

The Nebraska Arts Council awards grants to Nebraska nonprofit organizations, schools, religious organizations and divisions of government. This document includes links to each NAC grant category on our website. Also provided is basic information about eligibility & funding priorities, and a glossary of terms. This information is provided as a reference for you to use as you prepare your Nebraska Arts Council (NAC) grant application.

- [Eligibility & Funding Policies](#)
- [Underserved Communities Engagement Funds \(UCE\)](#)
- [Glossary](#)

Click on the grant category below to view its corresponding web page and access guidelines including program description, deadlines and review criteria, as well as summary information about the specific narrative questions, budget requirements and required materials for each grant category.

Grant applications for the following categories may only be submitted via the [NAC's eGrant system](#).

- [ANNUAL SERIES & EVENTS GRANTS \(ASE\)](#)
- [ARTISTS IN SCHOOLS/COMMUNITIES RESIDENCY GRANTS \(AISC\)](#)
- [ARTS LEARNING PROJECT GRANTS \(ALG\)](#)
- [ARTS PROJECT GRANTS \(APG\)](#)
- [BASIC SUPPORT GRANTS \(BSG\)](#)
- [MINI GRANTS](#)
- [NEBRASKA TOURING PROGRAM SPONSOR GRANTS \(NTP\)](#)
- [STATEWIDE ARTS EDUCATION INITIATIVES \(SWAEI\)](#)

Applications for the following special grant categories are not completed via the [NAC's eGrant system](#). For info about how to apply in these grant categories, please follow the links below to the NAC website or contact the NAC grants office at nac.grants@nebraska.gov.

- [INDIVIDUAL ARTIST FELLOWSHIP AWARDS \(IAF\)](#)
- [SCHOOL BUS ARTS GRANTS \(SBA\)](#)
- [SIGNERS FOR THE ARTS \(SFA\)](#)



ELIGIBILITY

Nebraska organizations may apply for NAC funding if they:

- are incorporated as a nonprofit organization, and are physically located in the State of Nebraska, with articles of incorporation on file and current in the Nebraska [Secretary of State's office](#); OR they are a subdivision of government, school, or religious organization with appropriate legal status
- have a [Federal Employer Identification Number \(FEIN\)](#)
- have received federal tax-exempt status. Organizations must provide proof of this status, most commonly a copy of the [501\(c\)\(3\) status letter from the IRS](#). Religious organizations, schools, and divisions of government must submit a copy of the sales tax exemption certificate from the State Department of Revenue in addition to a copy of the letter assigning a FEIN.

Unsure about the nonprofit status of your organization?

The [Guidestar website](#) provides a listing of nonprofit organizations that file Form 990s with the IRS. If your nonprofit organization does not have a budget larger than \$25,000, and you have not filed a Form 990, then your organization will not be listed on Guidestar. For confirmation that your nonprofit organization is incorporated in the State of Nebraska, visit the [Secretary of State's website](#).

For more information on eligibility requirements, contact our Grants office at nac.grants@nebraska.gov.

NAC FUNDING PRIORITIES

NAC funding priorities are listed here in no particular order. Each grant category has additional criteria for funding.

- Arts projects or programs of the highest artistic excellence and artistic merit.
- Arts projects or programs which reflect creativity and innovation.
- Arts projects or programs that provide opportunities for artists and arts organizations.
- Arts projects or programs which show cultural and generational diversity in programming.
- Arts projects or programs which foster access to the arts for underserved communities.
- Arts projects or programs which promote the arts through partnerships, collaborations, and/or cooperative ventures.
- New work of the highest quality.
- Costs of program accommodations for persons with disabilities.
- Fairs and festivals using the arts and cultural activities.
- Professional development and strategic planning for board and staff members of arts organizations.

What the NAC Does Not Fund

NAC grant recipients may not use NAC funds to pay for:

- Artistic fees paid to students, student performers or instructors.
- Arts projects that exclude the public.
- Capital improvements, new construction, or restoration.
- College or university-sponsored projects that exclude non-students.
- Events or projects that already have taken place.
- Food, beverages, and mileage not related to out-of-town travel.
- General operating expenses for non-arts organizations.
- Permanent supplies and equipment.
- Political activities.
- Prizes, awards, or scholarships.
- Projects already receiving NAC funding.
- Projects which are suitable for local support, such as mascots or memorials to a local individual or school productions.
- Projects which offer only academic credit for students.
- Reduction of existing deficits.

**Policy on NAC funding for projects taking place outside Nebraska**

All NAC funds are allocated to benefit the citizens of Nebraska. If an applicant organization wishes to use NAC funds for projects or to attend events that take place outside of the geographical boundaries of the state, the following must be in evidence:

- An explanation why the project, performance or exhibition is not using a venue located in Nebraska.
- Evidence that the majority or significant number of targeted participants and audience members are Nebraskans.
- A clear description as to how Nebraskans will access the event, such as transportation, marketing efforts and other forms of outreach.
- Clear evidence of impact on Nebraskans as a result of participation in the event or project.

Policy on funding for humanities-based programming

This section is an attempt to clarify distinctions as well as commonalities between arts and humanities projects. [Humanities Nebraska](#) is a separate nonprofit organization, and often the question arises as to which agency should provide support. On occasion, the Nebraska Arts Council (NAC) receives grant applications for projects that include presentation of humanities-related content; however organizations may receive funding for projects from both agencies.

Based on published funding criteria, the NAC does not fund humanities projects unless they include distinct arts activities. The NAC defines arts projects as activities that include but are not limited to architecture, dance, media arts, music, theatre, and visual arts. NAC funded projects involve education, participation and presentation of the art form as opposed to solely academic or scholarly pursuit of artistic subject matter. The humanities are academic disciplines that study the human condition, using methods that are primarily analytical, critical, or speculative. The humanities include literature, history, philosophy, religion, and visual and performing arts. Humanities also include social sciences, anthropology, law, and linguistics.

Clearly, there is overlap between arts and humanities. Sometimes a single project will qualify for both arts and humanities funding. For example, in the literary arts the NAC often funds projects that include creative writing activities (in either fiction or non-fiction) and presentations by living writers. Symposiums and publications on historical authors that are scholarly in nature are generally more suitable for humanities funding.

Many times, a single project, such as a literary festival, will include multiple components including both living writers and the study of the works by historical authors. In this instance, the portions that focus on living writers or on the creative writing process are eligible for NAC support.

Similarly, projects involving art history can be considered both an arts and a humanities project. Most successful applications to the NAC that include art history and criticism also include opportunities for participants to view original works of art presented in a museum or art gallery, which is an active and interpretive experience. Projects that primarily consist of lectures, publications, academic study and preservation of art are more traditionally considered to be humanities.

In many instances, arts projects are based on re-interpretation of historical events and characters, such as films, plays, videos or online media. In this situation, the creative aspects of the project are considered artistic, while research into the historical content and background of the work are considered to be in the realm of the humanities.

In short, projects that involve the creation and presentation of art, regardless of arts discipline, are considered to be arts projects, while those that involve the study, research or academic pursuit of art are more typically considered to be based in the humanities.

Policy on NAC funding for religious organizations and/or projects containing religious content

Faith-based and religious organizations may apply for NAC grant funds so long as the primary purpose of the program is artistic expression. The NAC funded activities must be open to the general public. Nebraska Arts Council funds cannot be used for projects (by an organization, institution or individual) with implicit religious content that may be perceived as advancing a religious purpose. The project cannot be viewed as attempting to convert people to a particular religious viewpoint.



Arts organization

An organization (local arts agency, art museum, orchestra or other music group, dance or theater company, film or literary society, arts center, etc.) which dedicates 51 percent or more of its budget to producing or sponsoring arts events or to providing arts services.

Authorizing Official

A person who has legal fiscal responsibility for an organization, such as an Executive Director, Board President, Superintendent or similar official.

Balanced budget

Applications for NAC funds must project a balanced budget, indicating no deficits or profits. Final report budgets must be balanced or may reflect a modest profit.

Block booking

For NAC purposes, three consecutive performances or exhibits by the same artist booked within a short period of time, and usually within a limited geographic area. Block-booked events usually have a lower fee due to lower travel costs for artists. Sponsors can work cooperatively to block-book.

Collaborating organizations

Organizations which contribute to planning and/or implementing a project. Does not include groups invited to attend or participate.

Community arts councils

Organizations that provide a variety of arts programs and services to their community.

Contact person

The project director or another person whom NAC staff can call with any questions or concerns about a grant application.

Discipline-based organizations

Organizations with a primary mission to produce or present performances in a specific discipline; or art museums or galleries which either house permanent exhibitions or present traveling exhibitions.

Employee

For NAC purposes, someone hired by an organization on an ongoing basis and paid regularly. This also includes volunteer board members, committee members, and advisory groups who donate necessary administrative or technical services for the project.

- Independent contractors are not employees and should not be included in the Employee section of budgets.
- Administrative employees: Those who will administer the grant such as the project director, secretarial personnel, etc.
- Artistic/curatorial employees: Performers, designers, art/music directors, composers, conductors, dancers, curators, etc. associated with the project.
- Technical/production employees: Onstage, facility, and box office personnel associated with the project.

Independent contractors

Individuals or organizations hired on a project-by-project basis and responsible for filing their own quarterly taxes. Organizations must complete an IRS Form 1099 to report payments to independent contractors.

Local arts agency

A community organization or an agency of local government with a primary purpose to provide financial support, programs, or services for a variety of arts organizations and/or individual artists and the community as a whole.

Matching requirements

Applicants in the Basic Support Grant, Mini Grant, or Project categories can request a grant to cover up to 50 percent of the total project expenses; maximum requests vary according to category. An organization must have enough cash to match all of the dollars requested from the NAC.

- Not eligible for match: Funds from one NAC grant (such as NAC Basic Support Grant funds) or from Mid-America Arts Alliance (M-AAA) grants may not be used to match other NAC grants.
- Organizations that receive M-AAA funds for a project may also apply to the NAC for support. However, M-AAA funds cannot be included as part of the cash match for the NAC grant award.

Nebraska residency

All Artist Fellowship applicants must have at least 2 years of established Nebraska residency, and have an affidavit of residency on file at the NAC. Individual artists applying to the Nebraska Touring and Exhibits Program must reside in Nebraska. Ensembles must maintain administrative offices in Nebraska.

Non-arts organization

Organizations (schools, service clubs, chambers of commerce, fair boards, colleges and universities, etc.) with a primary purpose other than the production or sponsorship of arts events. Non-arts organizations are eligible to apply in all grants categories, except BSG.

Presenting organization

An organization that contracts, markets, and accepts the financial risks for an arts presentation that is not self-produced.

Producing organization

An organization that initiates, designs, develops, and accepts the financial risks for producing an arts presentation.

Underserved community

The National Endowment for the Arts defines an underserved community as one whose residents often lack access to arts programs due to geographic isolation and/or have limited access to arts resources and programs due to economics, ethnic background, disability, or age.