



2024-2025 Marion Cultural Alliance/NEA Grant Grant Program Guidelines

Important! Read these guidelines carefully.

Marion Cultural Alliance (MCA) has been awarded a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) allowing MCA to match its \$30,000 with NEA's \$30,000 for a total of \$60,000 available to award for the 2024-2025 cycle.

These specific terms and conditions address requirements for MCA as the awardee of NEA (Federal) funds and the nonprofit awardee of these pass-through funds. Subrecipients (nonprofits) must comply with these requirements.

THESE GRANTS SUPPORT SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND DO NOT PROVIDE GENERAL OPERATING SUPPORT

About MCA's Cultural Grant Program

Marion Cultural Alliance Cultural Grant Program was established in 2001 to support funding for projects, events, productions, festivals, and exhibitions that:

- Increase access to and participation in arts and culture, history, heritage, or science programming in our community
- Act as a catalyst for positive change through arts and culture
- Since its founding in 2001, MCA, has funded \$525,000 cultural grants funded to 45 arts organizations
- The 2024-2025 Cycle, with support of a subgrant from the NEA, may award up to \$60,000. Grant range: \$1,000-\$10,000.

HEADS UP! IMPORTANT INFORMATION!

- The nonprofit **must** have a **Unique Entity ID (UEI)** through the Federal Government to receive funding from MCA/NEA. Applicants cannot receive an MCA/NEA Grant unless they provide a valid UEI. [About the UEI](#)

How to Apply for a UEI video [\(336\) Get a Unique Entity ID - YouTube](#)

(Applicants are not required to complete the full SAM registration to obtain a UEI)

- **Caution: do not wait until the grant deadline to register with SAM.gov to receive your Unique Entity ID. If you do not have one, apply to Sam.Gov today!**
- The maximum award for successful applicants is \$10,000/the minimum \$1,000.
- Expanded the MCA's Cultural Grant program with funds from the NEA. This has added questions/requirements around accessibility and shifted evaluation and reporting criteria. See Appendix A & C in the Grant Resources section on mcaocala.org for more information

- Calendar:
 - Application portal opens: April 19, 2024
 - Courtesy Review: April 1-June 30, 2024
 - Application Deadline: July 12, 2024
 - Grant Committee Scoring Meeting: Between August 5-9, 2024
 - Grant Funding Recommendation Presented to the Executive Committee-August 22, 2024
 - Grant Funding Recommendation Presented to MCA Board of Directors-August 28, 2024
 - Notice to Organizations funded/not funded: August 30, 2024
 - Organizations may begin execution of grant: September 1, 2024
 - Distribution of checks: October 12, 2024 @ Applaud the Arts
 - Grant Period: September 1, 2024-June 30, 2025
 - Final report due within 30 days of completed grant activity (MCA will provide the template)

GRANT AMOUNTS AND FUNDING CYCLE:

- Grant awards may range from \$1,000-\$10,000. However, the grant amount requested may not exceed 50% of the total program or project costs.
- These grants support **specific projects** and do not provide general support
- At the discretion of the reviewers, additional funds may be awarded
- The grant project start and end dates must fall within the period of September 1, 2024-June 30, 2025 during which grant related expenses may be spent
- Funding is competitive, it is possible that not all projects of merit will be funded
- MCA/NEA funds may be used to support eligible project related activities within the grant period
 - Applicants will be notified if they include ineligible expenses in their project/application

ELIGIBILITY AND REQUIREMENTS

ORGANIZATION ELIGIBILITY

Marion County arts and culture, history, heritage, and science nonprofit organizations **ARE** eligible to apply.

Projects/Programming based in arts and culture, science, or history that takes place in Marion County and are open to the public. Exhibits, performances, festivals, arts education, outreach programs, and art-based community development are examples of typical projects. *It is recommended that professional artists or arts administrators be involved in the planning and execution of each project.* For arts education programming, teachers must have an arts background. Administrative costs can be included up to 15% of the project budget. Subgrants **cannot** support general operating expenses.

- Applicant organization must have a current 501(c)3 status for a minimum of two years as of the grant deadline, in good standing with the State of Florida Division of Corporations and IRS. MCA will verify the organization's current 501(c)3 status.
 - The applicant must document they are one of the following:
 - A public agency governed by a county, municipality, school district, institutions of higher education, or an agency of state government
 - A not-for-profit, tax-exempt Florida corporation incorporated or authorized as a not-for-profit corporation, in good standing, pursuant to Chapter 617, Florida Statute. (Some private schools may be determined to be not-for-profits under Chapter 623, Florida Statute.
 - Designated as a tax-exempt organization as defined in Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954. Exemption must be issued in the name of the applicant organization.
 - Federally recognized Indian tribal governments
- The nonprofit 501(c)3 must be in Marion County or the grant project must occur in Marion County, Florida
- The nonprofit must have a Unique Entity ID (UEI) through the Federal Government to receive funding from MCA/NEA. To learn more about getting a UEI, <https://www.gsa.gov/about-us/organization/federal-acquisition-service/technology-transformation-services/integrated-award-environment-iae/iae-systems-information-kit/unique-entity-id-is-here> *Caution: do not wait until the grant deadline to register with SAM.gov to receive your Unique Entity ID.*
- Organizations must submit prior two years' financial performance
- Arts and Culture, History, Heritage, Arts Education, or Science as the primary mission
- Local governing board that meets at least quarterly and operates under a set of bylaws
- An organization may submit only one cultural grant application each year
- The applicant organization must have established policies and procedures which address diversity, as well as nondiscrimination against persons with disabilities. The organization's facilities and programs should be accessible to persons with disabilities. The organization must provide equal access and opportunity in employment and services and may not discriminate on the based-on race, color, ethnicity, religion, gender, ancestry, national origin, geography, age, varying disabilities, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, familial status, citizenship status, or socioeconomic status.
- Please note: The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, applies to any federal funds that support activities that have the potential to impact any structure eligible for or on the National Register of Historic Places, adjacent to a structure that is eligible for or on the National Register of Historic Places, or located in a historic district in accordance with Section 106. PLEASE CONTACT MCA's executive director with any project concept that may fall under this provision for further instructions.

- Applicants must certify that the participants in the MCA/NEA grant are not disbarred, suspended, or have any other exclusions or disqualifications from doing business with the federal government
- No grant application or related materials will be accepted unless submitted before or on July 15, 2024
- Any publicity or publications related to programs or projects funded by MCA **shall include** the MCA Supported logo and the NEA Logo and/or the following statement: *Sponsored in part by the Marion Cultural Alliance and the National Endowment for the Arts*
- Applicant organizations must comply and be in good standing with any previously funded MCA grant
- All grantees **must submit a final report** that documents program excellence and success to the Marion Cultural Alliance no later than 30 days after the completion of the grant and include four electronic images depicting the grant program activity and electronic documentation of credit line and MCA and NEA logo usage must be submitted with this report. ***Organizations must meet this final report requirement to be considered for future funding.***

ORGANIZATION ELIGIBILITY RESTRICTIONS-Organizations are **NOT** eligible if they are:

- Other designated Local Arts Agencies
- Fraternal or sports organizations
- Political causes, candidates, organizations, or campaigns
- Media Companies
- Fiscal agents
- Organizations that are adjuncts to for-profits organizations
 - “Friends of organizations” are eligible to apply only in lieu of the parent nonprofit organization

In all cases, final eligibility decisions are made by the MCA Cultural Grants Committee and approved by the MCA’s Board of Directors. Approval of a previous project grant funding carries no assurance of continued funding in subsequent years.

PROGRAMMING ELIGIBILITY

The proposed project/programming eligibility must be arts, cultural, sciences, history, or heritage and occur in Marion County and open to the public. Examples include performances, festivals, arts education, and the commissioning of new works.

Grant dollars cannot be used for any of the restricted activities:

- Capital expenditures (including acquisitions or equipment), or any building renovation, or remodeling of facilities
- Deficit reductions, bad debts, contingencies, fines and penalties, interest payments, litigation costs, or any other comparable financial costs

- Contributions to reserves and/or endowment funds
- Lobbying or attempting to influence federal, state, or local legislation
- Fundraising events, activities, and related expenses (example: benefits, dinners, sporting events)
- Awards, prizes, or scholarships for use outside the applicant's programming
- Tuition for academic study
- Food or beverage for hospitality or entertainment functions
- Regranting, contributions, or donations
- Projects benefits for-profit organizations
- Private events closed to the public and activities restricted to an organization's membership
- Excessive administrative costs (15% max allowed for internal salaries, costs related to owned venue)
- Projects in the following areas: beauty pageants, cosmetology, face painting, karaoke, magic shows, mineralogy, gemology, quiz bowls, pyrotechnics)
- Projects of a religious nature designed to promote or inhibit religious belief and/or practice and that have no basic underlying secular them or topics

FUNDING DECISION PROCESS

- Staff review/due diligence: Staff may contact applicants for additional materials or clarifying questions
- Grants Committee Review: Applicants are reviewed and ranked by panelists independently before a group committee meeting
- Grants Committee Meeting: Committee members will discuss each application and make a formal funding recommendation. Applicants may receive feedback on their applications
- Approval: The committee's recommendations are approved by MCA's Board of Directors
- Notification: The organization's Executive Director and lead applicant will be notified of the grant award. Official notification will be sent via USPS.

OTHER NOTES

- Do not wait until the last minute to begin your grant application. Leave extra time in case of questions or computer issues. Missing fields or required documents will prevent the submission of the grant to the committee.
- Do not wait until the last minute to secure your organization's UEI number
- Contact and programming information for all grantees will be made available to the press, and MCA may use quotes or pictures from applications or reports publicly.
- MCA's Grant workshop may be viewed on MCA's You Tube
- Contact for application questions or technical support: jaye.baillie@mcaocala.com

EVALUATION AND DECISION PROCESS

The Cultural Grants Committee will evaluate applicants based on the following criteria:

Criteria	Definition	Score Impact
Artistic Excellence	<p>Quality of the artists, organizations, arts education providers, works of art, and/or services that the applicant will involve.</p> <p>Innovation and creativity in programming and artist selection</p>	<p>30 Points</p>
Artistic Merit (Cont. on next page)	<p>Importance and appropriateness of the goals to the organization’s mission, artistic field, artists, audience, community, and/or constituency.</p> <p>Fiscal Responsibility – the appropriateness of the budget (the clear and realistic presentation of the proposed budget during the grant period); demonstrated evidence of strong and/ or developing financial support from the community.</p> <p>Exhibited diverse programming that is reflective of the community. Commitment and actions furthering Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Evidence of direct compensation to artists, art collectives, and/or art workers.</p> <p>Ability to carry out the operation’s work and mission based on such factors, the quality and clarity of the activities and goals, the resources involved, and the qualifications of the organization’s personnel.</p> <p>Adoption and commitment to best practices in board governance (term limits, separation of power, recruitment efforts, approving financial statements, adherence to bylaws).</p> <p>Appropriateness of proposed performance measurements. This includes where relevant, measures to assess student and/or teacher learning in arts education.</p>	<p>40 Points</p>

Community Outreach and Impact

Potential to serve and/or reach individuals whose opportunities to experience the arts are limited by geography, ethnicity, economics, or disability, as applicable (increasing access to the arts)

Strength and impact of arts and culture-based partnerships and cross-sector collaborations (partnerships with organizations outside of the arts and culture sector).

As applicable, engagement with the following constituencies (as highlighted by the National Endowment for the Arts):

- Historically Black Colleges and Universities,
- Tribal Colleges and Universities,
- American Indian and Alaska Native tribes,
- African American Serving Institutions,
- Hispanic Serving Institutions,
- Asian American and Pacific Islander communities, and
- Organizations that support the independence and lifelong inclusion of people with disabilities.

30 Points

FUNDING DECISION PROCESS

- **Staff Review/due diligence:** Staff may contact applicants for additional materials (only the most critical information). Please watch for an email or call before the end of July
- **Committee Review:** Applications are reviewed and scored by the committee (using the rubric above). Scores are averaged, and written comments may be formulated. Funding recommendations are determined by the committee's scores and available funding
- **Board Approval:** Committee recommendations are approved by MCA's Executive Committee and Board of Directors
- **Notification:** The applicant's CEO and Chair will receive their grant notification letter via email by the end of August
- **Award:** MCA makes a formal check presentation to grant recipients during the annual Applaud the Arts. Should funds be needed prior to the October event, coordination should be made with MCA. However, no project may start before September 1, 2023.

AWARDED GRANTEE REQUIREMENTS (during the grant period)

- **Request Permission for Changes:** Significant programming or budget changes must be requested in advance; changes may or may not affect the grant award amount. Grant funds that are not used by June 2, 2025 must be returned to Marion Cultural Alliance (MCA).
- **Notification:** Grantees must keep jaye.baillie@mcaocala.com on their email list, renew required insurance policies when they expire, and notify MCA of any contact changes or changes in IRS tax-exempt status. MCA will add grantees to its email list, including resources and grant opportunities. Grantees must provide information on planned events, programming, etc. to allow MCA to promote through its social media channels

- *Inclusion:* Grantees must provide equal access and opportunity in employment and services and may not discriminate based-on race, color, ethnicity, religion, gender, ancestry, national origin, geography, age, varying disabilities, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, familial status, citizenship status, or socioeconomic status. The make-up of the staff, board, audience, volunteers, artists, scientists, historians, and other decision makers involved with the grantee organization should be inclusive of the diversity of the community and compatible with the organization's mission.
- *Acknowledgement:* Grantees must acknowledge the grant in all publicity and materials using the MCA/NEA logo provided and/or verbiage like: Supported in part by a grant from Marion Cultural Alliance and the NEA. MCA may publicize the grant using photographs from applications and reports.
- *Recordkeeping:* Grantees must keep information (including description and photos of the funded programming, press or publicity about the programming, including use of logos or acknowledgement statement and financial records for the final report for five years)
- *Data Collection:* Organizations are asked to collect information on number of attendees, survey of audience participants, demographics, and/or basic field observations of program participants such as tickets sold or counting the number of audience members.
- *Final Report:* An online form will be provided with the award agreement to document program excellence and success. A brief narrative, statistics/demographics, proof of acknowledgement of MCA and the NEA, and four photographs (high resolution). This report is due within 30 days of the completion of the grant activities.

Questions?

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