

Advance Albany County Alliance (AACA)

Arts and Culture Grant Program Charter

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of the AACA Arts and Culture Grant Program is to support the AACA mission of increasing economic development/activity within Albany County by fostering the development of arts and cultural initiatives that enhance community engagement, promote cultural diversity, and stimulate economic growth. It has been repeatedly proven that one of the major pillars which support a region's economic development is having an active and healthy cultural/artistic environment. This Grant Program aims to provide financial assistance to artists, cultural organizations, and community groups to implement projects which have a significant impact on the sustaining and adding to Albany County's cultural landscape.

1.2 Vision

ACCA's vision is to support economic development in Albany County by creating a vibrant and inclusive cultural environment where arts and culture thrive, reflecting the diversity and richness of our community.

2. Program Objectives

1. Support Artistic Excellence: Encourage and support high-quality artistic endeavors across all disciplines.
2. Promote Cultural Diversity: Foster projects that celebrate and reflect the diversity of our community.
3. Enhance Community Engagement: Support initiatives that engage the community and make arts and culture accessible to all.
4. Stimulate Economic Growth: Promote projects that contribute to the economic vitality of the community through arts and culture.

3.1 Eligible Applicants

1. Individual artists and creators.
2. Nonprofit cultural organizations.
3. Community groups and collectives.
4. Educational institutions with a focus on arts and culture.

3.2 Eligible Projects

1. Public art installations.

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2. Cultural festivals and events.
3. Educational workshops and programs.
4. Artist residencies and fellowships.
5. Preservation and promotion of cultural heritage.

4.1 Funding Amounts

Grants will be awarded by ACCA in varying amounts based on the scope and impact of the project. Typical grant amounts may range from \$50,000 to \$500,000.

4.2 Use of Funds

Grant funds may be used for project-related expenses, including but not limited to:

1. Artist fees and stipends.
2. Materials and supplies.
3. Marketing and promotional costs.
4. Venue rental and equipment.
5. Administrative expenses directly related to the project.

5.1 Application Submission

Applications must be submitted through our online portal by the specified deadline. The application should include:

1. Project proposal outlining objectives, activities, and expected outcomes.
2. Detailed budget.
3. Timeline of activities.
4. Letters of support or collaboration, if applicable.
5. Portfolio or examples of previous work.

5.2 Review Process

1. Initial Screening: Applications will be screened for completeness and eligibility by ACCA.
2. Evaluation: AACCA will evaluate applications based on criteria such as artistic merit, community impact, feasibility, and alignment with program objectives. AACCA will use a panel of individuals experienced in the art/cultural community ("Advisory Council") to assist AACCA with its evaluation of the applications and to provide AACCA with scoring recommendations as to such grant applications.
3. Decision: Grant recipients will normally be notified within 8-12 weeks of the application deadline.

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6.1 Project Evaluation

Grant recipients are required to submit a mid-term and final report detailing the progress and outcomes of the project. Reports should include:

1. A summary of activities and achievements.
2. A financial report detailing the use of funds (to include proof of fund expenditure, receipts, etc. as determined by AACCA)
3. Documentation of the project (photos, videos, testimonials).
4. Evaluation of the impact on the community and lessons learned.
5. Other documentation as determined by AACCA

6.2 Impact Assessment

An annual review of the Grant Program will be conducted to assess its overall impact on the arts and cultural landscape and its effect on economic activities, including feedback from grant recipients and community stakeholders.

7.1 Program Oversight

The Culture and Arts Grant Program will be administered by the AACCA and funding determinations will be made by AACCA's Board of Directors. The AACCA Board will appoint an Advisory Council to advise the Board. The Advisory Council will include representatives from the arts community, cultural organizations, and funding partners.

7.2 Advisory Council will provide input to AACCA on:

1. External fundraising
2. Program guidelines
3. Grant applications
4. Monitoring funded projects
5. Compliance with grant terms.
6. Recommendations for program improvement.

8.1 Program Promotion

The grant program will be promoted through various channels, including social media, community newsletters, and partnerships with local arts organizations.

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8.2 Information Sessions

Regular information sessions will be held to guide potential applicants through the application process and provide tips for successful proposals.

9. Conclusion

The AACA Arts and Culture Grant Program is dedicated to enriching the community through the support of diverse and impactful arts and cultural projects. By providing financial assistance and resources, we aim to empower artists and cultural organizations to bring their visions to life and make a lasting difference in our community.