

FY17 Grants Program

ABOUT METRO ARTS

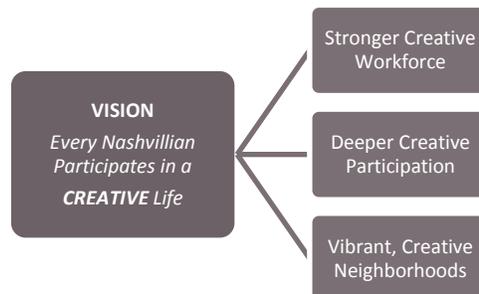
The Metro Nashville Arts Commission (Metro Arts) is a department of the Metro Nashville Government created by Metro Charter in 1978. Metro Arts serves as the designated driver and facilitator of programs, policies and practices that support our arts and cultural vibrancy.

The work of Metro Arts is anchored in the idea that arts and culture are created and consumed within a dynamic ecosystem within the community. Nashville’s creative ecosystem is substantially more robust than comparable cities, with a large number of nonprofit cultural organizations, small and large arts-related businesses, music and publishing corporations, schools and universities, and individual artists and creative workers of all types. Supporting all of these formal and structured creative entities are the thousands of Nashvillians who attend and support arts activities throughout the city.

Mission | to drive a *EQUITABLE* and *VIBRANT* community through the arts



The results, or outcomes, that we would like to achieve are aligned with these goals:



FY17 Metro Arts Scoring Process

Citizen review panels play an important role in Metro Arts' grant-making process by providing breadth in experiences and diversity of perspectives. Panel members must live or work in Davidson County and disclose any real or potential conflicts of interest that may exist prior to scoring. We aim to recruit panel members who truly care about the arts and reflect our community through diversity in age, race/cultural identity, neighborhoods, physical abilities, professional expertise and personal interest. Panelists review all submitted application materials online, attend required orientation and review meetings, and score each grant application. Scores are averaged and used to help Metro Arts determine grant awards.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Review all grant application materials, including narratives, proposed budget, support materials, and GivingMatters.com profile data.
2. Review scoring descriptions and grant criteria.
3. Use the Yes/No column to notate if the applicant has provided the information related to the criteria.
4. Use the comments box to document quality and other points that contribute to your overall score. Upon request, applicants will be provided copies of their scores and specific comments from panelists to help them find ways to improve future applications.
5. At the conclusion of each section, assign a score using the ranges listed at the bottom of the page. Initial scoring will take place prior to the panel review day.
6. On the panel review day, each organization will be assigned a 10-minute period to answer any questions the panel may have about their application. You will have an opportunity to adjust your scores in writing at the panel review.

SCORING DESCRIPTIONS

Exceptional: The applicant *comprehensively* addresses an identifiable artistic/cultural need in the community. The applicant has provided *overwhelming* evidence throughout the application that demonstrates that all the funding criteria are met. The plans are clear, well-articulated, and appropriate. The budget is realistic, comprehensive, and carefully aligned with the narrative.

Strong: The applicant *strongly* addresses an identifiable artistic/cultural need in the community. The applicant has provided *clear* evidence throughout the application that demonstrates that all the funding criteria are met. The plans are clear, well-articulated, and appropriate. The budget is realistic, comprehensive, and carefully aligned with the narrative.

Good: The applicant *partially* addresses an identifiable artistic/cultural need in the community. The applicant has provided *adequate* evidence throughout the application that demonstrates that all the funding criteria are met. The plans are clear and appropriate, but are not well-expressed. The budget is realistic and reasonably aligned with the narrative.

Fair: The applicant *narrowly* addresses an identifiable artistic/cultural need in the community. The applicant has provided *insufficient* evidence throughout the application that demonstrates that all the funding criteria are met. The plans are appropriate, but with limited detail. The budget is incomplete or is not well aligned with the narrative.

Organization Name _____ Grant Category _____

THE PROJECT + COMMUNITY

Criteria

Understanding the Community	Y/N	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understands the community it serves (geographical, cultural, economic, racial, educational relevance, etc.) • Engages the community through a variety of means • Collects participant feedback and uses the results to improve community-focused programming 		
Benefits and Value for the Community		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates social, educational, cultural and/or economic relevance for the community • Fosters deeper participation in arts and culture activities • Contributes to vibrant, creative neighborhoods 		
Accessible and Community-Focused Practice		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project times, locations, facilities and technology are accessible to the public • Considers affordability in program development and/or offers free admission, scholarships or sliding scale options • Project incorporates racially and culturally equitable practices 		
Project Plans		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project aligns with organization’s overall mission • Articulates anticipated project goals/outcomes • Financial plan is appropriate for the size and scope of project • Project Budget aligns with project plans described in the narrative 		
Section Total		

Fair	Good	Strong	Exceptional
1-7	8-15	16-23	24-30

Panelist
Initials

Organization Name _____ Grant Category _____

THE ART

Criteria

Connected to Organization’s Mission	Y/N	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develops creative and relevant artistic and cultural programs that are aligned with the organization’s mission, vision and goals • Articulates anticipated artistic goals/outcomes • Utilizes an approach/process that details the creative content of the project 		
Quality, Innovation and Artistic/Cultural Merit		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describes the unique artistic components, genres, and/or creative elements of the project • The art demonstrates artistic excellence and cultural standards • Expands the artistic and cultural knowledge of project leaders and participants • Innovatively addresses an artistic/cultural need 		
Strengthens Creative Workforce		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shows evidence of employing qualified artists and program leaders • Artists and program leaders demonstrate deep cultural knowledge and expertise • Demonstrates equitable hiring practices in selecting artists and program leaders • Includes a wide range of artists, creators, and project staff from a variety of racial and cultural backgrounds 		
Section Total		

Fair	Good	Strong	Exceptional
1-7	8-15	16-23	24-30

Panelist
Initials

Organization Name _____ Grant Category _____

THE ORGANIZATION

Criteria

Fosters Sound Governance and Leadership	Y/N	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultivates a board of directors reflective of the community it serves (application and GM.com) • Board of directors provides sound leadership, financial support, and participates in arts advocacy efforts • Staffing plans are realistic and sustainable • Recruits, evaluates, and retains diverse staff reflective of the community it serves • Engages a strong base of community volunteers to help the organization achieve its mission 		
Continually Plans and Learns (GivingMatters.com Data)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporates short- and long-term planning • Utilizes a board-approved strategic plan that regularly evaluates programs and processes for efficiency, professionalism, quality, racial/cultural equity, and effectiveness 		
Builds Financial Stability (GivingMatters.com and Application)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates sound fiscal management and is in compliance with all state and federal nonprofit rules and regulations • Does not operate with a recurring deficit OR is operating within a deficit reduction plan • Maintains a reserve of operating funds OR is working on a plan to create a reserve of operating funds 		
Arts Advocacy		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participates in arts advocacy efforts at the city-county level • Participates in arts advocacy efforts at the state level • Participates in arts advocacy efforts at the national level 		
Section Total		

Fair	Good	Strong	Exceptional
1-10	11-20	21-30	31-40

Panelist Initials