



**Rural Grant Program
Guidelines
2024**



1. What is the Rural Grant Program?

The Arts Council Rural Grant Program was originally a sub-granting program sponsored partly by the Texas Commission on the Arts and Mays Strategic Philanthropy. After the sponsored program ended, the Arts Council began a direct grant program to continue this much-needed funding source for our rural affiliates. The program is designed to assist Arts Council affiliate member organizations located in the six rural counties of the Brazos Valley (Burleson, Grimes, Leon, Madison, Robertson, and Washington) with program-specific funding needs. Rural Grants are available for up to \$2,500.00.

2. Purpose of the Rural Grant

Rural Grant funds are available for a wide range of projects, focusing on impacting children and families. In general, they should serve to increase children's understanding and participation in arts, culture, or heritage programs or be of an educational or instructional function. Inclusive, diverse, and cooperative projects involving partnerships with other organizations, artists, or local businesses are encouraged.

3. Eligibility – What We Fund

- Activities and programs that are artistic, cultural, or heritage by nature
- Programs open to the public, particularly inclusive programs targeting and directly impacting children and families
- Programs taking place between October 1, 2023, and September 30, 2024 (Funds may be used on a reimbursement basis for eligible and approved expenses)
- Applicant must provide a 1:1 (dollar-for-dollar) match
- Applicant must be an Arts Council affiliate organization in good standing
- Applicant must be a not-for-profit organization operating or delivering programs in the arts, culture, or heritage fields
- Applicant must be an organization operating and presenting programs in the six rural counties of the Brazos Valley: Burleson, Grimes, Leon, Madison, Robertson, and Washington

4. Restrictions – What We Do Not Fund

- a. General Restrictions
 - Only one application will be accepted per organization, artist, or program in the fiscal year. If more than one Rural Grant application is submitted, all will be rejected for that fiscal year.
 - Rural Grant funds cannot be used to eliminate accumulated or existing debt.
 - There must be no program participation restrictions based on organizational membership, age, race, sex, creed, religion, disability, sexual orientation, national/ethnic origin, or social condition.

- Rural Grant funds are not available to or for:
 - o Government agencies or public authorities;
 - o Cash services or endowments of any kind;
 - o Underwriting of capital expenditures (buildings, land, permanent equipment, or artwork);
 - o Projects planned primarily for fundraising purposes;
 - o Travel, lodging, per diem (or other food or alcohol related expense), registration or fees related to an individual's attendance to conferences, trade shows, or other events outside the Brazos Valley;
 - o Loans, fines, penalties, cost of litigation, or associated interest payments;
 - o Political contributions or activity of any political nature (i.e. lobbying);
 - o Re-granting programs;
 - o Awards, scholarships, or cash prizes to individuals;
 - o Activities restricted to members or which do not benefit the general public;
 - o College/university or school projects that are part of a course or curriculum or that do not benefit the general public;
 - o Activities occur outside the October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024 grant period. **Projects taking place during this period are eligible for reimbursement through the Rural Grant program.**

- b. Organizational Restrictions
 - o The salaries of current administrative staff are not eligible for funding.
 - o Rural Grant funding projects must be an extension of the organization's usual activities and in keeping with the organization's mission.
 - o Rural Grant funds are not available to organizations that have administrative offices located inside the Bryan/College Station area.

5. Review and Award Calendar/Procedure

Applications are due by 11:59 pm on Monday, February 19, 2024. All applications must be submitted through The Arts Council's online grant portal.

The Rural Grant panel will review and score applications in late February 2024. The award recommendations will go to the Arts Council board for approval on March 5, 2024. Provided the board approves the recommendations, **awards will be announced and paid in mid-March 2024.**

A final Rural Grant report form must be submitted **before October 20, 2024.** Projects must be completed by September 30, 2024.



6. Application Review Criteria

General Consideration: Does the application reflect the intent of the grant program – namely arts, culture, or heritage programs that target children, youth, and families in the rural counties of the Brazos Valley and increase understanding of and participation in the arts?

IMPACT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public service • Audience or participants, especially the children/family audience • Education and outreach • Inclusivity and diversity of the program • Economic impact 	40 POINTS
ARTISTIC QUALITY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality of artistic opportunities and experience provided to participants • Skills of artists involved • Impact on youth participants • Quality of services 	40 POINTS
CAPABILITY/FISCAL HEALTH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administrative & personnel capability • Demonstrated history • Planning, implementation • Reasonable Budget • Diversity of funding sources 	10 POINTS
SUPPORT OF THE MISSION OF THE ARTS COUNCIL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessibility to residents and visitors • Positive representation of the arts in the Brazos Valley & The Arts Council • Partnership with other artists, organizations, and businesses 	10 POINTS
TOTAL	100 POINTS