

Sponsor Grant Criteria

On-going General Operating Support for Leading Arts Organizations 2014-15



Questions? Contact:
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Our Mission

To promote, connect, and invest in the arts in order to stimulate creativity and vibrancy in Santa Cruz County.

Our Vision

We envision a more vibrant Santa Cruz County, where individual and collective artistic expression thrives, and where the arts are a valued part of all aspects of our diverse culture, economy, and everyday life.

Grant Program Objectives

To provide funding for artists and arts organizations in Santa Cruz County to:

- Support the creation and presentation of artistically excellent and culturally significant work
- Increase the success of artists and the sustainability of arts organizations
- Expand equitable access to the arts to the full diversity of residents and visitors
- Engage new audiences in the arts

Sponsor Grant Program Overview

The Sponsor Grant Program is designed to provide on-going general operating support for arts organizations that are based in, produce, and publically exhibit the majority of their work in Santa Cruz County. This is an invitation only grant program.

Eligibility Criteria

Grant Program staff determines the eligibility of the applicant based on the following criteria. The applicant organization must:

- Have as its primary mission the development and delivery of arts and/or cultural programming to the public
- Be a 501(c)3 non-profit organization or have a fiscal sponsor that is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization
- Be based in and produce the majority of its work in Santa Cruz County
- Have fulfilled the Arts Council's reporting requirements for previous grants
- Have a board approved non-discrimination policy
- Have existed and produced work in Santa Cruz County for at least ten years
- Have been funded by the Arts Council for the most recent five consecutive years.
- Provide leadership in their artistic discipline and/or in the Santa Cruz community
- Have strong and consistent management and board leadership
- Have a stable or growing budget
- 1. Have a stable or growing audience
- 2. Have significant cash reserves

Sponsor Grants Do Not Fund:

- Capital improvements, construction, or renovation projects
- Government departments, boards, or programs
- Foundations, social services, political or religious advocacy, or for-profit organizations

Award

The maximum grant varies based on the funding available, but has typically been \$10,000. Awards for most organizations will be significantly less.

Awards are paid in two installments.

Though the Arts Council has never been unable to fulfill these commitments, **grant awards are made contingent on the availability of funding**, due to the possibility of unexpected changes with our funders.

Restrictions

Grants are provided for direct use by the awarded organization. These funds are not transferable to other organizations. Funded projects must be delivered in accordance with the grant application and within the grant period. Please inform the Program Manager of any significant program or schedule changes. **Unused funds or funds not used in accordance with the grant agreement must be returned to Arts Council Santa Cruz County.**

Grantee Responsibilities

- Provide a level of recognition consistent with other sponsors at similar funding levels
- Provide up to six complimentary tickets to events supported by the grant
- Submit a final report at the completion of the grant period
- Retain financial records in the event that they are required for an audit

How to Apply

Invite only. Arts Council staff will review funded arts organizations annually. Eligible organizations will be contacted for a site visit prior to being considered for a Sponsor Grant award.

Statement of Non-Discrimination

Arts Council Santa Cruz County is committed to providing services and making resources available to every resident of Santa Cruz County without regard to ethnicity, color, creed, religion, age, gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, military status, marital status, political opinion, national origin, familial status, mental and physical disability, or source of income.