

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

GENERAL QUESTIONS:

What are the Genesee Valley Arts Grants?

- The Genesee Valley Arts Grants are a regrant program of the New York State Council on the Arts' Decentralization Program, administered by Genesee Valley Council on the Arts.

How are the Genesee Valley Arts Grants Funded?

- Genesee Valley Arts Grants are funded by NYSCA, the New York State Council on the Arts.

What is the Decentralization Program?

- The Decentralization Program, or DEC, is a program started by the New York State Council on the Arts in 1977, to ensure that New York's cultural funding reaches every part of the state. Decentralization funds are regranted locally by regional and local arts agencies at the invitation of the Council. DEC enables these designated agencies (DEC sites) to provide project support to a wide-range of professional, vocational and educational arts and cultural programming in their respective communities

Who can apply for Genesee Valley Arts Grants?

- Individual Artists, non-profit organizations, and local government entities are eligible for our grants. Churches and tribal governments are eligible as well.

What size grants are available?

- Grants up to \$5000.00 are available in the Community Arts and Artists in Education Category. Grants in the Individual Artist Category are awarded in the amount of \$2500.00.

How often are grants awarded?

- Grants are awarded once per year, in January.

When are applications due?

- Grant Deadlines may vary year to year, but are generally the third Thursday in September, for Livingston County, and the third Thursday in October for Monroe County. Specific Deadlines for the current grant cycle are available on the grants website, grants.gvartscouncil.org, on the Calendar Page.

How old do I need to be to apply?

- Individual Applicants must be at least 18 at the time of the application deadline.

Can I view a list of past recipients?

- Yes, a list of recipients for the 2018 Grant Cycle is available on the grants website, grants.gvartscouncil.org, on the Recipients Page

Where can I go to find out more information about the grant program?

- More information is available on our website, grants.gvartscouncil.org. If you cannot find the answer to your question, please call or email the Program Coordinator at Melissa@gvartscouncil.org / 585-243-6785.

I have never applied for a grant before. Is assistance available?

- Yes, assistance developing and writing your grant is available by contacting the Program Coordinator, at Melissa@gvartscouncil.org. First time grant applicants are also required to attend one informational grant seminar.

I am a returning applicant. Do I need to attend a grant seminar?

- Although not required, we encourage our returning applicants to attend a seminar. Seminars are a great refresher on the grant application process, including any possible changes to guidelines, and are a way to network with other artists and non-profits in your area.

QUESTIONS: THE ONLINE APPLICATION

How do I apply?

- Applications are only accepted through our online application, found on our website, grants.gvartscouncils.org, on the Apply Here! Page. View the “How to Apply” presentation before beginning your application for more details.

Can a save an in-progress application and return to it later?

- Yes, you can save an in-progress application by clicking the “Save and Continue Later” button at the bottom of the online application. A box will appear asking for your email. A link will then be sent to the provided email, allowing you to return to your application.

Can I view and edit my submitted application?

- No, once you have submitted your application, it is no longer available to you. You may request a copy of your submitted application by contacting the Program Coordinator, at Melissa@gvartscouncil.org.

What File types are acceptable in the online application?

- doc, docx, pdf, png, jpg, txt, xlsx, mov, mp3

What size files are acceptable in the online application?

- Files must be 1.4 MB or smaller.

What documents are acceptable as proof of non-profit status?

- Letter of Determination from the IRS indicating tax exempt status under section 501 c (3).
- Document of Charter by the New York State Board of Regents under Section 216 of the New York State Education Law.
- Documentation of Incorporation under section 402 of the New York State Not-For-Profit Corporation Law.
- Current NYS Bureau of Charities (Office of Attorney General) filing receipt.

What are acceptable documents as proof of status as a branch of local government?

- Official authorization as a arm of local government, i.e., a formal letter of official stationary signed by the appropriate county, town or village executive.

DEFINITIONS:

Fiscal Sponsor/Conduit Organization: Many organizations only give awards to non-profit organizations, not individuals. To access these grants, you need a fiscal sponsor, a non-profit organization that technically applies on your behalf. Essentially, the non-profit lets you use their non-profit status to apply for the award.

Grantee: the recipient of a grant

Granting Body/Grantor: the organization who administers a grant program

Letter of Commitment: document on the letterhead of the fiscal sponsor stating its willingness to fulfill all obligations as and duties as fiscal and administrative agent for the grant.

Letter of Partnership: document on the letterhead of other organizations, businesses, non-profits, which the grant applicant will be working with to execute the proposed project, but who ARE NOT the fiscal sponsor.

NYSCA: New York State Council on the Arts

Personnel Expenses: Anyone you hire for the project such as teachers, artists, assistants, etc.

Non-Personnel Expenses: space rental, travel, advertising cost

Remaining Operating Expenses: Supplies and materials, equipment rental

Earned Income: Money your project will generate (ticket sales, fundraisers, merchandise, etc.)

Unearned or Contributed Income: Money your project will receive (donations, other grants, etc.)

In-Kind Contributions: Anything donated to you that you would normally have to pay for. You must give these goods or services a realistic market value.