



Project Grants for Collaborations **FY25 Grant Guidelines**

OVERVIEW

ArtsinStark is pleased to announce the ArtsImpact Grant, a new stream of project-based funding for collaborations across Stark County. Funds will be available for partnership-based projects in the areas of Arts & Education, Arts & Wellbeing, and Arts & Vitality. These focus areas are related to ArtsinStark's recent strategic planning.

ArtsinStark recognizes the impact cross-sector partnerships have in addressing community challenges and improving individual and overall wellbeing. In its inaugural year the ArtsImpact Grant will foster partnerships between the arts community and partners. 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, small community-based arts groups, and artist collectives 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 - \$7,500 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 arts in Stark 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 general operating support 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.

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 20% of grant funds will be directed to project-based grants through the ArtsImpact 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 statutes that prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, 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, hospitals and health service organizations, and other non-arts not-for-profits are encouraged to partner with individual artists, small community-based arts groups, and artist collectives to develop a project proposal.

PROJECT ELIGIBILITY

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

- **Arts & Education:** including arts exposure programs taking place at community sites, out-of-school programming, professional development workshops for Stark County's arts educators, and other partnerships with community-based organizations serving children and families.
- **Arts & Wellbeing:** including arts in health partnerships between arts organizations and hospitals or 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.
- **Arts & Vitality:** 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 provide professional development opportunities for artists. Projects under this category can also be supported through grants administered by Visit Canton provided that project expenses are distinct between the two grant programs.

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 newly-designed application will be hosted by SurveyMonkey Apply and the link to register and begin an application will be found at <https://artsinstark.com/grants>.

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:
 - a. The project being proposed
 - b. The nature and value of the collaboration between partners
 - c. Plans to engage the intended audience for the project
 - d. Alignment with strategic priorities
 - e. Projected outcomes
4. 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 will indicate whether they can complete the project if funded at less than the requested amount and will be given an opportunity in the budget to describe additional financial support anticipated for the project. Applicants should request funding at the following levels:

\$2,500.00

\$5,000.00

\$7,500.00

In the pilot year for this program each organization may be included as a lead applicant or project partner in **only one application**. However, an organization's facility may serve as a program site for projects in additional applications. 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

The ArtsImpact calendar is below. After the application launches a form to register for information sessions will be available at <https://artsinstark.com/grants>.

Tuesday, February 6, 2024 - Application opens

Monday, February 12, 2024 - Information session - online via Zoom at 4 p.m. (recorded)

Tuesday, February 27, 2024 - Information session - in-person at AHH Gallery, 8:30am

Tuesday, February 27, 2024 - Information session - in-person at Cultural Center for the Arts, 4:00pm

Wednesday, February 28, 2024 - Information session - in-person at Massillon Museum, 8:30am

Thursday, March 21, 2024 - Application deadline (5:00 p.m.)

April - June 2024 - Review process

Late June 2024 - Award notification

July 2024 to June 2025 - FY25 Grant Funding Period

After award announcements ArtsinStark will share a summary of the panel's comments via email with applicants.

Grantees will be expected to sign and return a grant agreement and required insurance documentation Arts Impact grant payments will be made in two installments; 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.

APPLICATION ASSISTANCE

Arts in Stark will hold one virtual information session (recorded for future viewing) and three in-person sessions at locations around Stark County. Visit <https://artsinstark.com/grants/> to register.

Questions about eligibility, the online application, or anything else related to the program can be sent to grants@artsinstark.com.