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Community
Foundation
for Greater Atlanta

2026

**METROPOLITAN
ATLANTA ARTS**

Guidelines and
Application Instructions

SUBMISSION DUE:

Thursday, April 30, 2026 by 5 p.m. ET

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GREETINGS!

Thank you for your interest in the 2026 Metropolitan Atlanta Arts grant opportunity. The Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta's (the Foundation's) mission is to inspire and lead our region toward equity and shared prosperity for all. The Foundation is excited to work with you to connect metro Atlanta residents to arts and culture in our community.



Our 2026 arts, culture and creative enterprises grants portfolio supports qualifying organizations with a primary mission of arts and culture.

2026 GRANT OPPORTUNITIES ARE:**METROPOLITAN
ATLANTA ARTS**

General operating support grants:
\$7,500 for first-time grantees and
\$5,000 for returning grantees.

A PLACE TO PERFORM

Grants of up to \$5,000 to subsidize direct rental costs for performing arts presentations.

These two opportunities are separate and distinct. Organizations that qualify are welcome to request support for as few or as many grant opportunities as they wish. Organizations are also encouraged to refer to our [grant opportunities](#) webpage to learn about additional support available through other systems and neighborhood portfolios.

This document contains the guidelines for the 2026 Metropolitan Atlanta Arts grant.

Our team is here to support you throughout the submission process. For questions about application content, please contact Conrhonda E. Baker, program officer, at cbaker@cfgreateratlanta.org. For assistance with the online systems, please contact a member of the grantmaking team at grants@cfgreateratlanta.org. To receive notifications and to stay up-to-date on upcoming grant opportunities, please subscribe to our [nonprofit newsletter](#) or follow us on [LinkedIn](#) for all grant cycle opening announcements, along with additional resources.



**KEY
DATES**

2026 METROPOLITAN ATLANTA ARTS GRANT TIMELINE

Application orientation.....	March 25, 2026 at 11 a.m.
Office hours.....	April 15, 2026 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Application due.....	April 30, 2026 at 5 p.m.
Review period.....	May – July 2026
Community Impact Committee approves grants.....	August 2026
Application status updated and grant agreements sent.....	August-September 2026

ABOUT THE GRANT – METROPOLITAN ATLANTA ARTS

The purpose and goal of the Foundation's Metropolitan Atlanta Arts grant is to support and provide resources to strengthen independent arts organizations **with annual operating budgets between \$25,000 and \$2 million**. These creative enterprises **promote public access and encourage the breadth of arts and cultural programming** in our metro Atlanta community. These general operating support grants are intended for programming and operations to allow organizations to increase public engagement as well as provide access to various forms of art across the region.

Organizations that have received five or more Metropolitan Atlanta Arts grants since the fund's inception are invited to submit a condensed application. Click [here](#) to view the list of eligible organizations.

All grant applications are reviewed through an internal due diligence and review process. Full applications will also undergo review by external evaluators.

SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS HAVE:



A primary mission to create, produce, present or provide arts and/or cultural services for the public;



A history of vibrant artistic and/or cultural programming; and



Strong organizational capacity to carry out their work.

Note:

Services for the public does not mean that activities or programs must be free. Organizations specializing in murals and public art projects/activities must demonstrate meaningful community engagement and include an element of public programming. The Foundation anticipates that grant amounts will be lower than in previous years to provide broad support and fit the available budget.

APPLICATION OVERVIEW

PREAPPLICATION

1 Connect with the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta

- Sign up for [Nonprofit News](#) and follow us on [social media](#).

APPLICATION

2 Attend the application orientation webinar or office hours

- **Orientation:** Wednesday, March 25, 2026, at 11 a.m. EST // [Register here](#)
 - A recording of this session will be posted to the Foundation's website after the webinar.
- **Office Hours:** Wednesday, April 15, 2026, 10 a.m. – Noon EST // [Register here](#)

3 Submit a full or condensed application online by Thursday, April 30, 2026 at 5 p.m.

Be prepared with the following information:

- [Full application responses](#) OR [Condensed application responses](#)
- Current and prior year operating budgets, including revenue and expenses
- Click [here](#) for a budget template, if needed
- Optional uploads and hyperlinks

POST-APPLICATION

4 Application review

- All applications are checked for eligibility and completeness and assigned a rank order based on historical support received from the Metropolitan Atlanta Art Fund.
- For full applications, external evaluators also score applications to determine alignment with grant program goals, and the rank order is adjusted based on evaluator scores.
- Staff may request additional documents, information or clarification as needed.
- Staff presents funding recommendations based on rank order to a volunteer-led [Community Impact Committee](#).

5 The Foundation's Community Impact Committee review

- The committee reviews, assesses and approves recommended declinations, awards and grant amounts.

6 Foundation staff updates applicant status, issues grant agreements and releases payment.

7 We promote those selected to receive grants on our shared and owned [communication channels](#).

NEED
HELP

For help with application content, please contact Conrhonda E. Baker, program officer, at cbaker@cfgreateratlanta.org.

For help with the online systems, please contact a [member of the grantmaking team](#).

ELIGIBILITY

Who is eligible to apply?

To be eligible for a grant, organizations must meet all the following criteria:

- Have a primary mission to produce, present or create programs or activities in areas directly concerned with arts or culture
- Have a history of a significant portion of your organization's programming (more than 70%) devoted to creating, presenting, or producing art and culture activities or programs for the public
- Have produced or presented arts or culture program(s) year-round (at least eight months)
- Have a permanent and viable base in at least one of the following Georgia counties: Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry and Rockdale. The applicant organization must have a business address in at least one of the above counties and conduct most of its programs and services in metro Atlanta for the residents of and visitors to metro Atlanta
- Have annual operating expenses between \$25,000 and \$2 million (not including in-kind support) for the last completed fiscal year.
- Provide a detailed single file, side-by-side operating budget (revenue and expenses) detailing the current fiscal year, the most recently completed fiscal year, along with budget notes
- Exist as a charitable organization in line with one of the two following options:

Exist as a 501(c)(3)
organization
as verified by
[GuideStar/Candid's
Charity Check service](#)

OR

Have a fiscal-agent / fiscal-sponsor
designated as a 501(c)(3)
organization as verified by
[GuideStar/Candid's
Charity Check service](#)

Who is ineligible to apply?

The following types of organizations are ineligible to apply for the 2026 grant cycle (this list is not meant to be exhaustive):

- Organizations whose primary
 - mission is not directly affiliated with arts and/or culture.
 - overall programming or activities (more than 70%) are not directly affiliated with arts and/or culture.
 - overall programming or activities (more than 70%) are not conducted in the 11-county region.
- Organizations that
 - are not in good standing with the Foundation and/or not in compliance with previous grants.
 - have discriminatory policies and/or practices based on age, color, disability, economic status, familial status, genetic information, marital status, national origin, parental status, political beliefs, race, religion, sex/gender or sexual orientation.
 - require participation in religious services and/or religious education as a condition of receiving services.
 - are the primary responsibility of a government agency.
- Martial arts or fashion-related organizations/projects.
- Religious institutions without a separate 501(c)(3) organization that specifically administers nonsectarian public programming.
- National or statewide organizations headquartered outside the 11-county region
- National or statewide advocacy, service organizations, or supporting organizations.
- PreK-12 schools, including parent-teacher associations and similar groups.
- Fundraising organizations, such as “friends of” groups that do not conduct their own programming.
- Private foundations of any kind.
- Units of government, including component units.
- Private libraries.
- Cemeteries.
- Individuals.

If your organization does not qualify for this funding opportunity and aligns with other [TogetherATL priorities](#), please continue to monitor future [funding opportunities](#).

GRANT AMOUNTS & ALLOCATION PROCESS

Metropolitan Atlanta Arts grant support is made possible by the Metropolitan Atlanta Arts Fund and supplemented with funds from TogetherATL directed or discretionary sources when possible.

In 2026, the Foundation is providing **one-year general operating support grants as follows:**

- **\$7,500 for first-time grantees.**
- **\$5,000 for returning grantees.**

The Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta created the Metropolitan Atlanta Arts Fund in 1993 to provide resources to strengthen independent arts organizations with annual operating budgets under \$2 million located throughout the Foundation's metro Atlanta service area. In over 30 years, the Fund has invested more than \$20M through more than 500 grant awards. As an endowed fund, the Foundation deploys a minimum 4.75% spend rate to determine annual budget levels, historically no less than \$450,000.

Organizations that have received five or more Metropolitan Atlanta Arts grants since the fund's inception are invited to submit a condensed application. All condensed and full applicants will be assigned a rank order based on the total historical support from the Metropolitan Atlanta Art Fund. Organizations will be ranked from lowest to highest in the amount of historical funding they have received. **Eligible first-time applicants will receive the top ranking.**

Once evaluator scores are complete for **full applicants, their rank order will be adjusted** to remove organizations with an average combined score below 75. **Eligible applicants who score 75 or higher and have never received a grant from the fund will be awarded \$7,500.** Next, \$5,000 awards will be allocated to returning organizations in rank order until the remaining available funding is exhausted.

NOTE: *The Foundation cannot guarantee funding to every applicant and notes that grant amounts are lower than in previous years to provide broad support and fit the available budget.*

REVIEW PROCESS

How are applications evaluated?

All applications will be reviewed internally for eligibility and completeness and assigned a rank order based on the total historical support received from the Metropolitan Atlanta Art Fund. Organizations will be ranked from lowest to highest amount received.

Organizations that have received five or more Metropolitan Atlanta Arts grants since the fund's inception are invited to submit a condensed application. Condensed applications will be assessed to determine if the organization remains eligible and if the proposed programming continues to meet grant program goals and funding criteria. These applications will not receive an external evaluator score.

In addition to the internal review and ranking, external evaluators will score full applications to assess alignment with the grant program's goals and funding criteria. Evaluators will not have access to initial rank ordering. Evaluators are selected to represent a cross-section of professionals qualified to provide expert knowledge of specific arts or cultural disciplines, as well as their management experience and professional knowledge of the sector. We make every effort to ensure that the panel represents the arts ecosystem in all respects. All panelists receive an honorarium for their service.

We provide evaluators approximately four weeks to read, review, score applications, and compose written comments based on the following funding criteria (the principles anchoring the Metropolitan Atlanta Arts grant program).

FUNDING CRITERIA

1 Community Benefit

An organization's ability to meaningfully connect with its community to achieve its mission. Examples of how an organization can demonstrate public benefit include, but are not limited to:

- Understanding, respecting, and sharing power with its community
- Listening and responding to its community
- Using articulated and demonstrating knowledge of its community to drive its work
- Building and strengthening relationships
- Being inclusive and engaging various populations
- Being accessible and inviting to its community and the broader public

2 Artistic and Cultural Vibrancy

An organization's ability to create relevant and engaging work that furthers its mission. Examples of how an organization can demonstrate artistic & cultural vibrancy include, but are not limited to:

- Incorporating a process of reflection to ensure that programming is relevant to or created with its community

- Building the capacity of arts and cultural professionals and helping them to thrive
- Engaging a broad team of arts and cultural professionals qualified to achieve the mission
- Identifying opportunities to promote diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging through its work
- Displays [aesthetic attributes](#) that can be observed in socially engaged work across artistic disciplines. Evaluators are encouraged to use descriptors from page 6 & 7 of the [Aesthetic Perspectives Framework](#) in their comments.

3 Organizational Capacity

An organization’s ability to successfully plan for and manage its resources. Examples of how an organization can demonstrate organizational capacity include, but are not limited to:

- Setting goals, measuring progress, and evolving
- Recruiting and retaining staff and board/volunteers that can carry out the mission
- Planning strategically to achieve and maintain a strong financial position
- Evaluating organizational processes and structures to ensure a culture of belonging where everyone can thrive in their role
- Setting a realistic and appropriate budget

EVALUATOR SCORING FRAMEWORK

Evaluators will submit a score for each of the three funding criteria, creating a total score based on the following framework:

Has the application demonstrated the funding criteria?	Community Benefit 45%	Artistic and Cultural Vibrancy 35%	Organizational Capacity 20%
STRONG The applicant has provided strong evidence that this funding criterion is met.	39-45	31-35	18-20
FAIR The applicant has provided fair evidence that this funding criterion is met.	28-38	22-30	13-17
WEAK The applicant has provided weak evidence that this funding criterion is met.	0-27	0-21	0-12

The highest possible total score is 100. **Only full applicants who receive an average combined score of 75 or higher will be considered for funding.** Applicants with 74 or below will be removed from the rank order. Evaluator comments will be made available to full applicants.

APPLICATION TIPS

Start early and submit early! Your full or condensed application must be submitted by 5 p.m. ET on Thursday, April 30, 2026. Late or incomplete submissions are ineligible for consideration.

Organizations that have received five or more Metropolitan Atlanta Arts grants since the fund's inception are invited to submit a condensed application. Click [here](#) to view the list of eligible organizations.

[Register the organization](#) and then [complete and submit the online application](#)

- All applications must be submitted online using the online application system.
- To be considered complete, a submission must include all required application question responses and required materials as outlined below.

[CLICK HERE](#)
to view a registration walkthrough

Be prepared with the following information:

- [Full application responses](#) OR [Condensed application responses](#)
- Current and prior year operating budgets (revenue and expenses)
 - Organizations may generate this document by using a customized profit and loss report
 - Click [here](#) for a budget template if needed
- Optional uploads and hyperlinks

About Uploads

Uploads are images, audio files, video files, hyperlinks and/or other supporting documents that help bring your organization's mission and programs to life. The Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta uses your support materials to help document eligibility, to evaluate reports and to share with donors, funding colleagues, and metro Atlanta residents how funding arts and culture impacts the community.

[CLICK HERE](#)
for upload guidance

KEY
DATE

APPLICATION DUE
THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2026 at 5 P.M.

2026 GRANT RECIPIENT REQUIREMENTS

Grant Period: All funded activities and grant expenditures must occur during the grant period as stated in the grant agreement.

Grant Agreement and Compliance

If your application is recommended and approved for funding following the Community Impact Committee meeting, the Foundation will prepare a grant agreement. The Foundation will be available to meet with new and returning grant recipients to review the grant agreement requirements. To be considered an active grant recipient and receive funding, recipients must sign a grant agreement and meet the requirements therein.

Grant Payment Timeline

The Foundation's grants distributions are initiated upon the receipt of the signed grant agreement. All funded activities and expenditure of grant dollars must occur during the respective grant period.

Grant Funding Restrictions

Restricted uses of funds include but are not limited to:

- credit-bearing academic programs (K-12 and college level)
- fundraising or benefits
- endowment funds
- regranting, scholarships, tuition assistance, awards, or cash prizes
- religious ceremonies or events advancing or inhibiting a particular religious ideology
- agent's fees for programs contracted through commercial agencies
- advocacy of specific political causes or candidates

Credit Requirements

The Foundation asks that organizations receiving grant support partner with the Foundation throughout the grant period by inviting staff to events/programming, connecting with the Foundation on social media, and acknowledging funding by using our logo and credit line. You are encouraged to review the [grantee publicity guidelines](#) for additional information. Our logo toolkit is available [here](#).

Reporting Requirements

All grant recipients must submit a final report online within 30 days of the completion of the grant period. In addition to a final report, the Foundation may attend performances/engagements or conduct site visits during the grant period. Reporting guidelines and instructions will be provided directly in advance of deadlines. Reports consist of a narrative, financial documentation, and support materials. Grant recipients that submit a late final report, or do not submit a final report, may receive a reduced or revoked final grant amount.

Maintaining Good Standing

To receive funds, a grant recipient must maintain its good standing during the grant period. A grant recipient not in good standing with the Foundation will be officially informed of this status in writing. A grant recipient is in good standing if it does all of the following:

- Fully and completely meets all requirements as stated in the grant agreement for the duration of the grant period;
- Accurately represents its organization and its activities in all documents submitted to the Foundation. This includes, but is not limited to, the organizational profile, application, final report and all other reports and forms; and
- Continues to meet the eligibility criteria.

HOW YOUR APPLICATION DATA IS USED

The Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta recognizes the effort it takes to apply for funding. Because we honor your time, we strive to not only use application data as an evaluation tool for this grant opportunity.

Currently, we use your data in the following ways:

- When aligned and relevant, portions of your organization's submission may be shared with
 - our Philanthropy team to aid them in advising and educating fund managers and donors.
 - members of the Community Impact team for consideration for opportunities through other TogetherATL portfolios.
 - other local and national corporate, family, and private foundations for consideration for opportunities through their portfolios.
- We aggregate demographic and financial information to inform statistics about the ecosystem to augment talking points used by staff during public sector budget hearings, conference panels, and philanthropic sector meetings.
- We encourage all Foundation staff to live an artful life. When relevant, your organization's planned artistic and/or educational programming may be included in an internal arts activity listing distributed to employees.
- Lastly, feedback from applicants and evaluators informs adjustments to the next cycle, intending to continually improve the process for all.

NEED ASSISTANCE?

- For questions about application content, please contact Conrhonda E. Baker, program officer, at cbaker@cfgreateratlanta.org.
- For assistance with the online systems, please contact a member of the grantmaking team at grants@cfgreateratlanta.org.
- To receive notifications and to stay up-to-date on upcoming grant opportunities, please subscribe to our [nonprofit newsletter](#) for all grant cycle opening announcements, along with additional resources, and follow us on [social media](#).