



Southwest Minnesota Arts Council

www.swmnarts.org • 507-537-1471 • info@swmnarts.org

Serving Big Stone, Chippewa, Cottonwood, Jackson, Kandiyohi, Lac qui Parle, Lincoln, Lyon, McLeod, Meeker, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, Redwood, Renville, Rock, Swift & Yellow Medicine counties

ARTS ORGANIZATION START-UP GRANTS

Fiscal Year 2019 Guidelines

Effective July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019

The grants described in this guide are dependent on appropriations to the SW MN Arts Council from the Minnesota State Legislature and the State's arts & cultural heritage fund.

Deadlines: submitted online by 4:30 pm

This program is a first-come, first-served monthly deadline until all funds have been expended. Application deadlines are the **1st of the month, August 2018 – November 2018 and January 2019 - April 2019.**

Board Action: August 28, 2018; September 25, 2018; October 23, 2018; November 27, 2018; January 22, 2019; February 26, 2019; March 26, 2019; April 23, 2019

Earliest project start dates for FY2018: **1st day of the following month after board action** (Example: If you apply by September 1, the board action occurs on September 25, and the earliest start date is October 1.)

The start date for a SMAC grant is defined as the point at which the project is set in motion (e.g. rehearsals, advertising and public notification, payment of fees, ordering and/or paying for supplies or printed material, etc.). **No funds can be expended prior to the project start date.** Funds spent before the project start date, such as a deposit on a contract, cannot be included in the grant project budget.

Program Intent & Eligibility

The intent of the Arts Organization Start-Up grant program is to provide funding for arts organizations – organizations whose mission is focused primarily on the arts – in the SW MN Arts Council (SMAC) region to develop articles of incorporation, by-laws, and apply for their 501(c)(3) nonprofit status. Arts organizations must have completed at least two years of programming at the time of application. Limit one grant per organization.

(The eighteen counties of the SMAC service region include: Big Stone, Chippewa, Cottonwood, Jackson, Kandiyohi, Lac qui Parle, Lincoln, Lyon, McLeod, Meeker, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, Redwood, Renville, Rock, Swift, and Yellow Medicine.)

In addition to the restrictions listed in SMAC's general grant guidelines, following projects are NOT eligible for Arts Organization Start-Up grants:

- Proposals for staff salaries or contracted staff.

Before beginning an application, you are strongly encouraged to contact SW MN Arts Council to determine if this grant program is appropriate for your project.

Grant Amounts

Arts Organization Start-Up grants are available for up to **\$2,000** with NO cash match requirement.

Fiscal Sponsors

Applicants for Arts Organization Start-Up grants must have a fiscal sponsor that is a nonprofit organization as described in Section 501 (c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code with Articles of Incorporation on file with the State of Minnesota or an official unit of a city, county, or state government of the State of Minnesota.

A signed agreement spelling out the relationship between the applicant and the fiscal sponsor must be submitted with the application. A fiscal sponsor, if used, must sign the application and, if funded, sign the Grant Contract. The fiscal sponsor is legally responsible for the completion of the project and for the proper management of grant funds.

Review Criteria

The grant review panel will score your application based on:

- the merit of the organization and the artistic quality of its programs
- the impact of the project on your organization
- the feasibility of the project
- the outcome evaluation plan for the project

The panel's evaluation scoresheet is available on the SMAC website. Read more about the grant review process in the SMAC's general grant guidelines.