



# METRO ARTS

NASHVILLE OFFICE OF ARTS + CULTURE

## Thrive Project Grant Criteria

**FY26 GRANT CYCLE | FOR ACTIVITIES TAKING PLACE Fall 2025 – June 2026**

**APPLICATION DEADLINE August 15, 2025, 11:59 p.m.**

### Eligibility Criteria for Thrive Project Funding

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Individual artists, artist teams or collectives, and nonprofit organizations are eligible to apply for Thrive grants. To receive a Thrive grant, applicants must meet the criteria for one of the following eligibility groups:

- **Individual Artist**
  - Artists are defined as practitioners in a specific artist genre, including but not limited to dance, film and media arts, craft, literary arts, music, performance art, multidisciplinary work, theater, or visual arts.
  - Artist must be 18 years of age or older.
  - Artist must live or primarily work in Davidson County.
  - Individual artists must apply with a fiscal sponsor (details below).
- **Artist Collectives**
  - Artist Collectives are art organizations, neighborhood groups, or artist teams that do not hold nonprofit 501c3 status.
  - Artist Collectives must have a lead artist identified to lead the project.
  - Artist Collectives must be located in Nashville/Davidson County.
  - Artist Collectives must apply with a fiscal sponsor (details below).
- **Nonprofit Organizations**
  - Organizations must have a business address located in Davidson County and operate most of its programs in Nashville.
  - Organizations must have a lead artist identified to lead the project.
  - Organizations must submit their IRS Letter of Determination with an effective date of exemption of July 1, 2024, or earlier.

**Additional Project Criteria:**

- The proposed project or program must take place in Davidson County.

- All Thrive projects must obtain all permits, licenses, and permissions necessary for their project and comply with all applicable laws and regulations. The Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County and any of its entities will not be held accountable for the failure to have these documents when required. Applicants are highly encouraged to research the process for obtaining any permits and regulatory requirements on the front end in order to effectively plan project timelines and execute the project on the proposed timeline.
- All Thrive projects that propose to work directly with minors (defined as persons under age 18) must have background checks for all adults. The applicant will be required to submit an attestation form that attests that all adults who participate in the programming or instruction of minors have satisfactory background checks within the last 5 years. This includes the lead artist, contract artists, organization staff or others involved in the project work.

Individuals or entities that cannot receive a Thrive Grant include:

- Employees of the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County or Metro Nashville Public Schools.
- Members of the Metro Nashville Arts Commission, or a submission with immediate family or household members serving on the Commission.
- Elected officials of the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County or Metro Nashville Public School Board.
- Colleges or universities.

Only one Thrive submission per applicant. Multiple Thrive submissions from the same applicant will not be accepted. If you serve as the lead artist or applicant on multiple applications, you must select one application for consideration. Metro Arts staff will notify applicants who are deemed to have more than one application.

Organizations cannot receive a Thrive and Metro Arts Operating Support grant in the same grant cycle. Organizations may only receive one grant from Metro Arts in any given cycle and should only apply for one grant. Contact Metro Arts if you need assistance determining which grant is most appropriate for your organization.

Metro Arts will review additional grant criteria eligibility issues not listed here on a case-by-case basis. Please contact Metro Arts with any questions regarding eligibility.

### **Fiscal Sponsors + Thrive Project Grants**

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Metro Arts can only distribute grants to nonprofit organizations. Individual artists or artist collectives who are not registered Tennessee 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations must work with a fiscal sponsor to receive Metro Arts Thrive funding. Fiscal sponsor organizations must have an IRS Letter of Determination with an effective date of exemption of July 1, 2024, or earlier.

Individual artists and artist collectives must identify a fiscal sponsor organization to receive and administer their grant award. Metro Arts will not match or assign artists with fiscal sponsors, but applicants may ask Metro Arts for assistance in identifying potential fiscal sponsors.

Fiscal sponsors and applicants must complete a Letter of Fiscal Sponsorship and Agreement that affirms the sponsor's intent to serve as a sponsor for the specific artist and project. The Agreement will also outline respective roles and responsibilities, including fund disbursement, reporting, and other logistics. A resource guide including these required documents is available on the Metro Arts website. Fiscal sponsors must have a Submittable account and be added as a collaborator on the application.

Metro Arts will provide fiscal sponsors \$750 for administrative support costs. This amount will be allocated in addition to the approved grant amount (for example, if the approved project budget is \$15,000, the total grant will be \$15,750). Fiscal sponsors may opt to not receive the administrative support allocation. Applicants that hold 501(c)(3) nonprofit status and therefore do not utilize a fiscal sponsor are not eligible to receive the administrative support allocation.

Serving as a Fiscal Sponsor for Thrive artists does not disqualify an organization from receiving a grant from Metro Arts (Operating Support or its own Thrive grant).

### Eligible Expenses

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Metro Arts grant funding can only be used to pay for certain expenses. Eligible expenses are those that are directly related to the proposed project or program. Contact us with any questions about eligible expenses. Examples of eligible expenses include:

- Artist fees
- Project/program supplies
- Performance/venue/facility fees
- Marketing and promotion
- Equipment rental and/or purchase
- Events costs or costs related to community engagement activities

Thrive project funds CANNOT be used for:

- Payments to any individual employed by Metro Nashville Government or Metro Nashville Public Schools, or payments to any Arts Commissioners
- General operating expenses of an organization
- Capital improvements
- Purchase of real property
- Reduction of debts
- Activities or programs with religious intent, study, or practice
- Political lobbying activities
- Creation, installation and maintenance of public artwork. Public art is defined as artwork that is accessible to the public and created through a public process that considers the social and physical context of the site.