



CITY OF BLOOMINGTON 2025 Blooming Arts Partnerships GRANT FUNDING Request for Proposals

In accordance with the following goals, the City of Bloomington is offering cultural arts funding grants, titled “Blooming Arts Partnerships,” to support general operating expenses for non-profit organizations, groups, community arts education programs, and artists with a primarily Bloomington-based impact in 2025:

GOALS

- Provide cultural arts opportunities for Bloomington residents.
- Bring cultural arts activities to people who may not otherwise have access to the arts.
- Make cultural arts opportunities more accessible, equitable and inclusive for all.
- Make Bloomington a more desirable place to live and work by encouraging a thriving, vital cultural arts community.
- Use City funding to leverage additional donations from individuals, businesses, and charitable organizations.
- Facilitate high-quality, cost-effective community arts programming
- Encourage development and expansion of the cultural arts in the community by using City funding to stimulate and promote additional activity.
- Promote cultural arts activities at the Bloomington Center or the Arts, in the parks and throughout the community.
- Promote collaboration among various arts and cultural groups and other community entities to the mutual benefit of the arts community and the City so that all residents will have an opportunity to be fully engaged in Bloomington’s cultural arts community.
- Provide opportunities for cultural arts groups and organizations to expand to new audiences, increase programs and improve their community reach.
- Provide general operating support to high quality, established cultural arts groups and organizations that produce, present, or exhibit works of art; to groups and organizations that provide a broad range of services to artists and art appreciators; and to organizations that make enriching, engaging, educational and entertaining cultural arts opportunities available to people of all ages, abilities and interests in the Bloomington community.

ELIGIBILITY

Who is eligible to apply for “Blooming Arts Partnerships” (BAP) support funding from the City of Bloomington?

- Organizations, groups, and artists whose primary mission is to produce or present performing arts (which include dance, theatre, opera, spoken word, puppetry, music, and other types of performance) or visual arts. Performances and presentations with Bloomington-based impact are preferred.
- Informal and/or unincorporated Cultural Arts Groups whose primary mission is to produce or present a performing or visual arts activity. These groups must use a fiscal sponsor, with the sponsorship agreement formalized prior to receipt of BAP funds if awarded.
- Organizations, groups, and artists whose mission may include the offering of Community Arts Education programming with Bloomington-based impact.
- Cultural Arts groups and organizations that host most of their cultural arts activity in Bloomington.

INELIGIBILITY

Who is not eligible to receive “Blooming Arts Partnerships” funding from the City of Bloomington?

- Resident Arts Organizations of the City of Bloomington. Beginning 2024, the City offers a parallel grant process for Resident groups.
- For-profit organizations using a non-profit fiscal sponsor.
- Educational institutions seeking funding for projects that take place as part of general education activities. This includes public, private, alternative, charter, and home schools.
- Content that promotes, fosters, or perpetrates discrimination on the basis of race, creed, color, age, religion, gender, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, national origin, physical or mental disability or sexual orientation.
- Use of grant awards to cover costs related to fundraising events.
- Use of grant awards for activities outside of Minnesota. Use of grant awards within the City of Bloomington will be strongly prioritized.
- Incomplete and/or inaccurate application materials.
- Previous year recipients with overdue or missing final reports.

REVIEW PROCESS

- Applications will be evaluated by a review panel that includes:
 - City Council Representative
 - Creative Placemaking Representative
 - Parks, Arts, and Recreation Commission Representative
 - One (1) Additional City Staff
 - Two (2) Bloomington-Based Artists
 - Center for the Arts Manager (non-voting)
- Independent from panel review, fiscal data from all applications will be evaluated by City of Bloomington Finance department for accuracy, completeness, and overall eligibility. If an application is determined ineligible by Finance, the application will not continue forward and the applicant will be contacted.
- Review panel will make funding recommendations to the Parks, Arts, and Recreation Commission and City Council. Final awards will be determined by City Council.
- Review panel reserves the right to recommend awards of any fiscal amount, up to the maximum request per applicant.
- Award recommendations may be appealed by applicants solely on alleged procedural errors. There is no right of appeal based on the size of the grant awarded or on disagreements with the review panel’s assessment of the application. Applicants must request an appeal in writing within thirty (30) days of notification of Council decision.
- All funded applicants will be required to submit a final report in spring of the following calendar year.

IMPORTANT DATES

March 23, 2025:	2024 Arts Grant Recipient Report deadline (by 11:59pm)
April 22, 2025:	Application deadline (by 11:59pm)
April 23 – May 7, 2025:	Review of eligible applications, Panel recommendations
May 14, 2025:	Award recommendations considered by Parks, Arts and Recreation Commission (PARC)
June 2, 2025:	Award recommendations considered by City Council
June 2025:	Awards distributed to 2025 grant recipients

HOW TO APPLY FOR FUNDS

Complete the following application materials in digital format (typed, not handwritten). Email PDF copies of the application and all attachments to centerforthearts@bloomingtonmn.gov and ibrekke@bloomingtonmn.gov. If you do not receive a reply with confirmation of receipt within 5 business days, please re-send or contact Parks & Recreation at 952-563-8877.

Your application must include ALL required materials. Incomplete or inaccurate application materials will not be eligible for funding consideration.

Applications must be received by 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, April 22, 2025. There are no exceptions to this policy.

If you have questions, contact:

IAN BREKKE – MANAGER, CENTER FOR THE ARTS

City of Bloomington, Minnesota

Pronouns: He/Him/His

OFFICE PH: 952-563-8881

EMAIL: centerforthearts@bloomingtonmn.gov

ibrekke@bloomingtonmn.gov



CITY OF BLOOMINGTON 2025 Blooming Arts Partnerships GRANT FUNDING Application

Please submit one (1) copy of the application and requested materials on or before 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, April 22, 2025. Incomplete, inaccurate, or late applications will not be considered.

INSTRUCTIONS

Prepare the following fillable PDF application, required attachments, and optional template if using. General instructions:

- Application materials must be submitted in PDF. If you require technical assistance, please contact the Manager at Center for the Arts
- 12-point standard business/document fonts only
- 8 ½" x 11" page size
- Margins of ¾" or more
- Legibility, clarity and completeness are required and considered during review
- Elaborate formatting is strongly discouraged

GENERAL INFORMATION

Applicant/Organization Name:

Address:

City, State, Zip:

Organization Phone:

Website:

Contact Person:

(The contact person should be available to answer questions about this application.)

Primary/Preferred Contact Phone:

Primary/Preferred Contact Email:

Annual Operating Budget: *(From your most recently completed fiscal year)*

Amount of Request:

(Maximum requests may be up to 30% of your previous fiscal year expenses, or \$10,000, whichever is less.)

Total number of performances, programs, or activities from your most recently completed fiscal year:

Total number of performances, programs, or activities from your most recently completed fiscal year
happening in the City of Bloomington: *(within Bloomington zip codes)*

BLOOMING ARTS PARTNERSHIPS GRANT NARRATIVE

Check One:

- I have filled out the grant narrative within this PDF
- I have filled out the grant narrative via the optional MS Word template, to be attached in final submission

OVERVIEW

1. Briefly summarize the mission, goals, and broad structure of your organization, group, or as an individual artist.

2025-2026 PROGRAMMING

2. Describe your intended programs and activities for July 2025 - June 2026. Specifically, describe how City of Bloomington grant funding may be applied effectively if awarded.

3. Who are the primary participants of your intended programs and activities for July 2025 - June 2026?

4. Who are the primary beneficiaries of your intended programs and activities for July 2025 - June 2026?

ORGANIZATION COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

5. The City of Bloomington is committed to ensuring equitable access to programs and services by implementing intentional strategies to engage communities most affected by racial inequities and injustice. Please highlight: How is your applicant/organization working towards racial equity in Bloomington through cultural arts opportunities? Who are you working with and how are you demonstrating these efforts? Provide evidence (not aims or assertions) of active and authentic engagement with diverse, historically marginalized, and under-represented populations.

ORGANIZATION EVALUATION PROCEDURES

6. What forms of evaluation and measurement (surveys, focus groups, social media feedback, online metrics, participation numbers, ticket sales, etc.) do you use to capture feedback and measure your success? Please describe both subjective and objective measures.

7. How will you use your evaluation results to guide your future activities and initiatives?

ATTACHMENTS

Provide the following documents with your application narrative:

- Group or Organizational Budget:** Complete the supplemental form. This should show your organization's current board approved budget.
- DEI Statistics Form:** Complete the supplemental form.
- Fiscal Year Financial Statements:** Copy of your organization's most recent fiscal year financial statements, preferably audited, showing actual expenses including a balance sheet and statement of activities (income and expenses). Fiscal statements must align with Organizational Budget form, as reviewed and approved by City of Bloomington Finance department.
- Most recent IRS form or 990 Form:** Copy of your organization's most recent IRS form or 990 form.

IF GRANT FUNDING IS AWARDED

Provide the additional following documents:

- Copy of letter from IRS documenting your organization's tax-exempt status ***
- Certificate of liability insurance**.** The City of Bloomington must be named as additional Insured as it relates to the Commercial General Liability policy. Evidencing the following coverages:
 - i. Commercial General Liability in the amount of \$1,500,000
 - ii. Worker's Compensation, as required by law
 - iii. Auto Liability, as required by law
 - iv. Property insurance

* Informal and/or unincorporated groups are also eligible to apply. These groups must use a fiscal sponsor and are required to submit a copy of their formalized sponsorship agreement in lieu of IRS form 990 and IRS documentation of tax-exempt status, if they are chosen to receive grant funds, and before they receive any payment, if they are chosen to receive funds.

**Applicants do not have to show proof of insurance at the time of application submission. However, applicants DO NEED to provide proof of insurance prior to receiving a Cultural Arts Support grant. In some situations, the City may be able to assist applicants in obtaining insurance for one-time events located on City property.

(For example TULIP coverage): <https://www.lmc.org/insurance-trust/coverages/tenant-user-liability-insurance-program/>. Applicants interested in this option should note it in their application. Such coverage is based on eligibility and is not guaranteed to those selected to receive a Cultural Arts Support grant.

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, all information contained in this application is correct and complete and that, if approved, programs/services will be conducted according to the application. The application agency has authorized me, as its representative, to give these assurances and to file this application.

Authorized Signature:

Date:

Please Print Name: