

LEGISLATIVE TRACKING FORM

Filing for Council Meeting Date: 05/07/26

Resolution Ordinance

Contact/Prepared By: _____

Date Prepared: _____

Title (Caption): A resolution to approve the criteria for Operating Support and Thrive grants for fiscal year 2027 for the Metropolitan

Nashville Arts Commission.

Submitted to Planning Commission? N/A Yes-Date: _____ Proposal No: _____

Proposing Department: _____ Requested By: _____

Affected Department(s): _____ Affected Council District(s): _____

Legislative Category (check one):

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bonds | <input type="checkbox"/> Contract Approval | <input type="checkbox"/> Intergovernmental Agreement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Budget - Pay Plan | <input type="checkbox"/> Donation | <input type="checkbox"/> Lease |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Budget - 4% | <input type="checkbox"/> Easement Abandonment | <input type="checkbox"/> Maps |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Capital Improvements | <input type="checkbox"/> Easement Accept/Acquisition | <input type="checkbox"/> Master List A&E |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Capital Outlay Notes | <input type="checkbox"/> Grant | <input type="checkbox"/> Settlement of Claims/Lawsuits |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Code Amendment | <input type="checkbox"/> Grant Application | <input type="checkbox"/> Street/Highway Improvements |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Condemnation | <input type="checkbox"/> Improvement Acc. | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

FINANCE Amount +/-: \$ _____ Funding Source: Capital Improvement Budget Capital Outlay Notes Departmental/Agency Budget Funds to Metro General Obligation Bonds Grant Increased Revenue Sources	Match: \$ _____ Judgments and Losses Local Government Investment Project Revenue Bonds Self-Insured Liability Solid Waste Reserve Unappropriated Fund Balance 4% Fund Other: _____ Date to Finance Director's Office: _____ APPROVED BY FINANCE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE: _____
Approved by OMB: _____ Approved by Finance/Accounts: _____ Approved by Div Grants Coordination: _____	

ADMINISTRATION	
Council District Member Sponsors:	_____
Council Committee Chair Sponsors:	_____
Approved by Administration:	_____ Date: _____

DEPARTMENT OF LAW	
Date to Dept. of Law: _____	Approved by Department of Law: _____
Settlement Resolution/Memorandum Approved by: _____	
Date to Council: _____	For Council Meeting: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> E-mailed Clerk
<input type="checkbox"/> All Dept. Signatures <input type="checkbox"/> Copies <input type="checkbox"/> Backing <input type="checkbox"/> Legislative Summary <input type="checkbox"/> Settlement Memo <input type="checkbox"/> Clerk Letter <input type="checkbox"/> Ready to File	

Department of Law – White Copy

Administration –Yellow Copy

Finance Department - Pink Copy

Resolution No. _____

A resolution to approve the criteria for Operating Support and Thrive grants for fiscal year 2027 for the Metropolitan Nashville Arts Commission.

WHEREAS, Section 2.112.040(H) of the Metropolitan Code of Laws allows the Metropolitan Nashville Arts Commission (“Arts Commission”) to award funds appropriated to it by the Metropolitan Council to deserving nonprofit civic and nonprofit charitable organizations; and,

WHEREAS, Section 2.112.040(H) of the Metropolitan Code of Laws requires that criteria for awarding funds to arts organizations shall be established by the Arts Commission and approved by resolution of the Metropolitan Council, and such resolution shall indicate whether there is a change in the award criteria from the previous year; and,

WHEREAS, the Arts Commission voted to approve the Fiscal Year 2027 criteria for Operating Support and Thrive grants on April 15, 2026, copies of which are attached hereto and incorporated herein; and,

WHEREAS, the Fiscal Year 2027 Operating Support criteria is updated to include the requirement that organizations be in good standing with the Tennessee Secretary of State; that Metro Nashville Public Schools affiliated booster clubs and other organizations whose primary purpose is to support government agencies are not eligible; and that organizations whose primary purpose or activities involve religious practices or intent are not eligible; and,

WHEREAS, the Fiscal Year 2027 Thrive criteria is updated to include that organizations be in good standing with the Tennessee Secretary of State; that paid full-time executive level staff of organizations that received a Metro Arts General Operating Grant are not eligible; and that other organizations whose primary purpose is to support government agencies are not eligible; that the proposal must directly support the performance, exhibition, instruction, creation, or education in/of the arts; that proposals are ineligible if they do any of the following: primary purpose is workforce or career development, scholarly research, fundraising, create, install, or maintain public artwork in/on public property, or are an outdoor mural; and that training and professional development activities may not exceed 10% of requested amount and contingency funds may not exceed \$500.00; and,

WHEREAS, approval of the Operating Support and Thrive grant criteria is in the best interest of the citizens of the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY:

Section 1. That the criteria for Operating Support and Thrive grants, copies of which are attached hereto and incorporated herein, are hereby approved.

Section 2. That this resolution shall take effect from and after its adoption, the welfare of The Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County requiring it.

RECOMMENDED BY:

Signed by:

Ashley Bachelder

Ashley Bachelder, Interim Director
Metropolitan Nashville Arts Commission

INTRODUCED BY:

APPROVED AS TO AVAILABILITY
OF FUNDS:

Signed by:

Jenneen Reed/mjr

Jenneen Reed, Director
Department of Finance

Member(s) of Council

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND
LEGALITY:

Signed by:

Macy Amos

Macy Amos, Assistant Metropolitan Attorney



METRO ARTS

NASHVILLE OFFICE OF ARTS + CULTURE

Operating Support Grant Criteria

FY27 GRANT CYCLE | FOR ACTIVITIES TAKING PLACE October 2026 – June 2027

APPLICATION DEADLINES

Optional Preliminary Review: Friday, June 5, 2026, 4:59 p.m. CST

Final Deadline: Friday, June 26, 2026, 4:59pm CST

Grant Eligibility Criteria

Operating Support grants provide funding for the general operations of arts-focused nonprofit organizations based in Davidson County. An arts-focused organization is one whose primary mission is to directly support the performance, exhibition, or instruction of art and whose majority of programming supports the performance, exhibition, instruction, creation, or education in the arts. Art refers to several artistic genres including, but not limited to dance, film and media arts, craft, literary arts, music, performance art, multidisciplinary work, theater, or visual arts. Please contact us if you have questions regarding the definition of an arts-focused organization.

To receive an Operating Support grant from Metro Arts, the applicant must meet all the following criteria:

- Produce, present, or directly support artistic programs, projects, or works
- Have a primary mission to directly support the performance, exhibition, or instruction of art
- The majority of programming must support the performance, exhibition, instruction, creation, or education in the arts
- Be chartered in the state of Tennessee and tax-exempt under the IRS Code Section 501(c)(3)
- Have an IRS Letter of Determination with an effective date of exemption of May 1, 2025, or earlier*

- Be active and in good standing with the Tennessee Secretary of State’s Business Services Division and Office of Charitable Solicitations, indicating the agency is currently duly registered to solicit public funds in Tennessee
- Have a business address located in Davidson County
- Operate the majority of its programs in Nashville
- Have background checks for all adults who work with youth. If the organization works directly with minors (defined as persons under age 18), the applicant will be required to submit an attestation form that attests that all adults who participate in the programming or instruction of minors at the organization have satisfactory background checks within the last 5 years. This includes organizational staff, artists, and contract staff.

*Organizations with less than one year 501(c)(3) status may be considered eligible with evidence of operating with nonprofit fiscal sponsorship and artistic programming for at least one year.

There are certain types of organizations that cannot receive Metro Arts Operating grants:

- Non-arts organizations
- Organizations who receive operational budget amendments ("line items") from Metro, except for those that are provided by the Metropolitan Charter
- "Friends of" organizations, MNPS-affiliated booster clubs, and other organizations whose primary purpose is to support government agencies or initiatives
- Colleges or universities
- Public broadcasting stations
- Arts organizations that operate as a legal subsidiary of a non-art nonprofit organization
- Organizations whose primary purpose or activities involve religious practices or intent

Metro Arts only provides Operating Support grants to eligible organizations. For project support, please see Thrive Grant Guidelines. Please contact Metro Arts staff with any questions regarding eligibility.

Eligible Expenses

Metro Arts grant funding can only be used to pay for certain types of operating costs. Examples of allowed expenses are listed below. Please contact us with questions about eligible expenses.

Grant funds <u>CAN</u> be used for:
Salaries
Artist, technical, and/or administrative professional service fees
Program/project supplies
Performance space/facility rental/rent
Marketing and promotion
Printing and publications
Consulting fees

Equipment rental and/or purchase
Fundraising activities

Grant funds <u>CANNOT</u> be used for:
Capital improvements
Reduction of debts
Activities and/or programs with religious practices or intent
Political lobbying activities
Purchase of real property



METRO ARTS

NASHVILLE OFFICE OF ARTS + CULTURE

Thrive Project Grant Criteria & Guidelines

FY27 GRANT CYCLE | FOR ACTIVITIES TAKING PLACE October 2026 – June 2027

APPLICATION DEADLINES

Optional Preliminary Review: Friday, June 5, 2026, 4:59 p.m. CST

Final Deadline: Friday, June 26, 2026, 4:59 p.m. CST

Applicant Eligibility Criteria

Individual artists, artist teams or collectives, and nonprofit organizations are eligible to apply for Thrive grants. 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. To qualify for a Thrive grant, a proposal must identify a lead artist and/or project lead and meet the criteria for one of the following eligibility groups:

Individual Artist

- 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 or artist teams that do not hold nonprofit 501c3 status.
- Artist Collectives must be based in and conduct the majority of their programming in Nashville/Davidson County.
- Artist Collectives must apply with a fiscal sponsor (details below).

Nonprofit Organizations

- Organizations must be chartered in the state of Tennessee and tax-exempt under the IRS Code Section 501(c)(3).
- Organizations must submit their IRS Letter of Determination with an effective date of exemption of May 1, 2025, or earlier.

- Must be active and in good standing with the Tennessee Secretary of State’s Business Services Division and Office of Charitable Solicitations, indicating the agency is currently duly registered to solicit public funds in Tennessee.
- Organizations must have a business address located in Davidson County and operate the majority of its programming in Nashville.

Individuals or entities that cannot receive a Metro Arts Thrive grant include:

- Employees of the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, including Metro Nashville Public Schools
- Members of the Metro Nashville Arts Commission or their immediate family and household members
- Elected officials of the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County or Metro Nashville Public School Board
- Paid full-time executive-level staff of organizations that received a Metro Arts General Operating Support grant in either of the two previous fiscal years
- Colleges or universities
- “Friends of” organizations, MNPS-affiliated booster clubs, and other organizations whose primary purpose is to support government agencies or initiatives
- Organizations whose primary purpose or activities involve religious practices or intent

Only one Thrive submission per applicant. Lead artists and/or project leads may only be listed on one application. Organizations cannot receive Thrive and Metro Arts General Operating Support grants in the same grant cycle. Organizations may only apply for one grant each cycle.

Metro Arts staff will contact applicants that are determined to have multiple applications. 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 or for assistance determining which opportunity is most appropriate for your application.

Fiscal Sponsorship

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. Metro Arts will not match or assign artists with fiscal sponsors, but applicants may ask Metro Arts for assistance in identifying potential fiscal sponsors. To serve as a fiscal sponsor, an organization must meet the following criteria:

- Be chartered in the state of Tennessee and tax-exempt under the IRS Code Section 501(c)(3).
- Have an IRS Letter of Determination with an effective date of exemption of May 1, 2025, or earlier.
- Be active and in good standing with the Tennessee Secretary of State’s Business Services Division and Office of Charitable Solicitations, indicating the agency is currently duly registered to solicit public funds in Tennessee.

Fiscal sponsors and applicants must complete a Letter of Fiscal Sponsorship and Letter of Agreement that affirms the sponsor's intent to serve as a sponsor for the specific applicant and project. The Agreement will 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.

Metro Arts provides 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). Applicants that hold 501(c)(3) nonprofit status and therefore do not utilize a fiscal sponsor will not receive the administrative support allocation.

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

Proposal Requirements

- Proposal must directly support the performance, exhibition, instruction, creation, or education in/of the arts.
- The proposed project activities and/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 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.

Ineligible Projects

There are certain types of projects that are not eligible to receive Thrive funding. They include:

- Projects with a primary purpose of workforce or career development
- Scholarly research
- Projects with a primary purpose of fundraising (i.e., galas or major fundraising events)
- Creation, installation, and maintenance of public artwork in/on public property, including the public right of way. 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.
- Outdoor murals

Expenses

Metro Arts grant funding can only be used for expenses that are directly related to the proposed project or program. Examples of allowed expenses are listed below. Please contact us with questions about eligible expenses.

Grant funds <u>CAN</u> be used for:
Artist, technical, and/or administrative professional service fees
Project/program supplies
Performance/venue/facility fees
Marketing and promotion
Equipment rental
Printing and publications
Event costs
Training and professional development activities (not to exceed 10% of requested amount)
Contingency funds (not to exceed \$500)

Grant funds <u>CANNOT</u> be used for:
Payments to any individual employed by Metro Nashville Government, Metro Nashville Public Schools, and/or current Metro Arts Commissioners
General operating expenses of an organization, including staff salaries
Capital improvements, such as building construction or renovation
Purchase of major equipment
Purchase of real property
Reduction of debts
Activities and/or programs with religious intent, study, or practice
Political lobbying activities