



WASHINGTON COUNTY *Arts Council*

34 South Potomac Street
Hagerstown, Maryland 21740
phone 301-791-3132
www.washingtoncountyarts.com
info@washingtoncountyarts.com

WCAC *We Create Accessible Culture* Grant 2025-2026 Guidelines

Mission of the Washington County Arts Council

The Washington County Arts Council fosters artistic excellence and celebrates diverse expression to build a vibrant, inclusive arts community. Through creativity and connection, we enrich lives and strengthen the cultural fabric of Washington County.

Goals

- Sustain and expand resources for artists and arts organizations in Washington County
- Showcase cultural resources through local arts activity of all disciplines, including visual, performing, literary, media, folk arts, etc.
- Further arts advocacy efforts

WCAC *We Create Accessible Culture* Grant Description

The Washington County Arts Council administers a re-granting program that distributes funds to local organizations and artists to support arts programming and projects that provide direct public benefit to Washington County residents. Funding is made possible through the Maryland State Arts Council's County Arts Development (CAD) Grant Program.

TIMELINE

Deadline for Application: August 15, 2025

Support Period: The grant is to be used solely for the program specified in your FY 2026 application and must be used for activities between July 1, 2025 and June 30, 2026.

Notification Timeline Estimate: October 2025. The grant timeline may change according to application volume, funding changes, constituent needs, staff capacity, or other factors.

Final Report Due: July 31, 2026. Grantees must maintain complete and accurate records of all activities connected with the grant. Final report must include narrative and financials. Failure to report may jeopardize any future grants being received by the organization.

Accessibility

The arts celebrate our state's diversity, connect our shared humanity, and transform individuals and communities. The Washington County Arts Council (WCAC) and its supporting collaborators are committed to advancing and modeling equity, diversity, accessibility, and

inclusion in all aspects of our organizations and across communities of our state. WCAC and its grantees are committed to embracing equity and non-discrimination regardless of race, religious creed, color, age, gender expression, sexual orientation, class, language, and/or ability.

Organizations receiving grants from the Washington County Arts Council

- * Must comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Section 601), which states: *"No person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance."* In the context of this grant, this includes all programs, activities, and services related to the arts supported by grant funds.
- * Must comply with Title IX (Section 1681) of the Education Amendments of 1972, and the Age Discrimination Act (Section 6101) of 1975, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex and age.
- * Must comply with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability. No otherwise qualified individual shall, solely by reason of disability, be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance, including programs and activities related to the arts.

Eligibility:

Designated 501 (c) 3 organizations and artists presenting the arts through public programs or projects that directly benefit county residents are eligible to apply.

This grant does not support:

- Activities not accessible or open to the general public
- Non-arts programming or projects
- Programming or projects outside of the county
- Operating grants to organizations outside of the county
- Capital expenses, capital improvements or purchases of permanent equipment that outlast the specific program
- Activities for the exclusive benefit of an organization's members
- Travel outside Maryland
- Projects, performances, expenses, and activities that are part of school curricula
- Accessions
- Fundraising event or activity expenses. Programming may occur alongside a fundraiser but grant funds may not cover any fundraising-related costs
- Contributions to any persons who hold, or are candidates for, elected office
- Contributions to any political party, organization, or action committee
- Activities in connection with any political campaign or referendum
- The proposed project may not be used as a fund-development source for any group other than the applicant organization

Matching Requirements:

WCAC grants to nonprofit organizations must be matched at least two to one in cash. In-kind or donated services may be identified in the application form but cannot be listed in the income and expense section of the application. In-kind or donated services may not be used as part of the match. Organizations may request up to one-third of the cash costs of a program or project. Individual applicants are not required to match but may choose to do so.

Acknowledgement of WCAC in promotional campaigns:

Acknowledgement of WCAC's support of grantee program must be used in all printed materials, digital promotions, and promotional campaigns for this project.

Project Changes

If there are changes to the project scope, activities, use of funds, or other emergent changes that were not outlined in the original grant application, these changes must be approved in advance by WCAC. Failure to obtain approval may result in the grantee being required to return all or a portion of the awarded funds. Requests for project changes must be submitted in writing to WCAC prior to implementation and approval is subject to review and not guaranteed. If there are circumstances that cancel your specified project or delay it beyond completion this fiscal year, the grant money must be returned to the WCAC.

Appeals

Appeals to grant decisions should be directed in writing to:

Board President
Washington County Arts Council, Inc.
34 South Potomac Street, Suite 100
Hagerstown, MD 21740