



FY26-FY27 Art Service Organization Support

Deadline to Apply: January 31, 2025, 5pm

ArtsWA provides operating support grants to Arts Service Organizations within Washington State. This funding is available to regional and statewide nonprofits that offer programs aimed at supporting expanding, diversifying, and enhancing the expertise of arts professionals.

Arts Service Organization Definition

An Arts Service Organization (ASO) provides training, workshops, convenings, conferences, networking, technical assistance, and other professional development services to established and emerging arts professionals.

Regional Arts Service Organizations

- Provide in-person and online professional development services for arts professionals from a minimum of three counties in **one** ArtsWA defined region.
- Are based in the region where services are provided.
- Commit a minimum of 10% of total public programming budget to professional development services.
- **Region definitions:**
 - Northwest Region - Island, King, Kitsap, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, Whatcom
 - Southwest Region - Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Pierce, Skamania, Thurston, Wahkiakum
 - Central Region - Chelan, Douglas, Ferry, Grant, Kittitas, Klickitat, Okanogan, Yakima
 - Eastern Region - Adams, Asotin, Benton, Columbia, Franklin, Garfield, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Walla Walla, Whitman

Statewide Art Service Organizations

- Provide professional development opportunities, support, services, and resources to arts professionals.
- Provide in-person professional development services in ten or more counties and/or an annual convening of arts professionals from across the state. Annual convening should include structured professional development components.
- Do not perform, produce, preserve, present, or teach art.

Purpose of Funding

ASO grants are meant to cover day-to-day business expenses (operating support). Please read the document linked below of expenses we can and cannot cover as a state agency. ASO funds help ensure organizations with a strong and sustained focus on professional development have time to dedicate to professional development programming.

View a [full list of what ArtsWA can and cannot fund](#) as a state agency.

Funding Amounts and Payment Process

Applicants can request \$12,000 split across two years (\$6,000 x 2).



This is a **reimbursement grant**. Payments are made after funds are spent, and after expense documentation and invoice forms have been submitted to and approved by ArtsWA.

- The first half is distributed in Fiscal Year 2026 (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026).
- The second half is distributed in Fiscal Year 2027 (July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027).

Important Dates

- Application open: January 6, 2025 – January 31, 2025, at 5pm
- Notification of application results: Last week of May 2025
- Final Report for FY26 is due July 31, 2026, and FY27 is due July 31, 2027.

Eligibility

All applicants must have:

- 501(c)(3) nonprofit status, or be fiscally sponsored by a 501(c)(3)
- At least two years of continuous operation as a non-profit arts organization or fiscally sponsored organization
- At least two years of ongoing professional development services
- At least one paid staff that works 20 paid hours per week or more
- A board of directors
- A board-approved annual year-end operating budget that reflects actuals and includes program expenses

Ineligible to Apply

- Individuals
- For-profit organizations
- Religious organizations
- Government agencies and departments (unless designated as Local Arts Agencies)
- Universities, colleges, academic departments, and K-12 schools

Reach out to Miguel Guillen, miguel.guillen@arts.wa.gov, 360-252-9970, with eligibility questions.

Required to Apply

501(c)(3) applicants

- IRS Letter of Determination.
- Your organization's board approved operating budget for your last fiscal year, that includes actuals for program expenses.
- Your organization's board approved next fiscal year's anticipated operating budget.
- List of your organization's board of directors and active staff. Include position titles and number of hours worked per week per position.
- Your organization's most recent board approved strategic plan.

Fiscally Sponsored groups

- Your **Fiscal Sponsor's** IRS Letter of Determination.
- Your **Fiscal Sponsor's** board approved operating budget for the last completed fiscal year.



- **Your organization's** board approved Operating Budget for your last fiscal year, that includes actuals for program expenses.
- **Your organization's** board approved next fiscal year's anticipated operating budget.
- List of **your organization's** board of directors and active staff. Include position titles and number of hours worked per week per position.
- **Your organization's** most recent board-approved Strategic Plan.

Identification numbers

1. Unique Entity Identifier (UEI), [Learn more about getting your UEI here.](#)
2. Federal Tax ID (EIN)
3. Statewide Vendor (SWV) number, [Learn more about the SWV number here.](#)
4. Fiscally sponsored organizations will use their fiscal sponsor's identification numbers, except for UBI
5. Washington State Unified Business Identifier (UBI) (all organizations must be registered as a WA Nonprofit/Charity with the Secretary of State)

Apply in Submittable

Submittable is the online platform where you will submit your application.

- [Log in or create an account here.](#)
- [Click here to get to the application.](#)
- If you need assistance with Submittable, take a look at our [Submittable FAQs.](#)

Application Evaluation

Screening for Eligibility: Staff will screen your application for eligibility.

Criteria: The criteria below are used to review and score your application:

Programming and Services (40 pts)

- Clear descriptions of professional development programs and/or services.
- Clear description of the impact on the capacity of arts professionals.
- Effort to diversify the field by broadening access for individuals from communities historically excluded* from the Creative Economy.

**Historically excluded refers to any group of people that have historically been left out, not considered, or actively barred from opportunities and privileges by a society or organization. In the context of arts funding, governmental and private funders have historically designed grant programs for and uplifted European/European-American art for [able-bodied](#), [cis/straight](#) groups, often in urban settings, for example. [Learn more about the National Endowment for the Arts' Equity Plan here.](#) For a FAQ on Civil Rights for applicants and to ensure your organization complies, [click here.](#)*

Management and Impact (20 pts)

- Evidence of sound management of programs and finances; reasonable budget in relation to programming scope; mix of income sources.
- Evidence of sound program planning and program evaluation method.



Distribution of Services (40 pts)

- Regional ASO - Significant impact on, and service to, arts professionals from three or more counties in an ArtsWA designated region.
- Statewide ASO - Significant impact on, and service to, arts professionals in ten or more counties statewide and/or provides an annual convening.

Scoring and Board Approval: Applications are scored by staff who make recommendations for funding to ArtsWA's [Board of Commissioners](#) at our board meeting on May 6-7, 2025.

Notification: Notifications of application status will be sent by the last week of May 2025. If awarded a grant, you will receive a contract and further instructions in a few weeks after notification. Learn more about [managing a grant here](#).

Additional Information

Accessibility

Federally funded projects must be accessible to people with disabilities. You can use [this accessibility checklist](#) when planning your programs. You do not need to check all boxes to be eligible for funding; this is simply a worksheet and resource for your organization.

Civil Rights

All applicants for funding from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) are required to certify that they are following the civil rights statutes that govern nondiscrimination in Federally assisted programs. For a FAQ on Civil Rights for applicants and to ensure your organization complies, [click here](#).

Appeals

Unsuccessful applicants can appeal in accordance with Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 30.12.036, found here: <http://app.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=30-12-036>.

About ArtsWA

ArtsWA is the [Washington State Arts Commission](#). The Washington State Legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts fund our programs. Grants are contingent on available state and federal funding. ArtsWA complies with all local, state, and federal laws and regulations concerning civil and human rights. For more information regarding Washington State Arts Commission's policies on Accessibility, Diversity, and Nondiscrimination, [click here](#).

Contact Us

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