

Vision, Goals, and Guidelines

Arts and culture have the power to transform our region, our community, and the lives of all who live here. Tremendous public benefit flows by creating a vibrant home for our citizens and a cultural destination for visitors. Arts and culture can drive economic growth, draw people together in festive spaces, stimulate neighborhood revitalization, and express the identity of our community through its creativity, diversity, and cultural variety. By actively engaging young people and adults in arts and culture, we ensure an unbroken thread of experience, learning, and participation from one generation to the next.

At the center of this transformation are arts and cultural organizations and the artists they present in dance, theater, music, literature, and the visual arts. The ArtsEverywhere Fund has been established on the principal that asking more of them – asking them to be agents for change – requires more of us as well. We must commit a permanent stream of resources because the benefits we envision cannot be realized overnight. We must cultivate imaginative leadership, without which we are sure to fall short. And we must bring new energy to the work ahead, which must be “over and above” business as usual.

To these ends, the Community Foundation of St. Joseph County launched the ArtsEverywhere Initiative in December 2004. To facilitate high aspirations and a vision that is both compelling and credible, the Leighton-Oare Foundation awarded a \$3 million challenge grant to establish an endowed ArtsEverywhere Fund, a *substantial, permanent, and growing* resource to advance local arts and culture.

The goals of the ArtsEverywhere Fund are to

- Raise artistic quality
- Strengthen volunteer and staff leadership
- Enhance the capacity of arts and cultural organizations and the arts community
- Broaden, deepen and diversify citizen participation
- Foster and support local talent, and
- Inspire community pride

In pursuing these goals, the ArtsEverywhere Fund will encourage applicants to be innovative, collaborative, and to model best practices.

ArtsEverywhere promises a larger, more visible role for arts and culture in our region and a richer, more beautiful quality of life for our citizens.

Funding Opportunities and Guidelines

Eligibility: Any St. Joseph County 501(c)(3) or public agency with a demonstrated, substantial (though not necessarily exclusive) commitment to-arts and culture as part of its overall mission. Arts and culture includes dance, theater, music, literature, and the visual arts as well as our local cultural assets and related programming. Active participation in the ArtsEverywhere initiative, which may include, for example, staff support as necessary for ArtsEverywhere communications or promotion, participation in ArtsEverywhere executive meetings and trainings, and generous contributions of knowledge, ideas, talent and experience.

The majority of proposals that involve arts and culture should be submitted through the ArtsEverywhere Grants process. Only those requests that focus on health and human services while incorporating the arts as a tool or method should be submitted through the Special Project Challenge Grant process (separate guidelines available).

Application Deadlines: May 1 and November 1, annually. Applicants may apply for any or all types of funding.

Funding Categories:

Capacity Building (matching grants of up to \$10,000): Support for strategic activities designed to improve the quality, effectiveness, efficiency and financial stability of the organization and its programs. Expenses may include, but are not limited to, strategic planning, board and staff training, site visits to leading peer organizations, technological advancements, consultant and professional services, and executive leadership training. Preference will be given to applications that demonstrate a well-defined plan for capacity building with specific objectives and timeframes. Capacity building grants may prove useful in the design and development of Major Venture Funding applications.

Program or Project Support (matching grants of up to \$10,000): Support for specific arts-related programs and projects which may include, but are not limited to, concerts, theater productions, visual art exhibits, presenter touring programs, artist residencies in schools or other community settings, or a broad range of arts-related services for St. Joseph County citizens, artists, arts organizations, and communities. Preference will be given to applications that include a clear program or project plan and timeframe, and that best align with the stated goals of the ArtsEverywhere Fund.

Major Venture Funding (matching grants of up to \$50,000, potentially renewable for up to three years, for a maximum commitment of \$150,000): Support to help implement high-quality programs or projects that represent a significant and sustainable contribution to local arts and culture. The ArtsEverywhere Fund encourages projects that are innovative, collaborative, and model best practices. Efforts that draw larger, more diverse audiences, deepen levels of arts participation, build public participation in the arts, involve synergistic

collaboration, and raise artistic quality through the cultivation and support of local talent are of special interest. Further preference will be given to programs or projects whose contributions to local arts and culture will endure beyond the grant period. Up to half of the amount requested may be used for endowment *matching* funds to provide sustaining revenue. Other means of achieving program or project sustainability will also be considered.

What Projects are Generally Not Eligible for Funding?

- School or church performing or visual arts productions/exhibitions.
- College or university arts programs with limited community involvement or impact.
- CD/DVD production, especially those which will be available for commercial use.
- General public relations/communications activities (e.g. literature, videos, etc.)
- Proposals from other area nonprofit agencies for partnerships with organizations already receiving ArtsEverywhere support.
- Professional conference attendance
- Post-event or after-the-fact situations
- Computers (unless presented as a necessary component of larger program or objective)

Grant Application Components:

The ArtsEverywhere Grant Application can be found online at:

<https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=cfsjc> . After a profile is created for your non-profit organization, you may select the appropriate application to complete.

Applications for the three funding categories differ with regard to the required attachments as follows:

Capacity Building and Program/Project Category Application Attachments:

- Detailed Project Budget (Include sources of revenue & expenses.)
- Income Statement or Profit & Loss Statement for most recently completed fiscal year.
- Balance Sheet or Statement of Financial Position for most recently completed fiscal year.
- Current Board Roster with officers identified
- 501(c)(3) IRS Determination Letter (Only required if not yet on file.)

Major Venture Category Application Attachments:

- Detailed Project Budget (Include sources of revenue & expenses.)
- Current organization budget and performance report (comment on deficits and significant variances, if applicable)
- Most recent audit
- Credentials of the person(s) tasked with design and implementation of the program or project
- Brief description of organization's mission, history and programs
- Current Board Roster with officers identified
- 501(c)(3) IRS determination letter (Only required if not yet on file.)
- Strategic plan (if available)
- Up to four program books, newsletters, annual reports, reviews, brochures, or catalogs no more than two years old (optional)

Notification of Funding Decisions:

Applicants will be informed of funding decisions by email within approximately eight weeks of the deadline.