



GREATER PITTSBURGH  
ARTS COUNCIL  
Arts loud and clear

# ALLEGHENY ARTS REVIVAL GRANT

## GUIDELINES



# OVERVIEW OF GRANT PROGRAM

## Description of Program

The Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council has been fortunate to receive funding from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to support the creation of the Allegheny Arts Revival Grant. Funds for this grant program were provided as part of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, which was intended to stimulate the economy during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In Southwest Pennsylvania, arts and culture engage 6.8 million patrons, 15,000 employees, and generate over \$150 million in revenue annually. Unfortunately, the sector has experienced an unprecedented upheaval during the pandemic. The Allegheny Arts Revival Grant is designed to support Allegheny County arts and culture organizations and individual artists as you re-emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, providing a special focus on supporting BIPOC artists, BIPOC organizations, and small organizations.

## The Allegheny Arts Revival Grant Provides

- \$10,000 in general operating support to 35 arts and culture organizations.
- \$5,000 to 20 individual artists to support the creation of new work.



## Goals



To provide general operating support to arts and culture organizations coming out of the pandemic.

To support the creation of new work by individual artists.

## Funding Priorities

In its commitment to equity, the Arts Council has chosen to prioritize supporting BIPOC artists and BIPOC-led arts and culture organizations. The Arts Council has committed to ensuring at least 40% of all funds distributed through the Allegheny Arts Revival Grant will go to individuals and organizations that identify as BIPOC.\*

*\*BIPOC refers to Black, Indigenous, and People of Color. The Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council defines a BIPOC-led organization as one where 51% of leadership and/or staff identify as Black, Indigenous, or People of Color.*

The Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council has also committed to prioritizing funds to nonprofit arts and culture organizations with budgets less than \$250,000. The decision to prioritize small organizations through the Allegheny Arts Revival Grant came out of feedback and data that showed smaller organizations were less likely to have received federal support during the pandemic. The Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council has committed to reserving 20 of the 35 grants to organizations to those with budgets under \$250,000.

## Timeline

Applications will be accepted starting on Monday, May 2, 2022. All applications are due via the [Art Council's grant portal](#) by 11:59 p.m. on Friday, July 1, 2022. The Arts Council will notify applicants of their status by the end of summer 2022.

All grant activity must take place between September 1, 2022- and August 31, 2023. Grantees will be required to submit a final narrative and budget report approximately 45 days after the close of the grant period.



# ELIGIBILITY

The Allegheny Arts Revival Grant seeks to support nonprofit arts and cultural organizations and individual artists looking to create new work.

## Organization Eligibility

- Must be based in or have an ongoing physical presence in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. An “ongoing physical presence” is defined as an agency whose primary area of service is Allegheny County, or who functions in other communities but maintains an office/program site that is open and functioning in Allegheny County. The scope of service in Allegheny County must be greater than or equal to the scope of service in any other county.
- Must be a 501(c)3 and in good standing with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). A copy of 501(c)3 designation is required with the submission of the grant application. Please note, fiscal sponsors are not accepted in this grant program in compliance with NEA regranting rules and regulations.
- In compliance with NEA granting regulations, arts organizations must have or obtain a unique entity ID from [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov) as the primary means of entity identification to receive support from the Allegheny Arts Revival Grant.
- All eligible organizations must have at least three years of programmatic history. If your organization has transitioned from the use of a fiscal sponsor, you may consider the programmatic history with the fiscal sponsor as part of the organization’s programmatic history.
- Must be an organization whose mission is focused on arts and culture.

## Allowable Use of Funds

- Salary support, full or partial, for one or more staff positions.
- Fees/stipends for contractual personnel to support the services they provide for specific activities. Facilities costs, such as rent and utilities (e.g., electric, phone, gas bills).
- Costs associated with health and safety supplies for staff and/or visitors/audiences (e.g., personal protective equipment, cleaning supplies, hand sanitizer, etc.).
- Costs associated with marketing, promotion, and applicant/grantee technical assistance.

## Ineligible Use of Funds

- Costs related to home offices, upgrades to HVAC/ventilation systems, and other capital improvements. The purchase of vehicles, including but not limited to cars, vans, buses, trucks, sport utility vehicles, etc.
- Funding cash reserve, endowment accounts, or investment instruments.



## Individual Artist Eligibility

- Must be a resident of, and the project must be executed in Allegheny County
- Must be 18 or older and identify as an artist executing a creative work
- Proposed project must have a public sharing component (can be in person or virtual)

## Allowable Use of Funds

- Marketing and promotion expenses
- Performance or rehearsal space
- Hospitality expenses (must be relevant to the completion of the project)
- Equipment and supplies (must be relevant to the completion of the project)
- Independent contractors (performers, producers, photographers, writers, editors, etc.)

## Ineligible Use of Funds

- Support exclusively for the business expenses of individual artists (e.g., general operating).
- Support for rent or food assistance, or any type of “artist relief” where the funding is to alleviate financial hardship and is not required for the artist to complete the work.

## Important Note

The Allegheny Arts Revival Grant can provide \$5,000 to individuals to support the creation of work. The Arts Council recommends that individual artists include in their budget an artist stipend of up to \$2,500 to compensate themselves for their time and energy creating and managing the project. The remainder of the budget should go towards eligible expenses as articulated above. Furthermore, if the total project budget exceeds \$5,000, applicants will need to show where additional funds are expected to come from.



# HOW TO APPLY

## How to Access the Grant Portal

All applications will be accepted online through the Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council's grant portal. Applicants will be asked to either log in or create an account in order to access the application materials. For more detailed instructions on how to navigate the grant portal, please [review a tutorial here](#).

If you require an accommodation or an alternative application format, please contact the Arts Council's grantmaking team at [grants@pittsburghartscouncil.org](mailto:grants@pittsburghartscouncil.org).

## Important Note for Organizations

The NEA requires that all organizational recipients of the Allegheny Arts Revival Grant have a Unique Entity Identification (UEI) number. This number can be found at [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov). If your organization already has an active registration with sam.gov, then you can log in and retrieve your UEI number.

If your organization does not currently have an active registration with sam.gov, then you will be required to register your organization on the website. Registration is free, but it can take up to 14 days to be approved.

**See the full application now and begin  
the process on our grant portal.**

**Visit the Grant Portal**

# WHAT COMES NEXT

## Review Process

After the posted grant deadline has passed, all applications are reviewed by Arts Council staff for accuracy of submission and general eligibility. All applicants who are ineligible will be notified prior to panel review that their application has been withdrawn.

After all applications have been reviewed for eligibility, applications will be sent to a grant panel for review. The grant panel will be made up of individuals from Allegheny County's arts community who work as individual artists, arts administrators, arts educators, or art therapists. These individuals will be people who represent the general demographics of the applications submitted.

Demographics of panelists will be considered on the bases of arts discipline, racial demographics, artistic experience, and geographical location.

Grant panelists will then score each application against the outlined review criteria. The top-scoring applications will receive support.

## Decision Timeline

The Arts Council will notify applicants of their status by the end of summer 2022. If awarded an Allegheny Arts Revival Grant, grantees will be required to submit a final narrative detailing the use of the funds and a budget report approximately 45 days after the close of the grant period.



# ORGANIZATION REVIEW CRITERIA

## Artistic Product, Performance, Process, or Service (0–35 points)

When panelists are reviewing the artistic product, performance, process, or service they are to:

**Consider the alignment of the organization's mission and vision with the proposed activities**

The Arts Council will not support work that appropriates culture. For example: If the work is rooted in cultural traditions, religious practices, or sacred arts, is there a clear connection between the artist and the work? The clear connection can be seen in personal experience, formal education, and informal education.

**Evaluate the quality of the art using the following five criteria.**

Please note that the work does not need to utilize all the criteria below. However, use the criteria below as a framework to think about the quality of the art.

### Openness

**The work deepens its impact by welcoming people of all abilities and backgrounds.**

- Does the work offer multiple points of entry for people with varied expectations, backgrounds, and abilities?

### Coherence

**Strong ideas expressed with clarity advance artistic goals.**

- Is there a meaningful connection between medium and message?
- Is there a clear artistic point of view?
- Is there a clear relationship among multiple artistic perspectives?



## Community Experience

**The emotional and sensory impact of the work engages community.**

- How does the work challenge sensory expectations?
- How does the work engage the imaginations of audience members?
- How does the work elicit emotional responses?

## Cultural Integrity

**The creative work demonstrates integrity and ethical use of material with specific cultural origins and context.**

- Integrity can be found in the artist's connection to the cultural context of the work, how the work is conceived and developed, the artist's understanding of cultural values and forms, and how the original cultural community experiences the work.

## Disruption

**A work can disrupt artistic conventions, concepts of beauty, or how the audience engages. Effective disruption is mindful and intentional.**

- In what ways does the work break away from artistic practices or offer new ways of thinking about form or medium?
- Does the work influence new directions for an artistic practice?
- Does the work experiment with new means of expression?
- What is the point of the disruption?
- Does it advance a meaningful purpose or idea?

## Access to the Arts (0–35 points)

- Does the applicant demonstrate knowledge of the target audience(s)?
- Does the applicant demonstrate effective plans and strategies to reach the target audience?
- Does the applicant demonstrate plans to reach underserved communities?
- Does the applicant demonstrate plans to reach the general public?

## Management (0–30 points)

### Is the budget appropriate?

- Are people being paid correctly (i.e., are people being grossly overpaid or underpaid?)
- Has money been allocated appropriately?
- Is there enough money in the budget to execute the project?
- Have other revenue streams been secured if needed?

### Does the applicant demonstrate a plan to successfully execute the project?

### Does the applicant have the capacity to execute proposed activities during the funding year?

- Does the applicant have collaborators who will help assist in the execution of the project if capacity is not available at the organization?



# INDIVIDUAL ARTIST REVIEW CRITERIA

## Artistic Product, Performance, Process, or Service (0–35 points)

When panelists are reviewing artistic product, performance, process, or service, they are to consider the following:

**Evaluate if the project is done with cultural integrity.**

The Arts Council will not support work that appropriates culture. For example: If the work is rooted in cultural traditions, religious practices, or sacred arts, is there a clear connection between the artist and the work? The clear connection can be seen in personal experience, formal education, and informal education.

**Evaluate the quality of the art using the following five criteria.**

Please note, the work does not need to utilize all the criteria below. However, use the criteria below as a framework to think about the quality of the art.

### Openness

**The work deepens its impact by welcoming people of all abilities and backgrounds.**

- Does the work offer multiple points of entry for people with varied expectations, backgrounds, and abilities?

### Coherence

**Strong ideas expressed with clarity advance artistic goals.**

- Is there a meaningful connection between medium and message?
- Is there a clear artistic point of view?
- Is there a clear relationship among multiple artistic perspectives?



## Community Experience

**The emotional and sensory impact of the work engages community.**

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- Integrity can be found in the artist's connection to the cultural context of the work, how the work is conceived and developed, the artist's understanding of cultural values and forms, and how the original cultural community experiences the work.

## Disruption

**A work can disrupt artistic conventions, concepts of beauty, or how the audience engages. Effective disruption is mindful and intentional.**

- In what ways does the work break away from artistic practices or offer new ways of thinking about form or medium?
- Does the work influence new directions for an artistic practice?
- Does the work experiment with new means of expression?
- What is the point of the disruption?
- Does it advance a meaningful purpose or idea?



## Access to the Arts (0–35 points)

- Does the applicant demonstrate knowledge of the target audience?
- Does the applicant demonstrate effective plans and strategies to reach the target audience?
- Does the applicant demonstrate plans to reach the general public?

## Management (0–30 points)

**Evaluate the quality of measurable goals and objectives as indicated by applicant.**

- Are these goals realistic and obtainable based on where the artist is in their professional career?

**Is the budget appropriate?**

- Are people being paid correctly (i.e., are people being grossly overpaid or underpaid?)
- Has money been allocated appropriately?
- Is there enough money in the budget to complete the project as outlined?
- Have other revenue streams been secured if needed?

**Does the applicant demonstrate a plan to successfully execute the project?**

**Does the applicant have collaborators who will help assist in the execution of the project (if applicable)?**



# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

To find out more information about the Arts Council's other programming, please visit [www.pittsburghartscouncil.org](http://www.pittsburghartscouncil.org).

To find out more about how the National Endowment for the Arts grants impact individuals and communities, visit [www.arts.gov](http://www.arts.gov).

## About the Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council

The Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council champions the arts in Southwestern Pennsylvania, providing financial, professional, and political support for the arts and culture sector. Comprised of more than 600 diverse artists and nonprofit organizations, the Arts Council offers valuable research, legal and business consulting, networking and professional development opportunities so that artists, as well as arts leaders and organizations, can grow their skills and advance their practice. The Arts Council provides grants for artists and arts organizations, leads the region's arts advocacy at the local, state, and national level, and models best practices for accessibility and equity in the arts. Learn more at [PittsburghArtsCouncil.org](http://PittsburghArtsCouncil.org).



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**GREATER PITTSBURGH ARTS COUNCIL**

810 PENN AVENUE, SUITE 710

PITTSBURGH, PA 15222-3401

TEL: 412.391.2060 | FAX: 412.394.4280

[WWW.PITTSBURGHARTSCOUNCIL.ORG](http://WWW.PITTSBURGHARTSCOUNCIL.ORG)