

2021 Arts and Healing
Initiative Grant Proposal
Guidelines



ARTS AND HEALING INITIATIVE PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

BACKGROUND

The Arts and Education Council (A&E) believes a region rich with arts and cultural experiences is critical to creating and sustaining vibrant communities. Since 1963, to fulfill this belief A&E pools contributions from individuals, corporations and foundations across the bi-state region to invest, through grants and programs, in arts organizations that build creativity, inspire kids, bridge cultural divides, energize communities and enrich lives through the arts. Our grantees not only produce or present great art, they also maintain viable, impactful arts education and outreach programming throughout the bi-state area.

In 2019, the Arts and Education Council was awarded a five-year grant from the Missouri Foundation for Health to launch an Arts and Healing Initiative. The purpose of this Initiative is to improve the quality of life through the power of art for people throughout St. Louis City and County in its first year, and other Missouri counties in subsequent years.

THE INITIATIVE

This initiative is a unique opportunity for program participants to drive a shared process of defining arts-based healing while improving the quality of life for people in the St. Louis region, fundamental to our belief that the arts have a critical role in improving an individual's well-being. Arts in healing is the introduction of any art form to a variety of healthcare and community settings for therapeutic, educational, and expressive purposes with a proven benefit to patients, their families, and their caregivers.

DEFINITION OF HEALING

The Arts and Education Council defines healing as a transformative process of meaning, well-being or wholeness that reduces suffering or other factors that contribute to a low quality of life.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The COVID-19 global pandemic has made everyone aware of how important it is to consider the environments in which we live, work, and play. A&E is sensitive and responsive to the effect the pandemic and other external factors have on immunosuppressed patients and the arts and healing community. Applicants should consider this when designing arts and healing programs.

KEY DATES AND DEADLINES

Informational Workshops	Application Open	Proposal Package Due	Panel Review	Funding Notification	Grant Start Date
<u>View here</u>	May 3, 2021 (12:01 am)	June 3, 2021 (By 5:00 p.m.)	September 2021	September 2021	October 2021

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to apply for an Arts and Healing grant, the organization or fiscal sponsor, must meet all the following criteria:

- a) Be an IRS Section 501(c)(3) non-profit in Good Standing with the State of Missouri for the duration of the grant period or have a fiscal sponsor that is.
- b) Have a diverse Board of Directors that include a minimum of five (5) or more active members (not including paid staff) and meet at least quarterly,
- c) Have neighborhood and/or community support,
- d) Provide accurate and detailed financial statements reflecting activity for the most recently completed fiscal year,
- e) Operate under a reasonable, board approved budget (Grants will not be made to reduce or eliminate accumulated deficits or to fund capital campaigns),
- f) Proposed program must incorporate healing and well-being with the arts at its core,
- g) Be based in one of the following Missouri Counties – Jefferson, Franklin, Lincoln, St Louis City, St. Louis County, St. Charles, Warren, and Washington.
- h) Employ at least one full time equivalent (FTE) Full time is defined as a minimum of 30 hours per week. FTE can be staff, contract professional, administrative or volunteers.
- i) Meet all other criteria and requirements as outlined in this document.

GRANT CATEGORIES AND OUTCOMES

In fields like the arts, healing is typically undefined or used interchangeably with health. Healing is evolving and dynamic; definitions and practices differ significantly across and within professional fields. Different cultures have distinct healing practices and rituals. Arts and Healing programs and applicant organizations will vary widely addressing many problems and using different program activities requiring different approaches and activities

The goal of the Arts and Healing program is to increase the capacity to heal through the arts. Each grant proposal must address the grant category Program Capacity for Arts and Healing in addition to one or more of the other three remaining grant categories – Relational Healing, Access to Healing and/or Transcendent Healing that best describe the proposed program.

Grant Category	Grant Category Description & Outcomes
Program Capacity for Arts and Healing (THIS CATEGORY MUST BE ADDRESSED IN ALL PROPOSALS)	Programs seeking professional development, equipment or other resources that directly improves program sustainability and effectiveness. This is not intended for regular programmatic needs. The goal is to improve program capacity, so programs are more likely to benefit participants and lead to desired programmatic outcomes with long-term sustainable change.
Relational Healing	Programs that foster relationships within communities, families, and regions. The goal is to create, build, strengthen, and heal the relationships within these structures.
Access to Healing	Programs that meet potential participants where they are fiscally, emotionally, and artistically in their communities. The goal is to close the gap in accessing arts and healing resources.

Transcendent Healing	Programs that promote the alleviation or reduction of suffering or low quality of life. The goal is to provide support for traditional healthcare to aid in the holistic healing of program participants.
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PROGRAM BUDGET AND JUSTIFICATION

Upload a detailed total program budget and budget requested for the proposed program. Include a description or justification for each line item being requested from the Arts and Education Council.

FINANCIAL HEALTH

Proposals must include detailed financial statements reflecting activity for the most recently completed fiscal year and the current year projections. (*Uploaded to online application.*) Each applicant organization will complete the Financial Information Worksheet (*Downloaded from online application, completed and re-uploaded to online application.*) Applicant organization’s financial information will be analyzed in a separate review process by the Arts and Education Council staff. Each financial summary will be given one of three designations:

Designation	Definition
Pass	Organization meets all minimum financial requirements.
Cautionary	Finances are not balanced over two years, but the differential is less than 10% of the organization’s 2-year (Last year Completed and Current Year Projections) average annual expenses.
Fail	Organization does not meet minimum financial requirements.

FUNDING CRITERIA

Proposals will be evaluated based on the degree to which the Grant Category Description & Outcomes (*see chart above*) are addressed. Proposals will also be evaluated based on the proposed programs’ ability to address one or more of the related Elements of a Vibrant Community listed below:

- **Build Bridges Between Cultures** –an organization’s ability to promote cross-cultural understanding through increased availability to and access of arts experiences that include and represent all races and ethnicities.
- **Energize Communities; Forge Connections** –an organization’s ability to show their commitment to improving a population’s well-being through the arts, particularly those that are underserved and/or revitalizing.
- **Enrich Lives**-an organization’s ability to demonstrate how they deepen feelings of joy, engagement, and connection to the community by broadening participation in the arts.

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

The link to the online application will be available on our website at www.KeepArtsHappening.org **Monday, May 3, 2021 at 12:01 a.m.**

All application materials must be submitted via the online grantmaking system **by 5:00 p.m. Thursday, June 3, 2021.**

At 5:00 p.m. CST on Thursday, June 3, 2021 the system will no longer allow you to submit your application. **Late applications will not be accepted. No Exceptions!**

PROPOSAL REVIEW PROCESS

Proposals will be reviewed by Arts and Education staff and evaluated by the Arts and Healing Advisory Panel, a cross section of experts representing a wide array of professional areas including, arts, health/behavioral health, veteran's health, children/youth, social justice, evaluation/research, grants/program development, education/academia and project management. Advisory Panelists names and affiliations can be found on the Arts and Healing webpage. Proposals will be judged based on the criteria listed in the "Grant Categories & Outcomes" and "Funding Criteria" sections above.

Arts and Education Council staff do not evaluate proposals. A&E staff manages the administrative and logistical tasks necessary to conduct a successful and fair panel review including:

1. Provide panelists with training, information, and materials to ensure their ability to evaluate proposals effectively,
2. Inform panelists of Arts and Education Council's Policies and Procedures,
3. Provide available objective information regarding applicant organizations to the panel,
4. Provide recommendations to panel regarding applicant organization's finances, and,
5. Answer panelists' questions regarding specifics about an organization, its' mission, and/or specific details about the proposed program.