



Request for Proposal and Application Information

The New Jersey Arts and Culture Recovery Fund (NJACRF) was established to ensure the survival and strength of the state's arts and culture nonprofit sector during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

NJACRF will provide financial support to catalyze an equitable statewide recovery and build resilience for New Jersey-based nonprofit arts, arts education, and/or history organizations facing disruption and loss. The fund will assist in the transition from recovery to resiliency, with a long-term goal of creating a thriving and sustainable arts and culture sector.

No organization or culture worker has been immune to the impact of this crisis, but data has revealed that the disruption has disproportionately affected Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color (BIPOC), as well as historically under-resourced organizations serving BIPOC communities. Therefore, the Fund is committed to a transparent, equity-centered process to ensure that the funds represent and support the most under-resourced and under-served populations of New Jersey.

The fund was created as a public-private partnership, capitalizing on the resources and expertise available through the government, corporate, and private philanthropic sectors. Strategic alignment of these partners ensures a coordinated approach to sector support, and ongoing dialogue with the field and stakeholders.

As the fund develops and the needs and priorities of the sector change, Fund priorities may evolve accordingly.

What will NJACRF support?

The Fund will provide grants directly to nonprofit organizations and, indirectly through an intermediary partner(s), to artists and sector workers negatively impacted by the COVID-19 crisis.

Grant dollars to support organizations can be used to mitigate financial losses and expenses related to the COVID-19 pandemic in the following areas:

- **Personnel:** existing payroll/contract obligations that loom due to cancelled events/programs; hiring new/temporary staff to cover operations in transition.
- **Operations and Equipment:** facility maintenance and alterations necessary to respond to new health and safety requirements such as Personal Protection Equipment and sanitation services; new equipment and technology to adapt programming and systems; and infrastructure adjustments.

- **Professional Services:** external consulting or other service needs to make mission-aligned adaptations; develop a scenario-oriented plan, build remote programming, provide staff training, etc.
- **Intermediary Regranting Service for Individual Artist support:** The Fund cannot make grants directly to individuals. However, service organizations or other intermediaries with a history of supporting artists, teaching artists, or culture workers can apply for funding to administer a re-grant program. Funds can be distributed through the nonprofit intermediary or a collaboration of organizations to help support artists' basic living and career-sustaining needs due to the loss of work and earning opportunities caused by COVID-19 related business disruption or COVID illness.
 - *Please Note:*
 - *Organizations can apply for up to \$50,000 support (if organization's pre-COVID budget is under \$3M) and up to \$50,000 in Intermediary Regranting support in one proposal.*
 - *Organizations applying for the Intermediary regrant offerings have no budget limit.*

Priority Criteria:

We expect a large number of requests that will exceed the amount of funds available. As we review proposals, we will be considering the following aspects of the requests and giving priority to:

- Organizations with a demonstrated commitment to equity and serving communities most vulnerable to the impact of COVID-19 and/or pursuing social justice work through arts, arts education, or history programming.
- Organizations with leadership of color on staff and board.
- Organizations that demonstrate a clear, plausible, and innovative recovery plan and demonstrate adaptability to new circumstances.
- Organizations that have developed new partnerships or built on previous partnerships to have greater impact with personnel, systems, or programs.
- Organizations that are reimagining what their work will look like in a post-COVID future and are responsive to new demands, instead of replicating past programming exactly as it was prior to the pandemic.

Who is Eligible:

- 501c3, federally designated, New Jersey-based non-profits serving New Jersey communities
- Organizations with at least one part-time paid staff person
- Primary mission must be arts, arts education, or history
- In operation for a minimum of two years
- Organizations with maximum pre-COVID budget expenditures of \$3 million (*Please Note: Organizations applying for the Intermediary regrant offerings have no budget limit.*)

The following are not eligible for this funding opportunity (though can be an application partner):

- Individuals are not directly eligible but may be funded through an intermediary organization.
- Organizations without paid staff.
- Local, state, or federal government agencies.
- Organizations that offer arts programming but whose mission is not primarily arts, arts education, or history, such as social services or community development organizations, zoos, science centers, and botanical gardens.
- Stand-alone or one-time festivals, conferences, or other events.
- Stand-alone publications, films/videos, or websites.
- Religious organizations.
- Groups that are legally, financially, or operationally part of a larger institution, e.g. the art department of a college.
- Colleges, universities, or Pre-K to 12 educational institutions

Application Requirements and Review Process:

Applications for the first round of grantmaking will be accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis until December 1, 2020 (or until available funding is committed). We expect additional funding cycles will be announced at a later date. Applications will be assessed by a review panel with a goal of notifying applicants of the decision within 6-8 weeks of application receipt. Organizations deemed ineligible for the grant will receive notice of declination as soon as possible in consideration of the organization's planning.

Grant amounts will not exceed \$50,000 and will be considered relative to organizational capacity and budget size. *PLEASE NOTE: Organizations can apply for up to \$50,000 support (if organization's pre-COVID budget is under \$3M) and up to \$50,000 in Intermediary Regranting support in one proposal.*

Review Process:

Grant decisions will be made by a steering committee comprised of a coalition of funders and stakeholders galvanized around the Fund's mission to ensure the survival and strength of the arts and culture sector now and into the future.

- Priority will be given to small and mid-size arts, arts education, and/or history organizations working in underserved communities in south, central, and northern New Jersey.
- The grants will not exceed \$50,000 and can cover up to a 12-month period. Award amounts will take into consideration the organization's total operational budget and capacity.
- Applicants will be required to submit an application and budget via Princeton Area Community Foundation's grant portal at njartsculture.org.
- If necessary, the applicant will be asked to have a virtual call with a panel reviewer to discuss questions relating to the application
- If accepted, grantees will be required to complete a short report outlining use of funds within three months of the completion of the proposed grant. The report will illuminate how funds helped the organization shift to a more resilient future. This report will allow us to continue to fundraise to support a long-term Arts and Culture Fund.

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