

2016-17 Mini-Grant & Arts Learning Mini-Grant Guidelines



To encourage the incubation of ideas and creativity, Mini-Grants provide funding for cultural events by small, multicultural and grassroots groups, as well as organizations not specifically served by other, existing United Arts grant programs. Arts Learning Mini-Grants expand opportunities for arts education to the wider community, supporting art for all ages. Funds for these grants are raised through the United Arts campaign (Arts for All Fund).

Apply Online By	5 pm Aug 1	5 pm Feb 1	5 pm May 1
Notified By / Projects Can Begin	Sept 1	March 1	June 1
Projects Must End By	One year after project start date		
Final Report Due	30 days after project completion, for final 25% of funding		

Organization Eligibility: The organization must have been in existence for one year, providing cultural programming (defined as production, presentation or instruction of performing, visual, literary or media arts, the sciences, or history and heritage), AND must be **ONE** of the following:

- Nonprofit 501(c)3 organization, with arts/cultural primary mission, of \$25K budget or less;
- Nonprofit 501(c)3 organization, with arts/cultural primary mission, with 1-2 years operations completed (any budget size);
- Nonprofit 501(c)3 organization, with arts/cultural primary mission, producing only one event per year (any budget size);
- Local arts agency, producing a cultural program, of any budget size;
- Non-arts nonprofit 501(c)3 organization (mission is not arts/culture), producing a cultural program; Non-local nonprofit 501(c)3 organization (outside Lake, Orange, Osceola, or Seminole counties), for a cultural program that is located in Lake, Orange, Osceola, or Seminole counties;
- Organizations that have applied for the 501(c) 3 designation can have a fiscal sponsor (an organization with a 501(c) 3 designation) apply on their behalf. Funds will be awarded to the fiscal sponsor, who will be fiscally responsible on behalf of the sponsored organization. The producing organization must be demonstrably separate from the fiscal sponsor (decision-making, financial), not a program of the fiscal sponsor; Organizations that would normally be eligible for Operating Support Grants, but would prefer to apply through the simpler Mini-Grants process instead, may contact the grants staff for consideration;
- Organizations with an open Operating Support Grant can ONLY apply for a mini-grant under the Arts Learning category. See *Project Eligibility (Arts Learning Mini-Grants)* section below.

Organizations are NOT eligible if they are:

- A public or private entity governed by a county, municipality, school district, community college, college, university, or an agency of state government;
- Media companies (TV/radio/print);
- Faith-based organizations, except for a non-faith-based program open to any segment of the population;
- Fraternal or sports organizations;
- Political causes, candidates, organizations, or campaigns; or
- Organizations that are adjuncts to for-profit organizations. ("Friends of" organizations are eligible to apply only in lieu of the parent nonprofit organization.)

In all cases, final eligibility decisions are made by United Arts staff. (United Arts will verify current 501(c) 3 status at www.irs.gov and current good standing with the state of Florida Division of Corporations at www.sunbiz.org.) Also:

- Each organization is limited to one Mini-Grant application in each category per deadline, and one funded Mini-Grant in each category per July-June period. An organization may receive funding for more than one year, but a

new application must be submitted each year. Approval of one year of funding carries with it no assurance of continued funding in subsequent years.

- If funded, applicant becomes ineligible for other grants from United Arts for the same July-June period (exception for Operating Support Grantees submitting Arts Learning Mini-Grant application), and cannot receive another mini-grant until the current mini-grant is completed (final report approved). Applicants that have received funding through other United Arts grants programs for this fiscal year are not eligible for this program other than Arts Learning Mini-Grants, but can act as a fiscal sponsor. Applicants must be in good standing with any prior grant reporting, if applicable.

Project Eligibility (Mini-Grants): The proposed project must involve the arts, sciences, or humanities, such as the fine arts of a culture; must occur in Lake, Orange, Osceola or Seminole counties; and must be open to the public. Multiple projects can be included in one application, but separate budget forms are required for each project. Projects can be submitted as a regular mini-grant or as an Arts Learning mini-grant; see *Project Eligibility (Arts Learning Mini-Grants)* section below.

This grant cannot fund:

- Capital expenditures (including acquisitions or equipment), or any building, renovation or remodeling of facilities;
- Deficit reduction, bad debts, contingencies, fines and penalties, interest payments, litigation costs, or any other comparable financial costs;
- Contributions to cash reserves and/or endowment funds;
- Lobbying or attempting to influence federal, state, or local legislation;
- Fundraising events, activities, and related expenses (e.g., benefits, dinners, sporting events, etc.);
- Awards, prizes, or scholarships for use outside the applicant's programming;
- Tuition for academic study;
- Projects produced by K-12 students (priority is on professional artists and arts organizations engaging the public);
- Projects produced by social service organization program staff without artistic credentials (social service organizations are strongly encouraged to partner with professional artists and arts organizations);
- Food or beverage for hospitality or entertainment functions;
- Regranting, contributions, or donations;
- Projects benefiting for-profit organizations;
- Private events closed to the general public and activities restricted to an organization's membership (including school competitions, recitals and graduations – professional competitions are eligible if applications and events are open to the public);
- Staff travel outside of Lake, Orange, Osceola or Seminole counties;
- Projects in the following areas: acrobatics, aerobic dance, beauty pageants, clowning, comedy, cosmetology, face painting, fashion shows, karaoke, juggling, magic shows, martial arts, mineralogy, gemology, modeling, nature presentations, quiz bowls or travel presentations;
- Projects of a religious nature designed to promote or inhibit religious belief and/or practice and that have no basic underlying secular theme or topics; or
- Festival costs not related to the fine arts including commercial artists/musicians, DJs, food/beverages, business expos, social service projects, etc. Children's performances or exhibits are not eligible elements of the festival for grant funding; grant-funded presentations must be by professional artists and performers.

All ineligible items must be removed from the application budget when calculating match.

Project Eligibility (Arts Learning Mini-Grants): Arts Learning Mini-Grants must follow the above requirements and exclusions, plus must be:

- Arts participatory learning (must be creating in the art form) for nontraditional or underserved audiences (not just K-12!) *Projects that work with non-K-12 age groups (seniors, toddlers, adults, etc.) will be prioritized, to reach areas of the community that are not served by current arts education programs.*
- Outreach – not in a school environment; outside of the organization’s regular programming and serves a new constituency. Partnerships with social service organizations and underserved neighborhoods are encouraged.
- Located in Orange County (Note: if the *organization* is located out of Orange County, the *project* must be located in Orange County and must have been provided in Orange County for at least one year).
- New programs or expansions of current programs are eligible; the same programs can receive multiple years of grants. In other words, a program must be new/expanding at the time of first application, but that program or expansion can continue to apply for funding in subsequent years. *Must specify # of incremental people served.*
- Mini-Grant recipients can apply for the Arts Learning Mini-Grant, within the same July-June period; however, organizations must have demonstrated the ability to effectively manage previous mini -grant awards. This funding is extremely competitive. First-time grantees are less likely to receive both grants in the same cycle.

Arts Learning Outcomes

Arts Learning projects must include performance measures and data collection. Here are some examples:

Objective	Performance Measures	Data to Provide in Final Report, after project period
<i>Improve the participants’ knowledge of an art form or genre through participatory learning</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of Program participants served • Number of contact hours with participants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of participants • Number of hours participants are engaged in project related activities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of program participants completing program requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of participants who completed the program • Number of participants who exited the program (both successfully and unsuccessfully)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of participants who showed an increase in knowledge of the art form 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of participants increasing knowledge of art form based on pre and post test

Request Amount: A maximum of \$2,500; funds must be matched \$1:\$1 by cash income from other sources. No in-kind match is eligible. Funding is very competitive. Maximum grant award is \$2,500, but average grants will be lower. Any applicant whose project will not be possible with partial funding must notify United Arts. Applicants whose project budget includes ineligible expenses (see above) must remove them when calculating the request amount; contact United Arts for assistance if needed.

Funding Decision Process: Staff initially reviews applications. Staff may contact applicants for additional materials, so please watch email closely. Incomplete applications will be rejected. If the primary contact will be out of town, designate a contact person and notify ChrisAnn@UnitedArts.cc. United Arts usually postpones consideration of funding if the event falls within the next cycle. Grant awards are determined by the Executive Committee of United Arts’ board of directors.

Availability of Funding: The regular mini-grant pool starts in August and is available for the next two cycles (Feb & May) until funding is gone; projects submitted in August have the best chance of funding. The Arts Learning mini-grant pool starts in February and is available for the next two cycles (May & August) until funding is gone; projects submitted in February have the best chance of funding. United Arts will post on the website (www.UnitedArts.cc/grants) if funding has run out for the current cycle.

Grant Payment Schedule: Grantees will sign an online award agreement before receiving grant funds. 75% of funds will be issued once award agreements are in place; the final 25% will be issued after project is complete and final report has been approved. The final report is due 30 days after the project is completed.

Requirements During the Grant Period:

- ❑ **Request Permission for Changes:** Significant project or budget changes must be requested in advance. Changes may or may not reduce the grant amount, requiring a return of grant funds to United Arts. Contact ChrisAnn@UnitedArts.cc with questions or to discuss a potential project change.
- ❑ **Notification:** During the project, grantees must keep ChrisAnn@UnitedArts.cc, Mary@UnitedArts.cc and FloraMaria@UnitedArts.cc on their email list, renew insurance policies when they expire, and notify United Arts of any contact changes or changes in IRS tax-exempt status. United Arts will add grantees to its email list including resources and opportunities.
- ❑ **Publicity:** Organizations are strongly encouraged to post their events on OrlandoAtPlay.com, when the dates and other details have been set. United Arts promotes posted programs through our email newsletter and, if at least two months in advance, the calendar section of *Orlando Arts Magazine*. To add your event, go to www.OrlandoAtPlay.com/page/submit_event/.
- ❑ **Legal & Insurance:** You must comply with the National Endowment for the Arts' stipulations regarding fair labor standards and a drug-free workplace, and maintain insurance coverage. At the time of award acceptance, all grantees are required to provide a Certificate of Insurance, listing United Arts as certificate holder and proving current coverage for the following types and limits of coverage:
 - Commercial General Liability, \$500,000 (event riders are acceptable or insurance held by the venue that covers your organization for the event). United Arts MUST BE listed as additional insured (usually listed in the notes field).
 - Workers' Compensation, as required by law (if the organization employs more than three paid staff)Grantees must submit a new copy of the insurance certificate whenever one of the policies expires. Any organization that believes it cannot meet the coverage requirements throughout the project period may request a reduction or waiver. Any such request shall include an explanation of the need for reduction or waiver, signed by a board representative and accompanied by a quote in writing from a potential insurer.
- ❑ **Inclusion:** Grantees must provide equal access and opportunity in employment and services and may not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, religion, gender, ancestry, national origin, geography, age, varying abilities, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, familial status, citizenship status, or socioeconomic status. United Arts expects that the make-up of the staff, board, audience, volunteers, artists, scientists, historians, etc. involved with grantee organizations be inclusive of the diversity of the community and compatible with the organization's mission.
- ❑ **Acknowledgement:** Grantees must acknowledge the grant in all project publicity and materials (whether printed, online, verbal, or other), with the United Arts logo and statement "(Name of Grantee Organization) is supported by United Arts of Central Florida, home of OrlandoAtPlay.com and UAArtsEd.com."
- ❑ **Recordkeeping:** Grantees must keep information (including description and photos of the project, press or publicity about the project including use of logo or acknowledgement statement, and financial records) for the final report. Also keep records about the grant activities and financials for at least five years after the project is completed; such records must be available for audit by United Arts representatives.
- ❑ **Final Report:** a final report form will be provided in your online account. This report will be due 30 days after the project is complete, to receive the final 25% of funds and maintain eligibility for future funding.

Application Tips

For tech support or other questions: Contact ChrisAnn@UnitedArts.cc or 407.628.0333 x228.

- Go to www.UnitedArts.cc/grants to download the budget form (“save as” to your computer before editing) and start the online application.
- Start early!
 - Read these guidelines thoroughly and take note of any questions.
 - Proofread! Ask others to read your application. You can ask for a *brief* courtesy review by United Arts up to 2 days before the deadline.
 - You can make an appointment to use United Arts computers (extremely limited).
 - Gather the documents (digital only): budget form from United Arts, organization financials (most recent IRS Form 990 or financial statements – balance sheet and income/expense statement), and up to 5 support materials (press, flyer/program, patron surveys, link to max 3 minutes of video, etc.)
- Save often.
- Submit early! Leave extra time at the end in case you have questions or computer trouble. Missing documents or fields will prevent submission of the application. *Contact and project information for all grantees will be made available to the press, and United Arts may use quotes or pictures from applications or reports in publicity.*
- Not ready to submit by the 5:00 pm deadline? You can save it for the next deadline (Aug 1, Feb 1, May 1).
- Don’t stop here!
 - Take advantage of United Arts’ tools for nonprofits including OrlandoAtPlay.com (learn how to participate at www.UnitedArts.cc/grantee-resources).
 - If you have education programs for schools, they may be eligible for Arts and Culture Access grants from United Arts. See www.UAArtsEd.com/page/guidelines.
 - Apply for grants from other funders, including the Florida Division of Cultural Affairs (www.Florida-Arts.org) and Orange County Arts & Cultural Affairs (www.UnitedArts.cc/grants).
 - Let us know what we can do for you as your local arts agency!

