



Washington State
Department of
Commerce

**COMPETITIVE GRANT
PROGRAMS:**

Building for the Arts ■

Building Communities Fund ■

Youth Recreational Facilities ■

2023-2025 Building for the Arts (BFA) Grant Guidelines

Up to \$2,000,000 for Arts and Cultural Facilities

As much as 33 percent state match of eligible project costs

Application deadline Thursday, June 23, 2022 at 5 p.m.

Grant application workshop: May 25, 2022 9:00-11:00 a.m.
Please RSVP at [BFA Workshop](#)

- **For program questions about the BFA Grant please contact Caprograms@commerce.wa.gov or call 360-725-3075**
- **For technical assistance with the ZoomGrants application please contact Questions@ZoomGrants.com or call 866-323-5404 x2**

Community Capital Facilities

P.O. Box 42525

Olympia, WA 98504-2525

[Website](#)

ONLINE APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

All applications for the 2023-2025 Round will be submitted electronically through ZoomGrants. Hard-copies are not accepted. Applications must be submitted to Commerce no later than 5:00pm on Thursday, June 23, 2022.

Please use this link "[BFA Application](#)" to go to the ZoomGrants website. If you have a ZoomGrants account, log in and follow the instructions. If you are a new user, complete the required information for a new ZoomGrants account to create a profile. Please do not use "The" as the first word in the agency name. Once the agency profile has been created, select the BFA Grant, click the "Apply" button and start your proposal. Answers are automatically saved after each response.

TAB 1: SUMMARY

This section includes basic information concerning your organization and proposal, including contact information and other pertinent data. This section must be completed in its entirety.

TAB 2: ELIGIBILITY TEST

All applicants must first answer and submit the Eligibility Test questions. This section will then need to be approved by Commerce. If approved, you will then be allowed to continue to the next tab.

TAB 3: APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Please answer thoroughly and to the best of your ability. Provide cross streets if there is no project address, the parcel number(s) of the project site, and if land will be re-parcelled.

TAB 4: BUDGET

When listing your project budget, ***please use eligible costs only***. This will be different from your ***total*** project budget, and includes only capital costs that this grant can reimburse. For more information about what costs are eligible, please refer to Page 12.

TAB 5: DOCUMENTS

The Documents section of the application is where you will upload the documents required or requested for the application. Please save forms or documents on your computer, complete and then upload to ZoomGrants using the "Upload" button provided. All documents required for your project must be completed and submitted with the application. Failure to provide the requested documentation or providing inaccurate information may result in the proposal receiving less points or being disqualified. If a required document is not applicable to your project, please submit a single page indicating "N/A."

2023-2025 Policy Highlights

Acquisition Projects

All acquisition projects must provide a current (one year) appraisal or county assessment of the site to be purchased.

Collateral Requirements

Projects performed by nonprofit organizations for construction, acquisition and renovation that involve the expenditure of more than \$250,000 in state funds must list the Department of Commerce on the deed of trust or leasehold deed of trust and provide title insurance. The deed of trust or leasehold deed of trust in favor of Commerce must be recorded before reimbursement of project costs.

Compliance under Governor’s Executive Order 21-02

All capital projects must be reviewed by the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) and area Tribes.

Reimbursement/Billing Procedures

All capital project reimbursements shall be evidenced by documentation showing the cost has already been incurred by the grantee. The Grantee shall provide copies of the cancelled check or electronic funds transfer (as applicable) confirming payment of each expenditure for the amount of each invoice claimed.

LEED Requirements

Most projects are required to apply for LEED silver certification. However, renovation projects that involve a new addition to an existing building may not be eligible for LEED certification. Also, new construction projects under 5,000 square feet are exempt from this requirement.

Multiple Applications

Eligible organizations may apply for up to three different projects in the same program, however, they cannot apply to more than one of our competitive programs for the same project.

Change in Scope

Projects that apply for and receive a construction award **may not** change their scope to acquisition during the contracting process. They can, however, come back and reapply in the following round.

Community Capital Facilities

Department of Commerce

Mailing / street address:

P.O. Box 42525
1011 Plum Street SE
Olympia, WA 98504-2525
Phone: 360-725-3075

E-mail:

capprograms@commerce.wa.gov

STAFF:

Tony Hanson

Deputy Assistant Director
360-725-3005
Tony.Hanson@commerce.wa.gov

Addie Craig

Managing Director
360-688-0041
Addeline.Craig@commerce.wa.gov

Michael Kendall

Capital Programs Manager
360-764-3326
Mike.Kendall@commerce.wa.gov

Beth Robinson

Program Supervisor
360-549-6260
Beth.Robinson@commerce.wa.gov

Sarah Alway

Program Manager
360-725-2978
Sarah.Alway@commerce.wa.gov

WHERE TO FIND IT

Applications

BFA 2023-2025 application form **see website**
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Archeological review 3.8 / Page 11

Change of facility ownership 3.11 / Page 12

Contracting conditions 3.5 / Page 10

Eligibility standards 1.2 / Page 5

Funds

Administrative fee box / Page 11

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Availability of funds 3.4 / Page 10

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Readiness self-assessment Page 13

Building for the Arts (BFA)

Purpose of program 1.1 / Page 5

SIX STEPS TO GETTING A GRANT

We have a strong commitment to supporting smaller facilities and those serving rural parts of the state. If you aren't sure about whether to apply for a BFA grant, don't feel shy about talking to us. We're here to help you succeed!

This publication is available in an alternative format upon request. Events sponsored by Commerce are accessible to persons with disabilities. Accommodations may be arranged with a minimum of 10 working days notice by calling 360-725-3075.

STEP 1: *Decide whether you are eligible — and ready to apply*

This is a highly competitive grant program, so before submitting your grant application we strongly encourage you do your homework. Take a look at our timeline for awarding funds to make sure that it fits with your cash-flow needs.

STEP 2: *Decide whether to seek LEED certification or an exemption*

If you wish to apply for an exemption you can do so at any point between now and when grant applications are due. If you apply for an exemption soon, you can find out whether your request is accepted before deciding whether to prepare a grant application.

STEP 3: *Complete your application online*

The BFA Grant Application is available online! To apply, please follow the ZoomGrants link here: [ZoomGrants](#).

STEP 4: *Application Review*

Applicants whose projects make it past a preliminary staff review will be reviewed by the BFA Advisory Board. Grants that are approved by the board will be forwarded to the governor and state legislature for final funding approval.

STEP 5: *Negotiate a contract*

If the advisory board recommends your project for funding and it is included in the 2023-2025 Capital Budget and signed into law, Community Capital Facilities will draft a contract with your organization before disbursing the funds. See pages 10-12 for contracting requirements — some of which you should start thinking about now.

STEP 6: *Submit reimbursement materials*

This is a reimbursement-style grant. That means no advance payments, but we've worked hard to make the paperwork straightforward. Funds will likely become available by Fall of 2023.

PART 1: PROGRAM BACKGROUND

1.1 Program purpose

This program awards state grants to nonprofit, community-based organizations to defray up to 33 percent of eligible capital costs for the acquisition and *major* new construction or renovation arts and cultural facilities. Historical museums are ineligible and should instead contact the [Washington State Historical Society](#).

The maximum grant award for the 2023-2025 biennium is \$2,000,000. *There is no minimum grant award amount.* The BFA Advisory Board, which ranks grant applications, reserves the right to modify the amount of any request for funding.

Acquisition of bare land must be accompanied by the construction of a usable facility to be an eligible project.

BFA is a state program funded entirely through the sale of state bonds. No federal dollars are involved.

1.2 Who may apply

All facilities funded by BFA must meet the following eligibility standards *at the time the application is submitted*:

- be a Tribe or registered in the state of Washington as a nonprofit organization;
- have *binding* control of the project site via ownership or executed long-term lease (15 years from the application date—no operating agreements);
- have a legally constituted board of directors;
 - agree to enter the LEED certification process or receive an exemption from us;
 - agree to pay state prevailing wages as of the date the budget becomes effective; and
 - have made substantial progress in a capital fundraising campaign dedicated to the project or have secured all nonstate funding needed to complete the project.

WHAT'S AN ARTS-RELATED PROJECT?

It must involve the construction, renovation, or acquisition of facilities that focus on the active interpretation, performance, or exhibition of aesthetic traditions, practices, or works of art that characterize cultural values.

BFA and state Historical Society grants

The state Historical Society awards construction grants to some organizations that may also be eligible for BFA funding. You may not submit an application to each program. However, you may reapply to BFA two years from now for a different project. Applicants and/or foundations or entities acting on behalf of the same project will not be able to apply for both.

If you are unsure about how any of these rules apply to your specific project, be sure to talk to Community Capital Facilities staff before submitting an application.

1.3 Partnerships

Partnerships will be considered, but the nonprofit must be designated as the lead applicant, have control of the project site, and submit the application on behalf of the partnership.

The applicant must be a nonprofit organization that is primarily dedicated to arts-related activities — with one exception. The BFA Advisory Board will consider applications from nonprofit foundations qualified to raise funds for an otherwise ineligible organization.

For example, the applicant could be a foundation working in partnership with a Tribe, or a governmental entity such as a public development authority.*

All partnerships must provide a copy of an executed joint-operating agreement at the time of application that:

- lasts a minimum of 15 years;
- guarantees a minimum of 50 percent usage by community nonprofit arts organizations;
- establishes which party has authority to set the facility's schedule; and
- contains a contingency plan to address the possibility of dissolution or other change of ownership, with the objective being to protect public funds.

Public-nonprofit partnerships can be valuable in developing and sustaining arts and cultural facilities, particularly in under-represented areas. However, this grant program's legislative intent is to fund nonprofits, which do not have the taxing and bonding authority of governmental entities. Therefore, public-nonprofit partnerships will be assessed for whether their project will primarily benefit the community at large rather than the participating public agency's

clients. These partnerships must also demonstrate financial need.

Mixed-use facilities may be considered, but these projects will be funded at 33 percent of the eligible capital cost of the arts-related component only.

1.4 LLCs and nonprofits

The applicant's facility may be owned by a limited liability corporation (LLC) as long as the nonprofit holds the majority interest (more than 50%) through the duration of a tax credit program.

At the conclusion of the commitment period the facility may be placed in an LLC if it is wholly owned by the nonprofit.

The applicant must be able to provide evidence of LLC ownership and stakeholders, usually in the form of an Operating Agreement.

1.5 Are 'seconds' allowed?

Facilities that have previously received a BFA grant are ineligible for additional funding unless:

- the project's scope of work has significantly changed **and** BFA funds have not yet been accessed; or
- what is proposed is a different project, or a discrete new phase of the previous project

1.6 Dates to remember

The BFA program operates on a biennial (two-year) grant cycle. Grantees cannot begin receiving their funds until September of 2023. Applicants should be cautious in using these dates for cash-flow planning purposes. Grantees cannot access their funds until all requirements have been met.

**State agencies may not be a significant beneficiary of the resulting facility. This is because they have greater access to state dollars than nonprofits.*

High-performance buildings law

The 2005 Washington State Legislature passed a law that requires many of our competitive grant recipients to comply with what has been termed “high-performance” or “green” building standards (RCW 39.35D).

The legislation’s goal is for major capital facilities projects receiving state dollars to be built to the LEED silver standard where “practicable.” LEED (which stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is a certification program run by the U.S. Green Building Council.

These building principles offer the most savings when incorporated early in the design process. That’s why **we strongly encourage you to talk with your architect as soon as possible.**

The first issue you may wish to explore is whether your project is required to meet the LEED silver standard. The law offers two types of exemptions.

Exemption 1: Facility types

The following types of facilities are exempt:

- ◆ Acquisition only, does not include construction or renovation;

- ◆ New construction less than 5,000 gross square feet of occupied or conditioned space as defined by the State Energy Code;

- ◆ Renovation projects whose costs are less than 50 percent of the facility’s assessed value **or** are less than 5,000 gross square feet of occupied or conditioned space; or

- ◆ Facilities such as hospitals; research facilities primarily used for laboratory experimentation, research, or training in research methods; or similar building types.

Exemption 2: “Not practicable”

- ◆ Renovation projects that involve a new addition to an existing building may not be required for LEED Certification. We are not permitted to offer this exemption because of cost or timing-related issues.

Pre-application exemption requests

You don’t need to wait until you turn in a grant application to find out if your project will be exempted. Please contact us and we will quickly assess your project.

According to the American Institute of Architects, high-performance buildings are cheaper to operate, save water and energy, and improve worker performance.

How should in-kind donations be handled?

You may apply in-kind donations toward your match requirement. Eligible donations include property, labor (except when donated by an applicant’s paid staff), materials, or equipment as long as their value can be properly assessed and documented.

For example, the value of donated real estate must be documented by a appraisal performed by a certified professional appraiser or county assessment.

Professional labor is calculated at the rate a volunteer would normally charge for their services (be sure to document these

costs with invoices).

Nonprofessional labor is calculated at \$15 per hour. However, we reserve the right to make the final determination regarding the acceptability of in-kind contributions.

The BFA board is wary of projects too dependent on in-kind donations, particularly if they are heavily leveraged with loans. This is why the amount of nonprofessional, in-kind labor you can receive credit for in our formula points is capped at 10 percent of project costs.

PART 2: THE REVIEW PROCESS WORKS

2.1 LEED exemptions

All applicants are required to enter the LEED certification process or get an exemption. You may do the latter before applying for a BFA grant or as part of your application.

2.2 Application submissions

Completed applications must be submitted online by Thursday, June 23, 2022 at 5 p.m. In the interest of fairness, deadlines will be strictly observed. Note that applications received by mail or fax will not be accepted.

2.3 Preliminary review

After the submittal deadline, staff will review applications for eligibility and completeness. Those that are incomplete or do not meet eligibility standards will not be forwarded to the BFA Advisory Board for review.

Qualifying applications may also be ranked by staff using the scoring criteria discussed on Page 14. Due to the large number of applications we receive,

Commerce reserves the right to not forward the least competitive proposals to the board for review.

2.4 Applicant notification

After the preliminary review, each applicant will receive written notification from Community Capital Facilities as to whether their project has been forwarded to the BFA Advisory Board. Applicants whose projects are not forwarded will be informed of the reasons in writing, and are encouraged to discuss with our staff how to prepare a more competitive grant for a future funding cycle.

2.5 Advisory Board role

The BFA Advisory Board helps develop program policy, reviews applications, and recommends projects for funding. The board consists of volunteers from the public and private sectors with demonstrated expertise in funding, administering, or advocating for arts-related organizations.

The BFA Advisory Board includes grant officers from major foundations. The caliber of your application and presentation could influence your project's success with funding sources beyond our program.

2023-2025 BFA GRANT DATES

BFA grant application workshops	May 25, 2022
Applications due	June 23, 2022 at 5 p.m.
Notification of preliminary review results	August 2022
BFA Advisory Board work session	August 17, 2022
Recommendations forwarded to governor	September 2022 (estimated)
Governor releases proposed capital budget	December 2022 (estimated)
2023-2025 Capital Budget signed into law	June 2023 (estimated)
Commerce Capital Programs may begin disbursing funds	September 2023 (estimated)
Expiration of funds without legislative action	June 30, 2025

The director of the Washington State Arts Commission serves on the board as a voting, ex-officio member. The board includes grant officers from major foundations and the scoring criteria used by the board is summarized on page 14.

2.6 Appropriations process

The BFA board will forward its recommendations, in the form of a prioritized list, to the Commerce director in the Fall of 2022. If approved by the director, the list will be included in the agency's 2023-2025 Capital Budget request, which is submitted to the governor's budget office. If approved by the governor, the list will be included in the 2023-2025 Capital Budget request.

The 2023 Legislature will make the final determination as to which projects, if any, receive BFA grants, and the total amount of funds to be provided for the 2023-2025 biennium. The governor must sign the capital budget before an appropriation is legally binding.

2.7 Apply now or wait?

The biennial nature of our funding cycles can make judgments about when to apply for a BFA grant more complex. Community Capital Facilities staff can help you think through your options.

The applications that rank highest are usually by organizations which have raised upwards of 50 percent of funds needed to complete their project. This is because BFA funds come from the sale of state bonds, and when a grantee does not promptly spend its award, this ties up the state's bonding capacity.

The BFA board has funded projects that were not as far along in their fundraising if they excelled in other

respects. However, an applicant that has not secured much capital funding needs to provide evidence of its ability to promptly raise all needed funds.

Be sure that your project's scope has been solidified before you apply. If you are awarded funds, we cannot write a contract that deviates significantly from your application.

2.8 Misrepresentation

Any organization that presents false or misleading information in their application will be disqualified. Such statements can impact your organization's reputation not only with Commerce but also with members of our board who are grant officers for some of the state's largest foundations.

2.9 Appeals

The decisions of Community Capital Facilities are final and cannot be appealed. However, staff would be happy to assist in strategizing how to develop a more competitive application in the next funding cycle.

2.10 Recommendations

The BFA Advisory Board's recommendations are based upon the numerical rankings determined by the scoring criteria on page 14 and qualitative factors that may include (but are not limited to) distributing funds as fairly as possible around the state.

As with our other competitive grant programs, BFA applicants who are farther along in their fundraising will tend to do better than those who aren't. At the same time, the BFA board reserves the right to prioritize projects with less access to alternative sources of funding.

*Applicants that rank highest have usually raised **more than 50 percent of their project budget**. Those less far along in capital campaigns must show evidence of their ability to promptly raise all needed funds.*

PART 3: CONTRACTING SPECIFICS

3.1 Funding restrictions

Funds awarded under this program originate from the sale of state capital bonds, and include no federal funds.

We are mindful of the management pressures faced by nonprofits, and strive to administer BFA funds expediently and with a minimum of red tape. We do so within the policies and procedures established by the Legislature, the state Office of Financial Management, the Treasurer and the Office of the Attorney General. We must also comply with federal arbitrage regulations.

BFA awards are funded through an appropriation in the state capital budget. A grant can only be spent by the designated organization for costs that fit the scope of work listed in the grant application. In other words, the application becomes a controlling document that guides how the grant can be spent.

3.2 Cost reimbursement

Capital budget funds are available on a reimbursement basis only, and cannot be advanced under *any* circumstances. For the purposes of this program, reimbursable costs are those that are already incurred and paid by the grantee.

We may reimburse grant recipients for costs incurred and paid prior to the date a contract is executed, and as far back as July 1, 2020. The project start date must be accurately stated in the application in order for us to do so.

3.3 Matching funds

BFA grants may be used to pay up to 33 percent of each invoice of *eligible* project costs; the remainder must come

from *non-state sources*. Non-state matching funds may consist of cash on hand, documented pledge commitments, the value of land *acquired for the project*, and in-kind contributions when properly documented.

Grantees may also include the proceeds of a letter of credit or other binding loan commitment as part of their non-state matching funds. The value of land used as non-state match must be supported by a current appraisal performed by a certified professional appraiser or a county assessment.

3.4 Availability of funds

Funds are expected to be available in September of 2023, but that can vary depending upon factors such as when the state capital budget is approved. A contract cannot be written until the grantee has met all funding conditions.

Contracts generally take four to six weeks to execute once the grantee provides us with all needed information. Contracts are developed on a first-come, first-served basis.

Due to these uncertainties, grantees are advised to talk with Community Capital Facilities staff before building state funds into their cash-flow projections.

3.5 Contracting conditions

Three requirements must be met before grantees can begin drawing down their grant funds.

■ Grantees must demonstrate in writing the financial capability to complete the entire project. This means that the entire amount of non-state matching funds must be committed to the project.

This is a reimbursement-style grant, and you may start drawing down funds only after all other money needed to complete the project has been raised. However, you can receive reimbursement for eligible costs incurred and paid by the grantee as far back as July 1, 2020.

Prevailing wages are required of all construction projects funded by this grant program as of the date the Capital Budget becomes effective.

■ Grantees must provide written evidence of site control **by the application deadline**, either through outright ownership of the subject property or an executed long-term lease (at least 15 years from the application due date).

■ Nonprofit organizations must provide Commerce with a Promissory Note, Title Policy, and deed of trust or leasehold deed of trust as security for the grant and it must be recorded before reimbursement of project costs. Contracts under \$250,000 are exempt from this requirement.

3.6 Documenting expenses

We reimburse grantees only after receiving copies of the original billing documents (invoices) and proof of payment (cancelled checks or electronic funds transfer as applicable). In all cases, costs must be documented and auditable.

3.7 Prevailing-wage law

Construction projects that receive any of our grants are required by the legislature to pay state prevailing wages as of the date the 2023-2025 Capital Budget becomes effective.

The Department of Labor and Industries is the state agency that implements prevailing wage law. For more information, contact pw1@lni.wa.gov.

3.8 Archeological review

All projects need to complete Executive Order 21-02 for review of archaeological and cultural resources. This is required of all projects that are not undergoing a federal Section 106 review under the National Historic Preservation Act. This requirement must be met before a contract can be written.

3.9 Reappropriations

Some grant recipients may not be able to expend all of their funds by the end of the 2023-2025 biennium (June 30, 2025). Any unexpended funds will lapse unless reappropriated. Although not legally obligated to do so, the Legislature generally reappropriates unspent funds for long-term capital projects such as those funded through BFA, but only once.

3.10 Rescinding funds

Community Capital Facilities reserves the right to rescind any Authorization. If this occurs, the organization may reapply for funding in future grant cycles.

3.11 Change of ownership

Capital projects constructed with state funds require that the facility or project be held by the grantee for 10 years from the date of the last payment disbursed, and that the facility or project

Grants are subject to an administrative fee

Community Capital Facilities is authorized to retain up to three percent from each award to cover all administration costs (this is our sole source of funding; we receive no state General Fund dollars). As you build your project budget, keep in mind that the net grant amount will be slightly less than the legislative appropriation. The administrative fee is not reimbursable to the grantee.

be used for the same purpose expressed in the enabling legislation or contract.

3.12 Eligible costs

Capital budget funds may generally be used to pay for the following construction-related expenses incurred by the grantee as far back as July 1, 2020:

- design, architectural, and engineering work;
- building permits/fees;
- archeological/historical review;
- construction labor and materials;
- demolition/site preparation;
- capitalized equipment;
- information technology infrastructure (cables and wiring);
- construction management (*from external sources only*)*;
- initial furnishings**;
- landscaping, and
- real property when purchased specifically for the project, and associated costs.***

* **Construction management and observation** is on-site management and/or supervision of the work site and workers thereon. This is an eligible project cost. Construction management does not include work performed by off-site consultants or consultant organizations, grant writers, or employees of the grantee, unless the employee is hired solely and specifically to perform on-site construction management as defined above.

** **Furnishings and equipment** are considered eligible project costs as long as the average useful life of the item purchased is 13 years or more.

*** **Costs directly associated with property acquisition** include appraisal fees, title opinions, surveying fees, real estate fees, title transfer taxes, easements of record, and legal expenses. However, BFA grants cannot reimburse a grantee the market-rate value of an existing reduced-cost lease.

3.13 Ineligible costs

All of our grants are intended to fund bricks and mortar. This is why the following costs are not eligible for reimbursement and *cannot be used to match state funds*:

- internal administrative activities;
- project management (from any sources);
- fundraising activities;
- feasibility studies;
- computers or office equipment;
- rolling stock (such as vehicles);
- lease payments for rental of equipment or facilities;
- mortgage or property leases (including long-term); and
- the moving of equipment, furniture, etc., between facilities.

3.14 Loan paydowns

BFA grants *cannot* be used to retire existing debt.

*When completing your application, remember that your state match is calculated from **total eligible costs**, which may differ from your **total project costs**.*

PART 4: BFA GRANT APPLICANT READINESS SELF-ASSESSMENT

Step 1 will help you assess whether your project is eligible for a BFA grant. Step 2 is a self-diagnosis exercise. It **cannot** predict how we will rank your project, because that depends on currently unknown variables such as the number and quality of other applications that will be submitted. In addition to the scoring criteria listed in Step 2, the BFA Advisory Board may also consider other qualitative factors. However, by carefully studying this readiness self-assessment, you can better anticipate the questions that will be asked by our reviewers.

Step 1: Are you eligible for a BFA grant?

- 1.1 Is your organization a Tribe or registered in the state of Washington as a nonprofit corporation?
Yes ___ No ___
(You must say “yes”)
- 1.2 Does the lead applicant have a legally constituted board of directors?
Yes ___ No ___
(You must say “yes”)
- 1.3 Does the lead applicant possess site control through:
A. ownership of the site? Yes ___ No ___
B. a long-term lease (15 years minimum) Yes ___ No ___
C. An executed Purchase and Sale Agreement? Yes ___ No ___
(You must say “yes” to one of the above options as of the date you submit the application.)
- 1.4 Has the applicant either:
A. secured all funds needed to complete the project, or Yes ___ No ___
B. made substantial progress in an active capital fundraising campaign dedicated to the project? Yes ___ No ___
(You must say “yes” to one of the above options as of the date of the application submission.)
- 1.5 Does the project include *major* new construction or renovation?
Yes ___ No ___
(You must say “yes”)
- 1.6 If an acquisition of bare land, will the project include construction of a facility?
(You must say “yes”)
Yes ___ No ___
- 1.7 Is LEED silver standard being sought?
Yes ___ No ___
If “no,” have you received an exemption from us?
Yes ___ No ___
(You must say “yes” to one of the above to be eligible.)
- 1.8 If your project includes any new construction or renovation, will you pay state prevailing wages for all labor costs as of the date the budget becomes effective?
Yes ___ No ___
(You must say “yes”)
- 1.9 Is the project a community center? This type of facility is ineligible for BFA funding.
Yes ___ No ___
(You must say “no”)
- 1.10 Will the facility have significant public access?
Yes ___ No ___
(You must say “yes”)
- 1.11 Is your project an arts-related facility such as a performing arts center, an art museum, or a cultural facility (e.g., a Native American longhouse)?
Yes ___ No ___
(You must say “yes”)

Step 2: How competitive is your grant proposal?

The following questions are drawn from the selection criteria used by BFA reviewers to rank eligible applications. Applicants can earn up to 100 points.

2.1 POINTS ASSIGNED BY FORMULA (up to 40 points out of a total of 100)	POINTS
a. Percent of project funds raised – multiply it by .25 (up to 25 points)	_____
b. Design work started – if yes, 5 points	_____
c. Located within ESD “Distressed County” – if yes, 5 points	_____
d. Professionally prepared project feasibility study completed – if yes, 5 points	_____
2.2 REVIEW PANEL SCORING CRITERIA (up to 60 out of a total of 100 points)	
a. PROJECT READINESS – <i>Ability to complete the proposed project promptly (up to 15 points).</i> Will your project have a reasonable chance of completion by the biennium’s end (June 30, 2025)? How realistic is the fundraising timeline? Is the project free of public debates that could delay it?	_____
b. ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY – <i>Ability to effectively run the completed facility (up to 15 points).</i> How strong is your organization’s financial and service-delivery track record? What is the average annual attendance at your events? How realistic is your assessment of the financial and managerial challenges of running the completed facility? Have you done an operations (business) plan? If project is a partnership, how stable is it? How transparent is the financial relationship?	_____
c. PROJECT RESULTS – <i>Degree project will increase efficiency/quality of activities (up to 15 points).</i> How will the proposed facility increase the efficiency of your organization in providing services? How will the state’s investment in your project be an efficient use of public money? Does your project place an emphasis on serving economically challenged or otherwise disadvantaged persons?	_____
d. COMMUNITY NEED – <i>Evidence of a clear and compelling community need (up to 10 points).</i> How many alternatives for arts-related activities are available in your community? Have you provided evidence to support a clear need for additional facilities?	_____
e. STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION – <i>Partnerships with relevant stakeholders (up to 5 points).</i> What is the applicant’s demonstrated commitment to building partnerships with other stakeholders relevant to the targeted need (e.g., as expressed by the diversity of the applicant’s board of directors)?	_____

	TOTAL POINTS

What’s a competitive score? *No one can predict that before applications are turned in, but this scoring sheet can help you diagnose the strengths and weaknesses of your project. Once you’ve read through the guidelines and completed this self-assessment, we would encourage you to talk with Community Capital Facilities staff. A distressed community is defined as: A [county](#) that has an unemployment rate that is 20 percent above the state average for the immediate previous three years. **This list will be updated by ESD in May, and is subject to change.***