



## Expanded Access to Arts and Culture Policies, 2025

# EAAC Policy Recommendations

## EQUITY PRACTICES

### Opportunity

- Our *Emerging* grant category welcomes small-budget organizations that are new to grant funding and/or to providing arts programming.
- In this category, a reduced number of application questions will afford emerging organizations a simpler process.
- This category also permits the use of Fiscal Sponsors, allowing small groups or individual artists who are not yet 501(c)3 organizations to apply for funding.
- Emerging 501c3 organizations will be permitted to apply for both Operating Support and Project Specific grants, allowing them to request higher funding amounts than would be available if they were limited to one category.

### Outreach

- Applications, public information sessions, and workshops will be offered in the four languages most used in the City of Fresno.
- One-on-one technical assistance sessions (in the aforementioned languages) will support new and emerging organizations.
- Grant workshops, multilingual, will be offered in under-resourced parts of the city.

### Data collection

- Our new **Letter of Intent** step will allow us to identify the need for support and technical assistance so we can offer help early the application process.
- Narrative questions in all application forms will include identification of who will be served and in what parts of the city each applicant organization will be providing services.

## NEW STEP IN THE APPLICATION PROCESS

### Letter of Intent (LOI)

*This new step will require all potential applicants to submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) prior to submission of an application. In reviewing these LOIs, our panels can determine*

- Each applicant's standing with the CA Secretary of State and Office of the Attorney General
- Each applicant's overall budget size, to help determine grant category eligibility

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- Applicants' Current Business Address in the City of Fresno (P.O. Box will not be accepted. Accepted documents include utility bill with the organization's name or signed lease agreement.)
- Each applicant's NTEE Code
- Any required City Right of Way (Will project take place on City of Fresno Property?)
- Type of application being submitted [General Operating Support, Project Specific or both (only emerging organizations can apply to both)]
- Type of project being proposed.
- Proof of previous work in the field: Examples showing evidence of arts and culture programming will need to be included with applications for Fiscal Sponsors and Established Organizations.

## DEFINITIONS

### **Fiscal Sponsors**

*A fiscal sponsor is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization that provides fiduciary oversight, financial management, and other administrative services to help build the capacity of charitable projects.*

- Fiscal Sponsors can apply for their own grant and can also apply on behalf of multiple different projects with different applicant organizations.
- A Fiscal Sponsor must demonstrate a minimum of two consecutive years of arts and culture programming.
- A Fiscal Sponsor must be in good standing with the IRS, the CA Secretary of State, and the CA Office of the Attorney General.

**NOTE:** any applicant organization, Established or Emerging, using a fiscal sponsor is eligible to apply ONLY for Project Specific grants, not for Operating Support.

### **Emerging Organizations**

- Emerging Organizations are organizations with an annual budget size of \$50,000 or less.
- Emerging Organizations can apply ONLY in the *Emerging* category
- Emerging Organizations can include a collective of individual artists **applying through a fiscal sponsor.**
- Emerging Organizations must provide a discounted admission on ticketed events or general admission to venues to residents of the City of Fresno.



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- Emerging Applicants applying under their own 501(c)3 can apply for both General Operating Grants and Project Specific grants
- However, Emerging Organizations applying with a fiscal sponsor are eligible ONLY for project specific grants.

### **Established Organizations**

- Established Organizations are organizations with annual budgets greater than \$50,000
- Established Organizations must demonstrate a minimum of two consecutive years of arts and culture programming.
- Established organizations can apply for either General Operating support or a Project specific grant, *but not both*.
- Established Organizations must provide a discounted admission to residents of the City of Fresno for any ticketed events or for general admission to venues.
- A fiscally sponsored project with a financial report on their own project that demonstrates a budget of over \$50,000, provided by their fiscal sponsor, will be eligible to apply in the Established Organization category for project specific grants, but not for Operating Support.
- Established Organizations applying with a fiscal sponsor are eligible ONLY for Project Specific grants.

## **GRANT CATEGORIES**

### **General Operating Support**

- To apply for General Operating Support, an organization must have an Arts or Culture NTEE or any other State or Federal designation that shows the purpose of the organization is to provide Arts and Cultural programming.
- General Operating support is based on the organization's annual budget as presented to the IRS and reported either in their 990 or in their most recent Statement of Activities. To qualify as an Established Organization, that verified annual budget must be \$50,000 or above.

### **Project Grants**

- Emerging Project grants are designated only for organizations with budget sizes under \$50,000.
- Established Organization Project Grants are for organizations with budget sizes over \$50,000.



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- Projects proposing Art Therapy must be offered by Licensed Art Therapists. Therapists' bios and license numbers must be included with the application.
- Applicants with an NTEE other than art and/or culture may apply for a project grant as an Established Organization, provided they can show an overall budget greater than \$50,000 and two consecutive years of verified arts programming.

### REGULATIONS

#### Appeals Process

Any applicant not recommended to receive an award, may submit a written appeal to Fresno Arts Council staff (we will provide the link) no later than 5:00 p.m. by the tenth (10<sup>th</sup>) calendar day following the release of notification of Intent to Award letter. Incomplete applications are not eligible for the appeals process.

The letter of appeal must state:

1. The grounds on which you believe your application was not properly dealt with or assessed;
2. Specific reasons or evidence you may have to support your appeal.

Once the appeal is received by the FAC, Staff will present it to the PRAC Subcommittee for review and recommendation to the PRAC. The PRAC will make the final ruling.

Note: Upon request from an applicant, FAC staff will provide written comments submitted by the evaluation panels, to help the applicant understand their score.

**All activities funded with EAAC funds must take place in the City of Fresno, including rehearsals, performances, and presentations.**

**All Artists named in applications must provide a letter stating that they are available and willing to participate, and that a fee has been agreed upon.**

**Funding distribution is contingent on available funds and number of applications received in each category. Tentatively the distribution would be as follows:**

- a. 40% of available funds will be distributed for Established Organization General Operating Support grants.
- b. 40% of available funds will be distributed for Established Organization Project Specific grants.



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- c. 10% of available funds will be distributed for Emerging Organization General Operating Support grants.
- d. 10% of available funds will be distributed for Emerging Organization Project Specific grants.
- e. General Operating Support Grants will not exceed \$50,000 for Emerging organizations and \$300,000 for Established organizations.
- f. Project Specific grants will not exceed \$50,000 for Emerging organizations and \$150,000 for Established organizations.

**Allocations will be recommended by the Commission (PRAC) with the goal to ensure that awards are reflective of the cultural, demographic and geographic diversity of Fresno. approximately on third (1/3) of the awards to projects and organizations that are in or will take place in the Highest Needs Neighborhoods as defined by the City and the Commission.**

**Guidelines will adhere to all requirements outlined in the Ordinance, the Cultural Plan, and the Agreement between the City of Fresno and the Fresno Arts Council.**

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