



## Project Grants for Collaborations **FY25 Grant Guidelines**

### **OVERVIEW**

ArtsinStark is pleased to announce the Arts Impact Grant, a new stream of project-based funding for collaborations across Stark County. Funds will be available for partnership-based projects in alignment with ArtsinStark's strategic focus on Arts & Education, Arts & Health, Arts & Economic Development, and Arts & Tourism.

ArtsinStark recognizes the impact cross-sector partnerships have in addressing community challenges and improving individual and overall wellbeing. In its inaugural year the Arts Impact Grant will foster partnerships between the arts community and partners in one of the following impact areas: education, wellbeing, and regional vitality. All successful project collaborations will have a lens of inclusion and equity and will support ArtsinStark's mission to make Stark County a thriving and vibrant region.

Individual artists, unincorporated collectives, and commercial endeavours must partner with a not-for-profit organization to apply. Funding will be available for projects taking place in Stark County between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025 that engages the shared constituents of both partners. Awards will be \$2,500 - \$10,000 per project.

### **GOALS OF THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE ARTS FUND**

Each year, ArtsinStark engages in the annual Campaign for the Arts, raising over one million dollars to support the ArtsinStark County. The goals of this fund are as follows:

1. To support facility and operating expenses for the Canton Cultural Center and its resident organizations. The fund supports building maintenance, security, insurance, and other costs affiliated with maintaining the facility as a resource and hub for the cultural community.
2. To provide unrestricted operating grants to select institutions in Stark County in recognition of their service to residents and visitors, their leadership in the cultural community, and their annual partnership in the Campaign for the Arts.
3. To support collaborative projects led by artists, organizations, and community partners through a competitive annual process in alignment with three of ArtsinStark's strategic priorities: Arts & Education, Arts & Health, and Arts & Economic Development.

Funds raised through the annual campaign will be allocated first to facility and operating expenses of the Canton Cultural Center. Grant funding will be split between operating and project-based grants; in FY25 it is anticipated that 30% of grant funds will be directed to project-based grants through the Arts Impact Fund.

### **APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY**

At least one project partner must meet the eligibility requirements below. If both applicants are not-for-profit organizations, one organization shall serve as project lead, submit the proposal, and administer the funding for the project. If only one partner is a not-for-profit organization that partner shall serve as the project lead.

Lead applicants must meet the following eligibility requirements:

1. Organization must be tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3).
2. The principal office of the organization must be located in Stark County.
3. Organizations must comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Title XI of the Education Amendments of 1972. Title VI, Title XI, Section 504, and the Age Discrimination Act prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, handicap, age, or sex.
4. Organizations must submit a complete set of application materials before the deadline.
5. Organizations must have received approval for all final reports related to previous grant funding from ArtsinStark.

Colleges and universities, social service organizations, historical and scientific organizations, economic development organizations, and other non-arts not-for-profits are encouraged to partner with individual artists, unincorporated arts groups, and small organizations to develop a project proposal.

## PROJECT ELIGIBILITY

The Arts Impact Fund will support cross-sector partnerships that address one of the following three priority areas:

- **Arts and Education:** including in-school arts residencies, out-of-school programming, professional development for arts educators, and partnerships with community-based organizations serving children and families.
- **Arts and Wellbeing:** including arts in health partnerships between arts organizations and health providers; creative aging programs serving older adults; arts-related programs that support mental health and treatment for addiction; and arts opportunities for individuals involved with systems such as the foster care and criminal justice systems.
- **Regional Vitality Through the Arts:** providing support for programs and partnerships that bring locals and visitors together across Stark County; unique experiences that contribute to the economic vitality of the area; projects that revitalize vacant real estate and public spaces; and projects that support employment and professional development for artists and the arts sector.

## APPLICATION PROCESS IN FY25

All applicants will complete an online application form, including uploading financial documents to establish eligibility and background materials to accompany the application.

The components of the application will include:

1. Basic organizational information for the lead applicant.
2. Details about the background of the partnering artist or organization.
3. Narrative questions related to:
4. The project being proposed
5. The nature and value of the collaboration between partners
6. Plans to engage the intended audience for the project
7. Alignment with strategic priorities
8. Projected outcomes
9. A project budget including income and expenses for the project and budget notes

All applications will be reviewed by a panel of arts and community leaders who have been vetted for conflicts of interest. The review process will determine a) a score for each application based on the evaluative criteria, and b) a recommendation of whether or not to fund.

## CRITERIA AND FUNDING

Applications will be evaluated and scored using the following criteria:

1. Impact on Stark County (30%)
  - a. Value of program to participants, creators, and/or audiences
  - b. Quality, including relevant background of artists and educators
  - c. Uniqueness of programming
  - d. Breadth or depth of reach
2. Alignment with Strategic Priorities (30%)
  - a. Clarity of alignment with at least one strategic priority
  - b. Background of at least one partner in content area
3. Accountability (30%)
  - a. Clarity of partner responsibilities
  - b. Evidence of planning
  - c. Financial accountability, including meaningful artist fees and
4. Clarity of Proposal (10%)
  - a. Clear narrative
  - b. Compelling materials
  - c. Clear budget presentation and notes

Applicants should request funding at the following levels:

\$2,500.00

\$5,000.00

\$10,000.00

Applicants will indicate whether they can complete the project if funded at less than the requested amount. Each lead organization may submit up to two proposals; applicants for ArtsinStark operating support may submit one proposal and be included in no more than a total of two proposals. Funding can be allocated to any expenses of the project, including up to 20% toward administrative expenses. Artist fees are not included in administrative expenses.

## EXPECTED GRANT CYCLE

Release dates and deadlines will be shared later in the fiscal year, along with details about technical assistance for applicants in completing their applications. At this time the expected calendar is as follows:

September 2023:	FY25 operating grant application released
October 2023:	FY25 operating grant application deadline
November 2023:	FY25 Arts Impact Grant application released
January 2024:	FY25 Arts Impact Grant application released
Feb-April 2024:	Peer review panels convened
May-June 2024:	Award notification

After award announcements applicants may review their application with an ArtsinStark staff member who will share feedback from the peer panel application review. Grantees will be expected to sign and return a grant agreement and required insurance documentation Arts Impact grant payments will be made in two instalments; 80% upon execution of the grant agreement, and 20% upon approval of the final report. Grantees will be expected to acknowledge ArtsinStark in all programs and marketing materials for supported activities.

Grantees will be required to complete a final report after their funded program has concluded. ArtsinStark will publish the final report form and instructions when the reporting period begins.