27 GRANT GUIDELINES

IDAHO COMMISSION ON THE ARTS
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		Annual Grants Arts Education Annual Projects Entry Track Fellowships Public Programs in the Arts Traditional Arts Apprenticeships	**Quarterly Grants** Projects for Individuals Projects for Organizations Consulting Professional Development
2026	January	FY27 applications, **deadline** Fellowships ▪ Visual Arts, Design, and Craft ▪ Folk and Traditional Arts	
	February		
	March		FY26 round 4 application, **deadline**
	April	All FY27 applications, **panel review**	
	May		
	June		FY27 round 1 application, **deadline**
	July	FY26 grants, **final reports DUE** FY27 grants, **awarded**	FY26 grants, **final reports DUE** ▪ all rounds
	August		
	September		FY27 round 2 application, **deadline**
	October		
	November		
	December		FY27 round 3 application, **deadline**
2027	January	FY28 applications, **deadline** Fellowships ▪ Performing & Media Arts ▪ Literature ▪ Writer in Residence	
	February		
	March		FY27 round 4 application, **deadline**
	April	All FY28 applications, **panel review**	
	May		
	June		FY28 round 1 application, **deadline**
	July	FY27 grants, **final reports DUE** FY28 grants, **awarded**	FY27 grants, **final reports DUE** ▪ all rounds

Grant Period

Fiscal Year 2027

Opportunities depend on available funding and may change at any time.
Check arts.idaho.gov for the most current information.

CONTENTS

1 Overview
2 Legal Requirements
3 Grantmaking Policies for All Applicants
3 Grantmaking Policies for Organizations
4 Grantmaking Policies for Colleges & Universities
5 Grantmaking Process
6 Application Materials

GRANTS FOR INDIVIDUALS
7 Projects for Individuals
9 Professional Development
11 Fellowships
13 Writer in Residence
15 Traditional Arts Apprenticeships

GRANTS FOR ORGANIZATIONS, SCHOOLS & SCHOOL DISTRICTS
17 Projects for Organizations
19 Consulting
21 Entry Track
24 Public Programs in the Arts (PPA)
26 Arts Education Annual Projects
31 Glossary

OVERVIEW

Grant programs depend on available dollars from the state of Idaho and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). Grant and award programs are competitive and receipt of a current grant does not guarantee future funding.

The Commission uses the following criteria to assess most applications:

- Artistic quality
- Artistic growth
- Management and feasibility

And, where appropriate:

- Educational merit
- A public benefit

What the Commission cannot fund:

- Establishment of or contributions to an endowment;
- Fundraising projects that do not raise funds for the arts;
- Prizes, scholarships, or free tickets;
- Projects or programs to generate or attract audiences;
- Offsetting of debt, payment of fines, penalties, or legal fees;
- Activities that are primarily promotional or created for mass distribution, such as duplication of CDs, creation of portfolios, private gallery announcements, brochures, or websites;
- Self-published books;
- Student exhibitions, anthologies, publications, or performances, unless those activities document an arts education grant;
- Costs associated with any degree or professional certification, such as tuition, fees, and teaching materials;
- Projects or activities already completed or beginning before the eligible start date, or documentation of previously completed projects;
- Documentation of projects except for arts education activities;
- Projects primarily recreational, vocational, or religious;
- Activities restricted to an organization's membership;
- Costs for consecutive attendance at annual activities that are routinely within an arts organization's budget including, but not limited to, conferences of Americans for the Arts, American Folklore Society, or the Western Arts Alliance;
- Pageants, festivals, or celebrations unrelated to arts, ethnic, or cultural activities;
- Journalism;
- Historical or academic documentary film and electronic media arts that do NOT demonstrate significant artistic emphasis, consideration, and distinction;
- Scholarly or academic works in history, languages, archeology, and political science;
- Lobbying expenses or political activities;
- Hospitality expenses such as food and drink, alcohol, flowers, etc. Any such expenses must be paid with applicant funds;
- Capital expenses for an individual; or
- Writing intended for youth.

2 LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

A submitted application certifies that all facts, figures, representations, and attachments are true and correct to the best of the applicant's knowledge. Grant recipients assure the Idaho Commission on the Arts that they will:

- Submit all final reports for approval by their respective published deadlines;
- Expend funds solely for the activities described in the approved application;
- Obtain approval from the Commission prior to implementing changes;
- Return to the Commission by the end of the fiscal year any grant funds not committed on an approved project.

By accepting grant funding, you acknowledge and ensure that you will implement the funded project in full accordance with the US Constitution, federal law, and public policy requirements including, but not limited to, those protecting free speech, religious liberty, public welfare, and the environment, and those prohibiting discrimination (§ 200.300). Also, you must ensure that you implement the funded project in full accordance with all applicable Executive Orders to the extent permitted by law. Relevant statutes and policies are:

- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964
- Executive Order 14173, *Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity*; a grantee certifies they do not operate any programs promoting "diversity, equity, and inclusion" (DEI) that violate any applicable Federal anti-discrimination laws.
- Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972
- Age Discrimination Act of 1975
- Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990
- Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973
- National Environmental Policy Act of 1969
- National Historic Preservation Act of 1966
- Debarment and Suspension. A grantee certifies they have not been debarred or suspended from receiving nonprocurement funds from the federal government, in accordance with 2 CFR 32.3254
- Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988
- Federal Restrictions on Lobbying (§ 200.450). The regulation generally defines lobbying as conduct intended to influence the outcome of elections or to influence elected officials regarding pending legislation, either directly or through specific lobbying appeals to the public.
- Davis-Bacon and Related Acts (DBRA)
- Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990
- U.S. Constitution Education Program
- Prohibition on use of funds to ACORN or its subsidiaries (P.L. 111-88 Sec. 427)

Links to Acts and Amendments can be found at arts.idaho.gov/grant-guidelines/ Click on Legal Requirements tab.

ALL APPLICANTS

Appeals process

To appeal a decision made by the Commission an applicant must write the Executive Director within 30 days of notification. The amount or conditions of the grant may not be appealed unless the applicant can demonstrate a misinterpretation or misunderstanding by the review panel of the information submitted. Incomplete applications are not subject to appeal.

Conflict of interest

State law and Commission policy provide for conflict of interest statements to guide the agency's decision-making. Commission members and agency staff may not, at any time, use their positions to influence decisions or actions that will financially benefit:

- themselves;
- an organizational applicant with which they have a monetary or policy-making interest; or
- an individual applicant with whom they have a personal or financial relationship.

Commission members, agency staff, and review panelists must disclose any actual or potential conflicts of interest, and refrain from participating in discussion and voting on affected applications.

Freedom of expression and community standards

The Commission is an advocate for and defender of the right of free speech for all citizens under the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States. The Commission intends, though, that funded projects exhibit a sensitivity and responsiveness to community standards.

ORGANIZATIONS

Access

Making the arts accessible to all Idahoans is a priority of the Commission. Recipients must agree to make every attempt to ensure that people with disabilities, ethnic groups, occupational groups, older adults, or young audiences have access.

Acquisitions and commissions

The Commission will only fund visual arts projects for acquisition or commission of new works when the applying organization maintains a facility open to the public, demonstrates strong management and security practices, and maintains an ongoing exhibition program or permanent collection.

GRANTMAKING POLICIES

Fiscal agent

Fiscal agents are no longer allowed. Organizations must be a nonprofit, IRS tax exempt 501(c)(3) organization or a unit of local, county, tribal, or state government, including schools and school districts.

Organizational changes

Applicants who experience significant changes in staffing, programming, or finances after applying for any grant must notify the Commission of those changes in writing once the applicant becomes aware of them.

COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Colleges and universities may apply for support if they present and market arts activities to the public and if the activity is supplementary to regular course offerings. University-based arts programs that receive Entry Track grants or Public Programs in the Arts grants are not eligible to apply for quarterly grants.

Quarterly Grants for Organizations

One quarterly grant application per university may be funded each fiscal year.

Entry Track and Public Programs in the Arts Grants

If a university-based arts organization providing arts programs for the general public operates under the nonprofit umbrella of the university, then it is eligible to receive Entry Track or Public Programs in the Arts funding. Only one Entry Track or Public Programs in the Arts grant may be awarded per university each year.

Indirect Costs

Indirect costs, when required, are allowable, but must be calculated and included in the expense section of the original application budget. Indirect costs not appearing in the original application budget will not be paid in addition to an awarded grant amount. Indirect costs may be based on a current and appropriate indirect cost rate negotiated with your Federal Cognizant Agency, or a de minimis rate.

Submission

Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.
***Annual grants*:** applicants may submit one application per program per fiscal year.
***Quarterly grants*:** an applicant may submit one application per deadline but may receive funds for only one quarterly grant each fiscal year.

Panel review and attendance at panel meetings

Panelists evaluate applications based on published evaluation criteria and propose recommendations to Commissioners who make all final funding decisions. Applicants may attend these public meetings. However, they are not allowed to participate in panel discussions. Individuals in attendance must not publicly disclose panel recommendations until after the Commission has approved them.

Grants and awards

Applicants will be notified about funding after Commission approval. All approved grants will be distributed in full following Commission approval and notification to the applicant.

Final financial and narrative reports

The Commission's fiscal year begins July 1 and ends June 30. All grantees are required to submit a final report by July 31, which must then be approved for the grantee to remain eligible for future funding. Extensions granted by Commission staff may not exceed one year beyond the fiscal year in which the grant was awarded.

6 APPLICATION MATERIALS

REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS

Applications may require work samples, support materials, and/or a statement of purpose.

Work samples show the quality of art or services and must be from the last five years.
Support materials confirm the narrative by providing key evidence.
A ***Statement of Purpose*** includes a description of work in development during the award term and/or plans for the public presentation of current work. The statement may also include a description of how the artist works, what their work means, the direction of current work, and/or context for included samples. The statement should be specific to the application.

Images Work samples may include up to ten images.
Audio or video Work samples may include up to five pieces of work not to exceed ten minutes in total duration.
Literature, plays, screenwriting Work samples may include up to 20 pages. If excerpted from a larger work or works, applicants may also include a one-paragraph synopsis.

PROJECTS FOR INDIVIDUALS

Purpose

This quarterly grant opportunity supports artist-initiated projects and activities. Examples include attendance at an artist residency, release time to create and exhibit a body of work, staging of performances, readings, or the creation of public art.

Process

Applications are adjudicated by a panel of community arts professionals and/or Commission staff. A final report is due by July 31, which must then be approved for the grantee to remain eligible for future funding.

Amount

The grant funds up to 75% of projected expenses. Maximum request is $1,100.

Eligibility and Restrictions

- Applicant must be a practicing artist.
- Applicant must be at least 18 years old.
- Applicant must be a United States citizen, legal resident, or refugee, and be an Idaho resident for at least one year prior to the application deadline.
- Final reports for past Commission grants must be submitted and approved.
- Applicant may receive one quarterly grant in a fiscal year. The State of Idaho's fiscal year runs from July 1 through the following June 30.
- Fellowship, Traditional Arts Apprenticeship, and Writer in Residence recipients are not eligible for a quarterly grant during their award year or term.
- Artists working in collaborations must file one joint application whereby one person will be considered the primary applicant.
- Individuals who are currently enrolled in a degree or certificate-granting program are not eligible.
- Activities may not begin until 3 weeks after the application deadline and must be completed before July 1, 2027.

Narrative Questions

Applicants must submit a narrative answering the following questions:

1. Describe what you propose to do and how you plan to accomplish it.
2. Explain how this activity will enhance your artistic growth or career.
3. Describe how you will share the knowledge gained, involve your community, or how this activity will benefit participants.
4. Explain the relationship between your work samples and the proposed project or activity.

Budget

Applicant must submit a budget

GRANTS FOR INDIVIDUALS

PROJECTS FOR INDIVIDUALS

Required Attachments

- Résumé or bio
- Statement of purpose (*includes a description of work in development during the award term and/or plans for the public presentation of current work. The statement may also include a description of how the artist works, what their work means, the direction of current work, and/or context for included samples*)
- Work samples (*show the quality of art or services and must be from the last five years*)
- Support materials (*confirm the narrative by providing key evidence*)

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Artistic Quality (40 points)

- Artist's work is of excellent quality and a logical extension of previous work or aesthetic interest

Feasibility (20 points)

- Ability and plan demonstrates the applicant can realistically accomplish the project or activity
- The application is clear and complete; the budget is realistic and correlates with the narrative

Artistic Growth (40 points)

- Opportunity has the potential to enhance applicant's artistic growth, career, or support continuation of an art form
- A public aspect (exhibition, performance, reading, or demonstration) is present, where appropriate

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Purpose

This quarterly grant opportunity supports the professional development of artists and arts administrators. Applicants may receive funds for attending a conference, workshop, or other form of professional development.

Process

Applications are adjudicated by a panel of community arts professionals and/or Commission staff. A final report is due by July 31, which must then be approved for the grantee to remain eligible for future funding.

Amount

The grant funds up to 50% of projected expenses. Maximum request is $600.

Eligibility and Restrictions

- Applicant must be a practicing artist, arts administrator, or K-12 teacher, educator, or Commission Teaching Artist.
- Applicant must be at least 18 years old.
- Applicant must be a United States citizen, legal resident, or refugee, and be an Idaho resident for at least one year prior to the application deadline.
- Final reports for past Commission grants must be submitted and approved.
- Applicant may receive one Professional Development grant in a fiscal year. The State of Idaho's fiscal year runs from July 1 through the following June 30.
- Fellowship, Traditional Arts Apprenticeship, and Writer in Residence recipients are not eligible for a Professional Development grant during their award year or term.
- Individuals who are currently enrolled in a degree or certificate-granting program are not eligible.
- Multiple Professional Development applications for the same event or opportunity will not be accepted from members or staff of single organizations with budgets over $50,000. Two applications for the same event will be allowed from members or staff of organizations with budgets under $50,000.
- Activities may not begin until 3 weeks after the application deadline and must be completed before July 1, 2027.

Narrative Questions

Applicants must submit a narrative answering the following questions:

1. List the name, dates, and location of the conference, workshop, or seminar you will attend.
2. Explain how this activity will enhance your artistic growth or career. If an educator or teaching artist, explain how this activity will enhance student learning, your teaching, and arts education professional skills.
3. Describe how the knowledge you gain will be shared to the benefit of your community.
4. If a practicing artist, explain the relationship between your work samples and the proposed project or activity. If an administrator, describe your organization's mission, programs, and community impact.

Budget

Applicant must submit a budget

Required Attachments

- Résumé
- Statement of Purpose (*includes a description of work in development during the award term and/or plans for the public presentation of current work. The statement may also include a description of how the artist works, what their work means, the direction of current work, and/or context for included samples*)
- Work Samples – arts administrators and educators, exempt (*show the quality of art or services and must be from the last five years*)
- Support Materials (*confirm the narrative by providing key evidence*)

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Artistic Quality (40 points)

- Artist's work is of excellent quality and a logical extension of previous work or aesthetic interest
- An arts administrator's work history indicates professional experiences with high quality arts organizations or projects, or applicant works for an organization that produces programs of high artistic quality appropriate for its stated mission
- Educators and Commission Teaching Artists' past work history reveals experience with quality arts or education projects.

Feasibility (20 points)

- Ability and plan demonstrates the applicant can realistically accomplish the project or activity
- The application is clear and complete; the budget is realistic and correlates with the narrative

Growth (40 points)

- Opportunity has the potential to significantly affect or enhance applicant's ability, career, artistic development, technique, managerial skills, teaching skills, or the applicant's plans to improve student learning in the arts.
- A public aspect (exhibition, performance, reading, or demonstration) is present, where appropriate

FELLOWSHIPS

Purpose

These annual grants recognize the outstanding work of Idaho artists and writers. They reward the pursuit of artistic excellence, promote public awareness of the arts, and help advance an artist's career. Eligible disciplines rotate on a two-year cycle.

Fiscal Year 2027

Visual Arts, Craft, and Design - The Visual Arts, Craft, and Design Fellowship recognizes artists whose work demonstrates a commitment to sustained exploration of an art form and engagement with contemporary practices. For granting purposes this category includes, but is not limited to, painting, photography, printmaking, sculpture, ceramics, fiber arts, design, installation arts, etc.

Folk & Traditional Arts - The Folk and Traditional Arts Fellowship recognizes the exemplary quality of Idaho's tradition bearers. Their body of work and lifetime of commitment to their community's creative expressions contribute to our state's cultural heritage. The Folk and Traditional Arts Fellowship honors individual practitioners who have dedicated their lives to the perpetuation of their customs and, in doing so, promotes public awareness of our state's diverse and time-honored communities.

Fiscal Year 2028

Performing and Media Arts - The Performing and Media Arts Fellowship recognizes outstanding achievements in film, dance, theater, music, technologically-based media, or other performative or time-based disciplines.

Literature - The Literature Fellowship recognizes artistic excellence in the areas of fiction, creative non-fiction, poetry, screen writing, play writing, or other literary uses of the written word.

Process

Anonymous applications are adjudicated by a panel of out-of-state experts in the field. Those awarded a Fellowship are expected to do a public presentation of their work, engage in research or complete work within the fiscal year that the award is made. A final report is due by July 31, which must then be approved for the grantee to remain eligible for future funding.

Amount

$5,000. No match required.

GRANTS FOR INDIVIDUALS

FELLOWSHIPS

Eligibility and Restrictions

- Applicant must be a practicing artist or writer.
- Applicant must be at least 18 years old.
- Applicant must be a United States citizen, legal resident, or refugee, and be an Idaho resident for at least one year prior to the application deadline.
- Individuals who currently are enrolled in a degree or certificate-granting program are not eligible.
- Final reports for past Commission grants must be submitted and approved.
- Fellowship recipients must wait four years before reapplying.
- Artists may receive a maximum of three Fellowship awards.

Required Attachments - applicant name <u>should not</u> appear on attachments

- Résumé or bio
- Statement of purpose *(may include a description of how the artist works, what their work means, the direction of current work, and/or context for included samples. The statement should be specific to the application)*
- Work samples (*show the quality of art or services and must be from the last five years*) – Applicant name, such as a signature on a painting or a credit in a film, should be redacted from the work samples if possible

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Artistic Excellence (85 points) (50 points for Folk and Traditional Arts)

- Work shows originality, innovation, and consistency
- Work is of a preeminent quality and demonstrates a mastery of the medium

Past Work and Contributions to the Field (15 points) (50 points for Folk and Traditional Arts)

- Evidence of exceptional, continued aesthetic investigation, professional activities, and achievements
- Applicant demonstrates ongoing engagement with community
- Folk and traditional artists must show a commitment to their community's cultural traditions through continued practice or teaching

WRITER IN RESIDENCE

Purpose

This biennial grant is the highest literary recognition and largest financial award accorded an Idaho writer. The residency encourages an interaction with and appreciation for excellence in literature throughout the state.

Process

Anonymous applications are adjudicated by a panel of out-of-state experts in the field. The Writer in Residence is required to engage with Idaho residents through readings, craft workshops, presentations, events or projects four times a year, throughout their appointment (6/8 in underserved communities). A final report is due by July 31, which must then be approved for the grantee to remain eligible for future funding.

Amount

Annual payments of $5,000 are distributed over two years. No match required. The recipient will be reimbursed for allowable travel expenses.

Eligibility and Restrictions

- Applicant must be a practicing writer
- Applicant must be at least 18 years old
- Applicant must be a United States citizen, legal resident, or refugee, and be an Idaho resident for at least one year prior to the application deadline
- Final reports for past Commission grants must be submitted and approved
- The Writer in Residence is limited to two nonconsecutive awards
- The Writer in Residence may receive a Fellowship before becoming Writer in Residence, but after that, he or she is ineligible for a Literature Fellowship
- Applicant may apply for Writer in Residence and a Fellowship in the same cycle. Only one will be awarded

Required Attachments - applicant name <u>should not</u> appear on attachments

- Résumé or bio
- Statement of purpose (*includes a description of work in development during the award term and/or plans for the public presentation of current work. The statement may also include a description of how the artist works, what their work means, the direction of current work, and/or context for included samples. The statement should be specific to the application*)
- Work samples (*show the quality of art or services and must be from the last five years*)

WRITER IN RESIDENCE

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Literary Excellence (85 points)

- Work shows originality, innovation, and consistency
- Work is of a preeminent quality and demonstrates a mastery of the medium

Past Work and Contributions to the Field (15 points)

- Evidence of exceptional, continued aesthetic investigation, professional activities, and achievements
- Applicant demonstrates ongoing engagement with community

TRADITIONAL ARTS APPRENTICESHIPS

Purpose

This annual grant opportunity supports a learning partnership between a recognized mentor artist and one or more qualified apprentices to continue artistic traditions of a shared cultural heritage. An apprentice should have some background in the art form and indicate a commitment to practice the art form after the apprenticeship has been completed.

Process

Applications are adjudicated by a panel of out-of-state experts in the field. A final report is due by July 31, which must then be approved for the grantee to remain eligible for future funding.

Amount

$3,000 disbursed to the mentor artist. No match required.

Eligiblity and Restrictions

- Applicant (mentor artist) must be a practicing artist.
- Applicant must be at least 18 years old. Apprentices may be under 18.
- Applicant must be a United States citizen, legal resident, or refugee.
- Apprentices must live in Idaho.
- Final reports for past Commission grants must be submitted and approved.
- The length of the apprenticeship must not exceed ten months.
- Apprenticeships must include a public presentation or demonstration.

Narrative questions

Mentor

Submit a narrative that responds to the questions below.

1. Describe the art form, technique, occupational skill, or tradition you practice and want to teach.
2. Describe the role this tradition plays in your cultural heritage. For example, is it a part of everyday life? Is it reserved for ceremonies, rituals, or other special occasions?
3. Describe your history or experience with this art form. Who taught you? Where and when did you learn the tradition? Are there other practitioners in your community? Do you have a particular style, a unique sound, or a special technique?
4. Describe your relationship to the apprentice and why it is important to teach them. Do you share the same cultural community? How long have you known each other? Are you related?
5. Have you taught other people? Who are they? Are they still practicing this art form or tradition?

GRANTS FOR INDIVIDUALS

TRADITIONAL ARTS APPRENTICESHIPS

Apprentice

Submit a narrative that responds to the questions below.

1. Describe your history or experience with this art form. For example, who or what influenced you to take up this art form? Where and at what age did you begin working on this art form? Do you have experience in another related art form?
2. Describe the role the tradition plays in your cultural heritage or community.
3. Describe the mentor's relationship to you and to your community. Have you worked together before? If so, explain.
4. Explain what you want to accomplish during this apprenticeship.
5. Explain your plans to continue working on this art form after the apprenticeship ends. Will you pass on to others what you have learned?

Budget

Applicant must submit a budget

Work Plan

Applicant must submit a detailed work plan

Required Attachments

- Résumé or bio for mentor
- Letters of support for mentor – two or three
- Letters of support for apprentice – two or three
- Work samples for mentor (*show the quality of art or services and must be from the last five years*)
- Work samples for apprentice

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Quality (50 points)

- Mentor is recognized by peers and by community standards
- Apprentice will benefit from working with the mentor
- Apprentice is committed to advancing their skills and to carrying on the tradition

Community (25 points)

- Mentor and apprentice share the same cultural background
- Art form is significant to their community
- Work plan includes a public component

Feasibility (25 points)

- Goals for the apprenticeship are clear
- Budget is appropriate
- Work plan provides adequate time to achieve meaningful results

GRANTS FOR ORGANIZATIONS, SCHOOLS & SCHOOL DISTRICTS

PROJECTS FOR ORGANIZATIONS

Purpose

This quarterly grant opportunity supports the public projects and events of nonprofit organizations, of informal arts groups applying through fiscal agents, and of arts-in-education projects in schools and school districts.

Process

Applications are adjudicated by a panel of community arts professionals and/or Commission staff. A final report is due by July 31, which must then be approved for the grantee to remain eligible for future funding.

Amount

The grant requires a 1:1 match with cash or in-kind donations, and funds up to 50% of projected expenses. Maximum request is $1,100.

Eligibility and Restrictions

- Applicant must be a nonprofit, IRS tax exempt 501(c)(3) organization; or be a unit of local, county, tribal, or state government, including schools and school districts.
- Nonprofit organizations must have been in operation in Idaho for at least one year and have a valid 501(c)(3) Determination Letter with an effective date at least one year prior to the grant application deadline.
- Applicant must provide a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI).
- Applicant must compensate professional artists.
- Final reports for past Commission grants must be submitted and approved.
- Applicant may receive one quarterly grant in a fiscal year.
- Organizations that receive Public Programs in the Arts or Entry Track funding are not eligible to apply for Projects for Organizations.
- Quarterly grant applications may not support a current Arts Education Annual Project grant.
- Projects cannot begin until 3 weeks after the application deadline and must be completed before July 1, 2027.

Narrative questions

Submit a narrative that responds to the questions below.

1. Describe your organization; include structure, mission statement, history, programs, services, and community you serve.
2. Describe what you propose to do, how you plan to accomplish it, and why your project merits funding.
3. Explain why this project is essential to your organization; or if the applicant is a school, how this project addresses curricular needs of the learners.
4. Describe community or campus involvement, the anticipated community or educational impact, and public or campus access to project activities.

Budget

Applicant must submit a budget

GRANTS FOR ORGANIZATIONS, SCHOOLS & SCHOOL DISTRICTS

PROJECTS FOR ORGANIZATIONS

Required Attachments for Organizations

- Résumés for key personnel
- List of board of directors
- IRS determination letter of 501(c)(3) status
- Three current letters of support
- Work samples (*show the quality of art or services and must be from the last five years*)
- Support materials (*confirm the narrative by providing key evidence*)

Required Attachments for Schools & School Districts

- Résumés for key personnel
- Work samples (*show the quality of art or services and must be from the last five years*)
- Support materials (*confirm the narrative by providing key evidence*)

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Artistic / Educational Merit (40 points)

- Organization produces programs of artistic and/or educational merit appropriate to its mission
- Artistic merit of the project is related to the vision or mission of the organization

Management (20 points)

- Demonstrates the applicant can accomplish the activity according to the proposed plan
- Application is clear and complete; the budget is realistic and correlates with the narrative
- If an arts education project, the educational goals are clearly stated, and activities are appropriate to the arts learning needs of the participants

Community Involvement and Access (40 points)

- Ensures broad community participation, or reflects the needs of the school population or community
- Evidence of public access to project activities, or to involve parents, school administrators, and the campus or community

Purpose

This quarterly grant opportunity supports consulting services for organizational development or artistic needs of nonprofit organizations, or informal arts groups applying through fiscal agents.

Process

Applications are adjudicated by a panel of community arts and/or Commission staff. A final report is due by July 31, which must then be approved for the grantee to remain eligible for future funding.

Amount

The grant requires a 1:1 match with cash or in-kind donations, and funds up to 50% of projected expenses. Maximum request is $1,100.

Eligibility and Restrictions

- Applicant must be a nonprofit, IRS tax exempt 501(c)(3) organization; or a unit of local, county, tribal, or state government, including schools and school districts.
- Nonprofit organizations must have been in operation in Idaho for at least one year and have a valid 501(c)(3) Determination Letter with an effective date at least one year prior to the grant application deadline.
- Applicant must provide a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI).
- Applicant must compensate professional artists and administrators.
- Applicant may receive one Consulting grant in a fiscal year.
- Final reports for past Commission grants must be submitted and approved.
- Activities cannot begin until 3 weeks after the application deadline and must be completed before July 1, 2027.

Narrative questions

Submit a narrative that responds to the questions below.

1. Describe your organization; include structure, mission statement, history, programs, services, and community you serve.
2. Describe what you propose to do, how you plan to accomplish it, and why your project merits funding.
3. Explain why this project is essential to your organization.
4. Describe community involvement, the anticipated community impact, and, if applicable, public access to project activities.

Budget

Applicant must submit a budget

Required Attachments

- Résumés for key personnel
- List of board of directors
- IRS determination letter of 501(c)(3) status
- Two current letters of support
- Work samples (*show the quality of art or services and must be from the last five years*)
- Support materials (*confirm the narrative by providing key evidence*)

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Merit (40 points)

- Organization produces programs of artistic merit appropriate to its mission
- Clearly states the purpose and need for assistance

Management (20 points)

- Demonstrates the applicant can accomplish the activity according to the proposed plan
- Application is clear and complete; the budget is realistic and correlates with the narrative
- The purpose and need for assistance are clearly stated

Community Involvement and Access (40 points)

- Ensures appropriate community participation

GRANTS FOR ORGANIZATIONS

ENTRY TRACK

Purpose

This annual grant opportunity supports Idaho's emerging arts organizations that provide public programs in the arts. These programs represent the highest standards of excellence, engage the public, encourage community access, education and participation in the arts and follow best practices in business management and administration. Entry Track grants are intended to prepare organizations for transition to Public Programs in the Arts.

Process

Applications are adjudicated by a panel of community arts professionals. Award amounts depend on available funds. A final report is due by July 31, which must then be approved for the grantee to remain eligible for future funding.

Amount

Grant amounts vary and are based on a funding formula that considers a panel review assessment, organizational budget and past Commission funding.

Program Dates

July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027

Eligibility and Restrictions

- Applicant must be a nonprofit, IRS tax exempt 501(c)(3) organization; or be a unit of local, county, tribal, or state government, including schools and school districts. Nonprofit organizations must have a valid 501(c)(3) Determination Letter with an effective date at least three years prior to the grant application deadline date.
- Applicant must provide a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI).
- Applicant must have a minimum of a three-year program history as of the application deadline date.
- Applicant must compensate professional artists and administrators.
- Nonprofit organizations primary purpose must be the production, presentation, or support of the arts; this restriction does not apply to government entities, schools, or school districts.
- University applicants are eligible for one Entry Track grant application per year, if the institution does not already receive a Public Programs in the Arts grant.
- Final reports for past Commission grants must be submitted and approved.

GRANTS FOR ORGANIZATIONS

ENTRY TRACK

Narrative Questions

1. Describe the mission of your organization and the public programs in the arts that your organization produces in support of the mission. Describe the process used to ensure excellence in the artistic quality of programs and services.
2. Identify and describe the community or communities served including demographics and the needs of that community.
3. Describe how new, nontraditional or underserved audiences are reached. (Underserved may include age, ethnicity, disability, geographic location or economic status).
4. Provide evidence of community support as demonstrated by initiatives, partnerships or collaborations.
5. Describe how your organization complies with ADA and Section 504 accessibility requirements to accommodate people with disabilities. Beyond compliance, describe initiatives to reach audiences covered in innovative ways.
6. Provide an overview of your organization's operating structure: board and staff responsibilities, paid positions, and volunteer involvement.
7. Describe how your organization reaches the target audience through marketing, audience development and long-range goals.
8. Explain how your evaluation methods indicate effective programming. What forms of evaluation do you use, and how is this used to inform programming?
9. If applicable, explain any significant changes in your organization's operations in the past three fiscal years (budget increases or deficits, personnel changes, multi-year grants, etc.)

Budget

Applicant must submit a clear budget.

Required Attachments

- Résumés or bios for key personnel
- List of board of directors
- IRS determination letter of 501(c)(3) status
- Support materials and work samples (*confirm the narrative by providing key evidence*)
- Samples of evaluation methods (surveys, interview questions, etc.) and/or collected evidence (compiled data, systematic observation or documentation, etc.)
- Three current letters of support

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Artistic Merit (40 points)

- Organization produces programs of artistic merit appropriate to its mission
- Describes process used to ensure excellence in artistic programs and services

Community Involvement and Access (40 points)

- Identifies the community served and understands the needs of that community
- Describes how new, nontraditional, and underserved audiences are reached
- Provides evidence of community support for programs, as demonstrated by initiatives, partnerships, or collaborations
- Complies with ADA and Section 504 accessibility requirements

Management (20 points)

- Provides organizational structure, board and staff responsibilities, and consistent volunteer involvement
- Planning is appropriate for reaching the target audience (marketing, audience development, long range, etc.)
- Evaluation methods indicate programs are effective
- Budget is clear and indicates stability and diverse income sources
- Explains significant changes in budget amounts, deficits, multi-year grants, etc.

GRANTS FOR ORGANIZATIONS

PUBLIC PROGRAMS IN THE ARTS

Purpose

This annual grant opportunity supports Idaho's established arts organizations that provide public programs in the arts. These programs represent the highest standards of excellence, engage the public, encourage community access, education, and participation in the arts, and follow best practices in business management and administration. An organization must first apply in Entry Track before being eligible for PPA as determined by staff and panel recommendation.

Process

Applications are adjudicated by a panel of community arts professionals. Award amounts depend on available funds. A final report is due by July 31, which must then be approved for the grantee to remain eligible for future funding.

Amount

Grant amounts vary and are based on a funding formula that considers a panel review assessment, organizational budget, and past Commission funding.

Program Dates

July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027

Eligibility and Restrictions

- Applicant must be a nonprofit, IRS tax exempt 501(c)(3) organization; or be a unit of local, county, tribal, or state government, including schools and school districts. Nonprofit organizations must have a valid 501(c)(3) Determination Letter with an effective date at least three years prior to the grant application deadline date.
- Applicant must provide a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI).
- Applicant must have a minimum of a three-year program history as of the grant application deadline date.
- Applicant must compensate professional artists and administrators.
- The organization's primary purpose must be the production, presentation, or support of the arts and it must demonstrate a history of maintaining high artistic standards.
- Applicant must have completed at least one year of Entry Track funding and have received notification of PPA status.
- Final reports for past Commission grants must be submitted and approved.

PPA Fixed Cycle

New PPA recipients may enter during any year of the cycle once PPA notification has been received from staff. PPA is reviewed on a three-year cycle.

2025	2026	2027
application due	application due	application due
panel review	interim (staff) review	interim (staff) review
final report due	final report due	final report due

(cycle repeats)

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Artistic Merit (40 points)

- Organization produces programs of artistic merit appropriate to its mission
- Describes process used to ensure excellence in artistic programs and services

Community Involvement and Access (40 points)

- Identifies the community served and understands the needs of that community
- Describes how new, nontraditional, and underserved audiences are reached
- Provides evidence of community support for programs, as demonstrated by initiatives, partnerships, or collaborations
- Complies with ADA and Section 504 accessibility requirements

Management (20 points)

- Provides organizational structure, board and staff responsibilities, and consistent volunteer involvement
- Planning is appropriate for reaching the target audience (marketing, audience development, long range, etc.)
- Evaluation methods indicate programs are effective
- Budget is clear and indicates stability and diverse income sources
- Explains significant changes in budget amounts, deficits, multi-year grants, etc.

GRANTS FOR ARTS EDUCATION

ARTS EDUCATION ANNUAL PROJECTS

Purpose

This annual grant opportunity supports activities that unite effective practices in education and in the arts, enriching teaching and learning opportunities for K-12 students.

Process

Applications are adjudicated by a panel of arts education professionals. Award amounts depend on panel scores and available funds and may be less than the amount requested. A final report is due by July 31, which must then be approved for the grantee to remain eligible for future funding.

Grant amount

The grant requires a 1:1 match with cash or in-kind donations, and funds up to 50% of projected expenses. Maximum request is $10,000.

Eligibility and Restrictions

- Applicant must be a nonprofit, IRS tax exempt 501(c)(3) organization; or a unit of local, county, tribal, or state government, including schools and school districts.
- Nonprofit organizations must have been in operation in Idaho for at least one year and have a valid 501(c)(3) Determination Letter with an effective date at least one year prior to the grant application deadline date.
- Applicant must provide a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI).
- Applicant must compensate professional artists and administrators.
- Final reports for past Commission grants must be submitted and approved.
- Projects must begin after July 1.

Narrative questions

1. **Project Rationale and Learning Need**
   Describe why this project is needed for your students or community. Identify the learners, specific learning needs, and how the project ensures participation and access for all students. (Example evidence: school needs data, letters of support, accommodation plan or strategies.)

2. **Artistic and Instructional Impact**
   Describe the intended impact on student learning and artistic growth. Discuss how this project will contribute to what students know and are able to do, and how it might strengthen your school or community's arts learning ecosystem. (Example evidence: documentation of past project outcomes, testimonials from participants, press coverage, exhibition/performance programs.)

3. **Learning Design and Standards Alignment**
   Explain how this project provides sequential, standards-based learning in the arts. Identify the key learning goals or standards and describe the progression of activities that will build students' skills and understanding. (Example evidence: Lesson

or unit plan showing sequential instruction, standards alignment chart, sample learning objectives or rubrics.)

4. **Assessment and Student Reflection**
   Describe how student learning will be documented and assessed. Explain how feedback and reflection are built into the process for students and educators. (Example evidence: assessment plan or evaluation summary, sample rubric or reflection form.)

5. **Project Partners and Roles**
   Identify who will lead and support the project (artists, educators, organizations) and describe their roles, experience, and contributions. (Example evidence: artists/educator bios or resumes, letters of commitment from partners, sample contracts or workshop outlines.)

Budget

Applicant must submit a budget

Required Attachments

Evidence of authentic learning design

Include ONE example that best supports each narrative question. There will be FIVE examples total.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

1. **Project Rationale and Learning Need**
   Why this project? Who benefits? How is access ensured?

Score	Descriptor	Evidence Indicator
Exemplary	The proposal clearly identifies student learning needs. Access strategies are specific, realistic, and integrated into project design. The rationale is strongly aligned to school or community goals.	Evidence demonstrates clear understanding of student populations.
Strong	Student needs are defined, and project rationale is logical. Some strategies to support diverse learners are described.	General evidence of need is provided.
Emerging	Student needs are vaguely described or lack alignment to learning outcomes. Limited discussion of access or accommodations.	Minimal or indirect support materials.
Limited	Student needs are not identified or unrelated to proposed project. No clear plan for inclusion or accommodations.	No supporting evidence.

2. **Artistic and Instructional Impact**
   What is the expected outcome on artistic learning?

Score	Descriptor	Evidence Indicator
Exemplary	Project demonstrates strong potential for measurable student growth in artistic skill and understanding. Describes clear impact on school/community arts ecosystem.	Evidence shows prior success, or evidence of sustainability.
Strong	Describes meaningful artistic learning outcomes with some supporting evidence.	Includes some prior examples or projected outcomes.
Emerging	Impact described in general terms, with limited evidence of student growth or community benefit.	Minimal or anecdotal evidence.
Limited	Impact unclear, overly focused on the event or product rather than learning outcomes.	No supporting documentation.

3. **Learning Design and Standards Alignment**
   Is learning sequential, standards-based, and creative-process aligned?

Score	Descriptor	Evidence Indicator
Exemplary	Clear, sequential learning plan builds artistic knowledge and skills over time. Learning goals are explicitly aligned to Idaho Arts Content Standards. Activities show strong integration of creative process (explore, create, refine, present).	Evidence demonstrates clear understanding of arts learning.
Strong	Logical sequence of learning activities is described, with partial standards alignment. Creative process is evident but not fully articulated.	General sample learning materials provided.
Emerging	Activities are listed but not sequentially connected. Standards alignment is minimal or unclear.	Little evidence of learning design.
Limited	No clear instructional structure or standards alignment. Activities appear disconnected or purely experiential.	No supporting materials.

4. **Assessment and Student Reflection**
   How is learning measured, documented, and reflected upon?

Score	Descriptor	Evidence Indicator
Exemplary	Assessment tools (rubrics, reflections, exit surveys) clearly measure progress toward identified standards. Reflection and feedback are embedded throughout the learning process. Assessment findings inform instructional refinement.	Strong documentation of assessment approach.
Strong	Assessment plan identifies how student learning will be observed and documented. Reflection opportunities are present but limited.	Some evidence of assessment tools or reflective prompts.
Emerging	ssessment methods are general or inconsistent with learning goals. Reflection opportunities are minimal.	Few examples of tools or outcomes.
Limited	No clear assessment plan or evidence of student reflection.	None provided.

5. **Project Partners and Roles**
   Who is involved, and how do their roles contribute to learning outcomes?

Score	Descriptor	Evidence Indicator
Exemplary	Project partners are well-qualified, and roles are clearly defined. Collaboration between artists, educators, and administrators supports strong learning design and implementation.	Evidence supports detailed role descriptions.
Strong	Partners' qualifications and roles are appropriate and generally clear. Collaboration is evident.	Standard bios and partnership documentation.
Emerging	Some partners identified, but roles or expertise not fully articulated.	Limited documentation.
Limited	Partners are not identified or lack relevant qualifications. Roles unclear or missing.	No evidence provided.

30

GLOSSARY

Accessibility Accessibility involves the location and ease of usage of the facility, content of the activities, and the planning process. Every attempt should be made to ensure that people with disabilities, ethnic groups, occupational groups, older adults, or young audiences have access.

Apprentice Someone who has some experience with an art form and wishes to further their knowledge or skills.

Artist For granting purposes, an individual who practices the arts as a profession and derives a significant portion of the individual's livelihood from performing the arts or engages in frequent or regular exhibitions, performances, publications, or similar public art displays.

Arts educator A person who works with children grades K-12 or affects those who work with that age group.

Authorizing official The person with the authority to legally obligate the applicant.

Capital purchases The acquisition of, modification or improvements to, real property or its fixtures. Funds used to purchase equipment that is defined as an article of tangible, nonexpendable, personal property having a useful life of more than one year and costing $5,000 or more.

Community Familial, ethnic, social, religious, or occupational groups conscious of their identity that gives them a sense of "belonging to" a certain region, city, tradition, occupation, religious belief, ethnic, or linguistic group.

Community access To provide the community with an opportunity to experience the arts.

Craft Arts disciplines resulting in works that primarily emphasize skill or utility rather than conceptual orientation.

Creative nonfiction Writing that uses literary devices available to poets and fiction writers that does not alter true and accurate information.

Design Arts disciplines resulting in plans on which the production of an item is based.

Documentary Includes any cinematographic work or sound recording that conveys factual information and analysis related to actual events or issues. For granting purposes, work must be artistic, not historical or academic.

Earned income Revenue from sales of admissions, tickets, subscriptions, and memberships.

Employer Identification Number (EIN) Tax ID number assigned by the Internal Revenue Service.

Ethnic group Any social group based on perceptions of shared ancestry, cultural traditions, and a common history that distinguishes that particular group.

Final report The Final Descriptive Report (FDR) that recipients must submit to the Commission within the fiscal year of the grant (by July 31) or within 30 days after completion of a project or activity.

Financial statement Annual organizational board-approved year-end financial statement from the completed fiscal year. It includes a profit and loss statement, balance sheet of assets, debts, liabilities, and retained earnings.

Fiscal agent An eligible, tax-exempt organization used as an umbrella by an organization that does not have its own tax-exempt status from the Internal Revenue Service.

Fiscal year The Commission's fiscal year is July 1 - June 30.

Folk art Those artistic expressions that demonstrate an affiliation with established and newcomer communities, values, and aesthetics, such as vernacular architecture, crafts, tools and trades, occupational practices and poetry, community, religious, and civic celebrations; jokes, stories, rhymes, games, food preservation, preparation and presentation.

Folklife Concerns the practice of cultural and artistic traditions shared by the different groups who live in a community. It includes their celebrations, customs, stories, beliefs, skills, working traditions, language use, rituals, crafts, music, foodways, songs, dances, and architecture of their community.

In-kind contributions Goods and services, donated by individuals and organizations other than the applicant, that can be given a cash value. They directly benefit the proposed activity, demonstrate community support, and must correspond with project expenses.

IRS 501(c)(3) determination letter Official Internal Revenue Service correspondence verifying nonprofit status. Includes tax ID number.

Literature For granting purposes, literature includes fiction, creative nonfiction, poetry, play writing, screen writing, cowboy poetry or other literary uses of the written word.

Mentor artists Those recognized by their communities or their peers as the best in their discipline.

Media arts Arts disciplines resulting in work that requires a technological (usually

electronic) component to function. For granting purposes this includes, but is not limited to, film, video, audio, or Internet-based works of art.

Performing arts Arts disciplines resulting in live or recorded performances. For granting purposes this includes, but is not limited to, dance, music, and theater, and their constituent disciplines such as choreography, composition, set and costume design, etc.

Public art Art in any media that has been planned and executed with the intention of being staged in the physical public domain, usually outside and accessible to all.

Résumé Describes the applicant's professional development as an artist or arts administrator. In lieu of a formal résumé, a short bio may be submitted.

Statement of purpose A description of work in development during the award term and/or plans for the public presentation of current work. The statement may also include a description of how the artist works, what their work means, the direction of current work, and/or context for included samples. The statement should be specific to the application.

Tax ID number Also known as Employer Identification number; assigned by the Internal Revenue Service.

Tradition bearers Recognized for their knowledge of the traditions and oral history of their community, or who are qualified to provide information and pass on their knowledge because of their distinguished role in the community.

UEI (Unique Entity Identifier) A twelve-digit/letter identifier, required by the federal government for entities doing business with the federal government and sub-awardees of those entities, issued by Sam.gov (System for Award Management).

Underserved A community in which individuals lack access to arts programs due to geography, economic conditions, ethnic background, or disability.

University Any multi-department or multi-school post high school institution of higher learning, including 2-year and 4-year colleges.

Visual arts Arts disciplines resulting in works that function primarily through sight. For granting purposes this includes, but is not limited to, painting, photography, printmaking, sculpture, ceramics, fiber arts, design, installation arts, etc.

Writing intended for youth For granting purposes, writing intended for youth refers to literature written in consideration of a primary audience (under the age of 8), and/or writing for children that relies on images or illustrations over language, to convey story.