



Release date: July 10, 2023

Arts & Culture Request for Proposals

Greater Cincinnati Foundation (GCF) invites your organization to partner with us to drive equitable change in our community. Change is sparked when people come together – in partnership, collaboration and generosity. Our role is to align the right players. Then, coordinate their efforts and contributions in a way that creates the most impact.

GCF invests in the expertise of trusted partners to build a more equitable region. One of the many ways we support our partners is by offering competitive grants that align with our donors' interest areas. Funding in these areas is made available through our Request for Proposal (RFP) process.

This year GCF plans to distribute \$2 million across our RFPs. For the 2023 Arts & Culture cycle, GCF has approximately \$400,000 available and grants will be awarded up to the \$25,000 level. To be considered for funding, letters of intent (LOI) must be submitted by **Friday, July 28, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.**

Funding Focus

Proposals should explicitly address the following purpose:

To support and enhance the vibrancy of this region by increasing the availability and accessibility of arts and cultural programming that is inclusive of historically marginalized groups in our region.



Use of Funds

Funding may be used to support, expand or strengthen existing programs, capital improvements, launch a new program, build organizational capacity or general operating support. Collaboration between like organizations is highly favored. Funding will not be awarded for campaigns, capital campaigns or special events. For more specifics of what funding may be used for, please review our [Grant FAQs](#).

Criteria

- Applicants must be classified as tax-exempt by the IRS, typically 501(c)(3) status or government agency. If your organization is not a 501(c)(3), you may utilize a fiscal agent, however the fiscal agent must be identified in the application.
- Grants will be made to organizations with efforts based in the Greater Cincinnati region which includes the counties of: Hamilton, Butler, Warren, and Clermont in Ohio; Boone, Kenton and Campbell in Kentucky and Dearborn in Indiana.
- Preference will be given to:
 - Organizations that develop solutions with a racial and cultural equity lens (See [Americans for the Arts Statement on Cultural Equity](#).)
 - Proposals that are committed to identifying and eliminating barriers that have prevented the full participation of historically marginalized groups to arts and cultural programming, including arts education programming.
 - Proposals that celebrate the cultural heritage of ethnic and BIPOC communities and tell the full story of our region's history.
 - Proposals that plan to work directly with artists who identify as belonging to historically marginalized communities.
 - Proposals with clear and measurable outcomes.
 - Organizations that have demonstrated partnerships, collaboration, and alignment with community-wide efforts.
 - Organizations that have demonstrated insights from their past results.
 - Organizations using an asset-based approach to the work.
- Proposals will be accepted by any organization that meets these criteria as well as aligns strongly with the details of this RFP.



Submission Process

Respond to this RFP via [GCF's online grantmaking system](#). After creating a new account and/or logging in, select "Apply" and the "GCF Responsive Application" to complete the LOI. Submit the LOI by the deadline, **Friday, July 28, 2023 at 5:00p.m. (EDT)**.

If your organization's LOI is selected, you will be invited to submit an application. As part of this next step, applicants will be required to submit the following four (4) documents:

- Most recent audit or 990
- Income statement and balance sheet (two years of data as up-to-date as possible)
- Project budget
- Organizational demographics

Review the following RFP Timeline for the complete process steps.

RFP Timeline

Key Steps	Date
RFP Workshop (optional)* Virtual – Register Here	Wednesday, July 19, 2023 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Deadline for LOI	Friday, July 28, 2023 @ 5:00pm
Application Invitations Communicated	Wednesday, August 23, 2023
Deadline for Application Proposals	Friday, September 15, 2023 @ 5:00pm
Decisions Communicated	November 2023
Funding Received	November 2023

*The RFP workshop is meant to provide a brief overview of GCF's application process as well as a deeper dive into this RFP. We encourage all applicants to review the application prior to the grant workshop. The workshop will be recorded and made available on the GCF website for reference. Questions are welcome throughout the process (see Questions section below for more information).



Questions

Answers to general questions are available on our website at www.gcfdn.org/faq.

Please direct any additional questions that you may have to Kristin Riepenhoff Zelinkas, Program Officer, Community Strategies at kristin.zelinkas@gcfdn.org. She is the GCF staff member leading this RFP process and should serve as your primary contact.

Questions about the Foundant system or process timeline can be directed to Hannah Hilditch, Community Strategies Coordinator, at hannah.hilditch@gcfdn.org. Thank you for considering partnership with GCF, and we look forward to learning from your submission.

GCF Mission

As a trusted and connected partner, we inspire generous people to invest in a more equitable and vibrant region, now and for generations to come.