benefit any employee/project at any level of the organization from entry level to board room.

Fixed asset acquisition or improvement may be considered on a case-by-case basis

MAXIMUM GRANT AWARD

Up to a total of \$1,250 per organization per fiscal year. Available funds are allocated on a first come, first-serve basis to qualified applicants following the start of the Commission's fiscal year. (July 1 of every year)

GRANT APPLICATIONS

Applications must be submitted through the Cultural Affairs' grant software, [Foundant](#). Applicants must create an account and follow the directions provided on the website.

TIMELINE

Application Opens:

July 1, 2025

Notification of Award:

After next Arts & Humanities Business Meeting

Last Application Deadline:

April 30, 2026

Project End Date:

June 30, 2026

GRANT RESTRICTIONS/INELIGIBLE EXPENSES

The grant may NOT be used for any of the following activities or categories of activities such as salaries and bonuses, regular operating expenses, refreshments or alcohol, lobbying or other unauthorized uses for municipal funds.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

- Demonstrates organizational need.
- Proposed project improves or eliminates stated need.
- Reflects the spirit of the stated purpose of the grant.
- Sufficiently meets application evaluation measures-Completeness, Significance, Goals, Implementation, Budget, & Sustainability, if applicable.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

- To receive funding, your application must be submitted in advance of the activity. Funds are distributed after electronic submission of the final report and receipts in the grant portal.

- Apply for the Organizational Development Grant at:

<https://culturalaffairs.virginibeach.gov/grant-opportunities>

- Submit completed electronic application in the grant portal with all required documents noted in the application no less than 12 business days in advance of a regular Business Meeting of the Arts & Humanities Commission. The full [meeting schedule](#) is available online.

- An organization representative is encouraged to engage in a call with the Cultural Affairs Grant Manager upon submission.

- The organization representative is welcome to attend the business meeting where the application is being reviewed to answer Commissioner questions. If no representative is available, questions will be sent via email and the applicant organization will have 2 business days to reply. If no reply is received, the application may be denied.

- To connect with the Grant Manager, contact Lisa Wigginton at Lwigginton@vbgov.com or call (757) 385-2599.



Dende & Band by Holly Plate