Develop Grant Guidelines
Supporting the Professional Development of Artists and Arts Organizations
2013-14

Arts Council Santa Cruz County

Sign up for a grant orientation session here. Applications accepted year round and awarded on a quarterly basis

Questions? Contact:
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Our Mission
To promote, connect, and invest in the arts in order to stimulate creativity and vibrancy in Santa Cruz County.

Our Vision
We envision a more vibrant Santa Cruz County, where individual and collective artistic expression thrives and where the arts are a valued part of all aspects of our diverse culture, economy, educational systems, and everyday life.

Grant Program Objectives
To provide funding for artists and arts organizations in Santa Cruz County to:

• Support the creation and presentation of artistically excellent and culturally significant work
• Increase the success of artists and the sustainability of arts organizations
• Expand equitable access to the arts to the full diversity of residents and visitors
• Engage new audiences in the arts

Develop Grant Program Overview
Develop Grants support artists and arts organizations interested in improving their artistic skills or expanding their business and professional capacities. The program is open to all Santa Cruz County artists and arts organizations, including current grantees.

Example proposals:

• A pianist taking a technique class to help recover her playing ability after an injury
• A visual artist creating a website to promote his work
• An arts organization hiring a consultant to help develop a new marketing plan for their programs
• An installation artist creating a Kickstarter video to fund their next project
Eligibility Criteria

Grant Program staff determines the eligibility of the applicant based on the following criteria. The applicant must:

1. Be a Santa Cruz County resident
2. Complete grant activity within one year of application
3. Have completed reporting requirements for previously funded Arts Council grants, if applicable

Develop Grants Do Not Fund

- Arts programming or administrative activity
- Capital improvements, construction, or renovation projects
- Government departments, boards, or programs
- Research, foundations, debt retirement, fundraising or benefit events refreshment, social services, political or religious advocacy, or for-profit organizations

Application Review Criteria

- Demonstrated commitment to the art form to which the proposal relates
- Impact of proposed activity on applicant’s artistic skills and/or professional capacity
- Completeness and clarity of application

Awards

The maximum grant award is $1,000. Grants are awarded quarterly and payments are released upon receipt of the signed grant agreement.

Only one Develop Grant application may be submitted in a twelve-month period. If an application is denied, the program manager may give permission to resubmit the application under certain circumstances. If an applicant is awarded a Develop Grant for two successive years, she/he must skip a year before applying again.

Though the Arts Council has never been unable to fulfill these commitments, grant awards are made contingent on the availability of funding due to the possibility of unexpected changes with our funders.
Restrictions

Grants are provided for direct use by the awarded applicant. These funds are not transferable to other organizations or individuals. Funded activities must be completed in accordance with the grant application and within the grant period. Please inform the Program Manager of any significant activity or schedule changes. Unused funds or funds not used in accordance with the grant agreement must be returned to the Arts Council Santa Cruz County.

Grantee Responsibilities

- Recognize the Arts Council if applicable
- Submit a final report at the completion of the grant period

How to Apply

1. Register for and attend a grant orientation session
2. Register for our online application system
3. Login to our online application system
4. Select Open Applications, and click Apply next to Develop Grants

If you encounter problems or have questions, please e-mail or call Jim Brown at jim@artscouncilsc.org or 831. 475.9600 ext. 16.

Application Supplemental Materials

Work Samples can serve as a key indication of the applicant’s commitment to developing artistic excellence. High quality video is encouraged where possible. Audio, images, and writing samples are also accepted.

Resumes and bios can show the experience and professionalism of the applicant and/or the consultant/teacher that the applicant would hire.

A flyer or brochure can be used to demonstrate current outreach strategies on which the applicant hopes to build.

Financial statements (for organizations only, audited financials or a profit & loss statement and a balance sheet) demonstrate the fiscal health of your organization.

Limits: Out of respect for the time of our volunteer grants panelists, we limit the amount of supplemental material that you can submit.

- Work samples:
Public Records

The Arts Council's policy is to keep information submitted as part of a grant application confidential unless disclosure is required by law.

Statement of Non-discrimination

Arts Council Santa Cruz County is committed to providing services and making resources available to every resident of Santa Cruz County without regard to ethnicity, color, creed, religion, age, gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, military status, marital status, political opinion, national origin, familial status, mental and physical disability, or source of income.