



2025 Strategic Impact Grant

Grant applications will be accepted between May 1 - May 15, 2025.

Be sure to sign up for Arts Council of Anne Arundel County emails at www.acaac.org to stay abreast of any program changes.

About the Arts Council of Anne Arundel County

Our Mission

Our mission is to provide leadership, funding, and support that promotes artistic excellence and historic preservation and to advocate for resources and education that expand arts opportunities for all, helping to create an enriched and healthy community.

Our Vision

We envision Anne Arundel County as a place where artists are inspired and creativity thrives, where arts and culture bring people of all backgrounds together to enrich, bind, and celebrate our community.

Our Commitment to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility

The Arts Council of Anne Arundel County is committed to advancing and modeling equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility in all of our programs and services and those of our grantees. We are dedicated to embracing equity and non-discrimination regardless of race, religious creed, color, age, gender expression, sexual orientation, class, language, and/or ability.

About this Grant Opportunity

The Arts Council of Anne Arundel County has allocated \$150,000 to provide funding for a one-time Strategic Impact Grant (SIG) for county arts organizations. This grant is designed to fund projects that result in substantive, organizational transformation, taking the organization's operations or performance to the next level. A limited number of grants will be awarded and will range from \$5,000 - \$50,000. No matching funds are required. Organizations may partner and submit a joint application. **Partnership applications are highly encouraged.** Examples of potentially fundable requests could include, but are not limited to, capital projects, collection acquisitions, software investment, or other capacity-building expenses. This grant may **not** be used to fund additional staff positions.

THINK BIG! If you would like to discuss application ideas prior to applying for the grant, please reach out to ACAAC Grants Manager Susan Baum at susan.baum@acaac.org.

Timeline

1. Grant application cycle opens May 1, 2025.
2. Grant application period closes May 15, 2025 at midnight. Applications must be completed online through the ACAAC's Submittable Page, available at <https://artscouncilofannearundelcountynew.submittable.com/submit>
3. Arts Council award letters will be sent to recipients on or before June 6, 2025.
4. The grant award payment will be made by ACH transfer on or before June 30, 2025.
5. Interim reports are due by February 15, 2026.
6. Final reports are due by August 15, 2026.

Eligibility

In order to be eligible, all organizations must:

1. Be a previous recipient of an ACAAC Community Arts Grant.
2. Produce or present the arts through public programming in Anne Arundel County.
3. Be incorporated in Anne Arundel County as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and be based in the county.
4. Establish that the majority of the arts activities it produces and/or presents take place in Anne Arundel County.
5. Be governed by a legally-liable board of directors acting under a mission statement and budget specific to the organization.
6. Be able to document current Good Standing Status with the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation at the time of application.
7. Previous recipients of the Strategic Impact Grant are **not** eligible to apply.

Preparing Your Application

Whether your organization's transformation requires \$5,000 or \$50,000, this is your opportunity to tell us about it. In your application, you will be required to provide the following information:

1. Describe your proposed project.
2. Explain how your proposal supports your organization's goals.
3. Provide a detailed budget.
4. Explain how these costs were determined, and provide documentation.
5. Create a timeline for implementation of the project.
6. Explain your evaluation methodology and performance measures.
7. Describe how your project will transform your organization.
8. Explain the impact of your project on the community.

Some examples of what grant funds may be used for include capital improvements, purchases of permanent equipment and/or software, acquisition of capital assets, or any other capacity-building expense.

Grant funds may not be used for funding staff positions; regranting; activities for the exclusive benefit of an organization's members; contributions to an organization's capital campaign or previously announced fundraising efforts; travel outside Anne Arundel County to present or produce arts; projects chiefly for classroom use or in school activities; or scholarships awarded by the applicant organization for its own activities. Grant funds may not be used to make contributions to any persons who hold, or are candidates for, elected office; to any political party, organization, or action committee; or in connection with any political campaign or referendum. Grant funds may not be used for any lobbying activities.

Attachments/Uploads

1. FY25 Operating Budget (current budget)
2. Project Budget
3. Certificate of Good Standing (a screenshot is acceptable)
4. List of Organizational Leadership and Board of Directors, including contact information and terms for board members
5. Two letters of support for the project, including any partners outlined in the application narrative
6. Applicants may include up to three additional uploads to further demonstrate the organizational need and/or the community impact of this project

General Guidelines

All applicants:

1. Must comply with Title VI, Section 601, of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which states that no persons, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination related to, the arts.
2. Must comply with Title IV, Section 1681, of the Education Amendments of 1972 and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Section 6101, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex or age.
3. Must comply with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1991.
4. Must prohibit discrimination on the basis of: (a) political or religious opinion or affiliation, material status, race, color, creed, sexual orientation, or national origin; of (b) gender expression, sex, or age, except when age or sex constitute a bona fide occupational qualification; or (c) the physical or mental disability of a qualified individual with a disability.
5. Must give credit to Anne Arundel County and the Arts Council of Anne Arundel County whenever and wherever credit is given. More detailed information about funding attribution requirements is available on our website at <https://www.acaac.org/grants/logo-recognition/>.
6. Must notify Grants Manager Susan Baum in writing if there is a significant change made to the organization's economic circumstances.

Conflict of Interest Policy

To ensure that all Arts Council of Anne Arundel County review panels are free from conflicts of interest and the appearance of such conflicts, panelists are required to disclose any current or prospective affiliations they or their immediate family members have with an actual or potential applicant. "Affiliations" applies to employment, board memberships, independent contractual relationships, substantial contributor relationships, or other relationships. In addition, panelists are required to disclose any past or current adversarial relationships with actual or potential applicants. Panel members, as well as board members, are not permitted to participate in discussions or votes relating to any applicant with whom they have an affiliation.

Review Process and Notification

1. Applicants will receive an email confirmation after their application has been received. If the application deadline has passed, applicants will not be notified if the application is incomplete or does not comply with the guidelines.
2. The grants review panel will review all qualified, complete applications prior to the date indicated in the timeline. Each proposal will be reviewed individually by all members of the review panel and will be evaluated on its overall impact on the organization as well as how the increased organizational capacity will benefit the community.
3. The grants review panel will present its recommendations for funding to the ACAAC Board of Directors for final approval. All applicants will be advised electronically of the status of their application. Successful grantees will also be informed of the anticipated date of receipt of grant funds that have been awarded.

Reporting Requirements

If awarded a Strategic Impact Grant, the recipient must file an interim report by February 15, 2026, and a final report by August 15, 2026. All reporting will be online through Submittable. Failure to submit reports may jeopardize current and/or future ACAAC grants and may result in repayment of grant funds.

Appeals Process

ACAAC makes every effort to ensure fair and equitable distribution of grant monies based on stated criteria. Therefore, dissatisfaction with the denial of an award or with the amount of an award is not sufficient reason for an appeal. However, a grant request may be reconsidered if a procedural impropriety or error has affected its review.

Based on the above, if an applicant believes there is a legitimate reason for an appeal, the following steps must be taken:

1. The applicant must discuss the problem with the Grant Manager who handled the application.
2. To pursue an appeal, the applicant must write a letter to the President & CEO within 15 days following receipt of the grant award or denial letter requesting a reconsideration of the Arts Council's decision and stating the grounds for the request.
3. The applicant will receive written notification on the determination of the appeal within 30 days of the receipt of the written request for reconsideration.