



# ARTS DOLLARS GRANTS

## Project / Education

### 2026 Cycle Guidelines

#### Overview

The goal of Arts Dollars is to support programming and artists that enrich the quality of life in the Quad Cities region through the arts. It is our mission to make art accessible for all. All art forms are eligible.

Applications are submitted online at [www.quadcityarts.com](http://www.quadcityarts.com). Applications should be prepared before beginning the online form, as you cannot save and return to your work, nor edit after submission. See the full listing of application materials for online submission below.

#### Categories

**PROJECT:** Project grants support arts projects or programming that emphasize community engagement and access to the arts. Individual Artists may apply for a project grant up to \$2,500. Non-profit organizations and K-12 schools may apply for up to \$5,000. This category is intended for one-time or first-time projects or programs, and preference will be given to those applications. However, ongoing programs may apply. Preference will be given to applicants with operating budgets of \$300,000 or less. However, organizations with larger operating budgets are welcome to apply.

**EDUCATION:** Education grants support projects or programming that provide opportunities in the arts for K-12 students. Artists may apply for up to \$2,500. Non-profit organizations and K-12 schools may apply for up to \$5,000.

If your application fits into more than one category, please choose the category that most closely aligns with your goals.

Review the scoring rubric available at [www.quadcityarts.com](http://www.quadcityarts.com) for more details.

#### Funding

Support for Arts Dollars Project/Education Grants is provided by grants from the Hubbell-Waterman Foundation, the Illinois Arts Council Agency, and the Quad Cities Community Foundation-Isabel Bloom Art Education Fund Grant.

#### Contact

Visit [www.quadcityarts.com](http://www.quadcityarts.com) for staff contact information, call (309) 793-1213, or email [bgougeon@quadcityarts.com](mailto:bgougeon@quadcityarts.com).

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## Requirements

1. Complete applications and support materials must be submitted online by February 1, 2026.
2. Projects must include cash or in-kind support from sources other than Arts Dollars. Ineligible expenses may be covered by matching funds – this must be described in the budget section of the application.
3. Projects must take place between April 1, 2026 and December 31, 2026. Applicants will be notified by March 17, 2026.
4. All proposed budgets must include payment to at least one artist who meets *both* of the following criteria:
  - a. at least 18 years of age
  - b. current resident of Rock Island, Henry, or Mercer counties in Illinois, or Scott, Clinton, or Muscatine counties in Iowa, for the past 12 consecutive months
5. All projects must take place in Quad City Arts' service area: Rock Island, Henry, Mercer counties in Illinois; and Scott, Clinton, and Muscatine counties in Iowa. Projects funded by the Quad Cities Community Foundation - Isabel Bloom Art Education Endowment must take place in Scott or Rock Island counties.

## Policies

1. Project & Education grant funds **may not** be used to fund the following:

•day-to-day operations	•programs by universities/colleges not open to the public	•functions at which artists are not the primary focus
•capital expenditures of any kind	•touring or travel outside designated counties for service	•fundraisers, benefits, receptions, or other social functions
•purchasing permanent equipment		
•scholarships for academic degrees		
•lobbying or support of a political party		

(Ineligible expenses may be covered by matching funds. This must be described in the budget section of the application.)
2. Multiple applications are not allowed. Applicants may submit an application in one category only. Artists, organizations, and K-12 schools may participate in multiple Arts Dollars projects, but no single organization may receive more than \$5,000, and no individual artist may receive more than \$2,500 from this fund.
3. Quad City Arts staff cannot be paid with Arts Dollars funds. Arts Dollars funds may not fund projects executed by Quad City Arts. This expense may be covered by matching funds and must be described in project budget.
4. The Hubbell-Waterman Foundation (HWF) provides funding to both The Cultural Trust (TCT) and certain of its legacy partners. An organization that receives funding from TCT (including a TCT legacy partner) is NOT disqualified from receiving Arts Dollars unless the organization is also a recipient of a grant from HWF in 2026. An organization receiving an Adler Theatre Fund grant in 2026 is not eligible to receive Arts Dollars funds in 2026 for the same program (e.g., a performance in the Adler Theater).
5. Grantees will be ineligible for Arts Dollars support for one year if they fail to meet any requirements listed in their grant agreement, including failure to file a final report.
6. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed. Extraneous and excessive materials may not be reviewed, at the discretion of the review panel.
7. Funds will be awarded based on scores received from a community review panel, subject to approval from the Quad City Arts Board of Directors. All eligible applications will be evaluated and rated according to the following criteria:

50% Artistic Merit; 25% Community Involvement; 15% Administrative Ability and 10% organizational budget (see rubric for details) as well as community review panel input.

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### **Application Form**

The application form available online at [www.quadcityarts.com](http://www.quadcityarts.com) will require the following information:

*Please Note: Applications should be prepared before beginning the online form, as you cannot save and return to your work, nor edit after submission. For assistance with the online form, contact Ben Gougeon at [bgougeon@quadcityarts.com](mailto:bgougeon@quadcityarts.com) or (309) 793-1213.*

1. Applicant Information: District(s), Organization(s), and/or School Name(s) (if applicable), Contact Person, Contact Info (legislative districts for IL applicants)
2. Project Information: Title, Amount Requested, Project Synopsis, Applicant Type, Arts Discipline(s)
3. Personnel: List of artists, administrators, and/or arts groups who will be directly involved in the project
4. Participants: number of artists, youth, volunteers involved; number of artists being paid; total number of participants; description of underserved population (if applicable); participant demographics

### **Attachments**

The following will be uploaded to the online form. No single file size may exceed 10MB; no application may include more than 20MB total attachments. PDF format is preferred, and links to media are acceptable.

**DESCRIPTION** – In one page or less, answer the following questions:

1. Describe the goal of your project, your project's participants, and what will actually occur. If this is not a new project, briefly describe the project's history (number of years, changes over time, etc.)
2. How do you plan to promote your project? (to participants, students, parents, and/or the public as applicable)
3. List all major personnel (paid, in-kind, and volunteer artists and staff) and describe their role in the project.
4. List the dates for key project activities (at minimum, dates of events and/or project completion).
5. What is your mission statement? How does the project fit your mission? (Not applicable to individual artists.)
6. If the project budget exceeds the stated limit, describe the sources and expected arrival dates of additional funding.

**PROJECT BUDGET** – Complete the form available on [www.quadcityarts.com](http://www.quadcityarts.com).

**RESUMES** – Include only major personnel, no more than five resumes; or include artist statement or abbreviated bios of key staff as appropriate.

**PARTNER LETTER OF SUPPORT** – If organization has been in existence for less than 1 calendar year, include a letter of support from the President or Chair of your organization's Board of Directors, affirming their support of the organization. If your project involves another organization, we request a brief letter of support from that organization affirming their intent to partner with you.

**NON-PROFIT STATUS** – One-page documentation of non-profit status. IRS letter is preferred, if applicable.

**WORK SAMPLES** – Submit one or more of the following as appropriate and describe the work sample(s).

- Visual artists – 5-8 images with title, media, dimensions, and date (include all information in one pdf if possible)

- Performing artists – 1-3 minutes of video or audio with title and date
- Literary artists – one short story, one essay, OR three poems (no more than ten pages, standard formatting)
- Arts educators – student work in one of the forms listed above is acceptable/preferred
- ONLY if no artistic documentation is available / relevant – submit two letters of recommendation

### **Final Report**

All Arts Dollars grant recipients are required to complete a final report online within 30 days after the conclusion of the project and no later than January 31, 2027. All final reports must be submitted before any further funding will be distributed. The final report will include:

- description of the project as it actually occurred, specifically noting any deviations from the project as presented in the application
- financial report
- documentation of the project
- documentation of acknowledgement of Arts Dollars support
- testimonial or impact story to be included in Quad City Arts promotional materials