

Criteria for Operating Support Grant Eligibility

Operating Support grants funds the general operations of **arts-focused nonprofit organizations based in Metro Nashville-Davidson County**. An arts-focused organization is one whose primary mission is to directly uplift the performance, exhibition, or instruction of art. The word ‘art’ here refers to a number of artistic genres including dance, folk + traditional arts, literary arts, media arts, music, performance art, theater, and visual arts. Please contact Metro Arts staff if you have questions regarding the definition of an “arts-focused organization.”

To receive an operating support grant from Metro Arts, the applicant must:

- + Produce, present or directly support artistic programs, projects or works
- + Have a primary mission to directly support the performance, exhibition, or instruction of art
- + 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 January 15, 2024, or earlier for Operating Support Grant
- + Have a business address located in Metro Nashville & Davidson County and operate most of its programs in Metro Nashville
- + Have evidence of non-discrimination employment and personnel practices in place
- + Applicants must adopt an equity statement within the next 2 fiscal years

There are certain types of organizations that **cannot** receive an Operating Support Grant from Metro Arts. They are:

- + Non-arts organizations
- + Arts organizations who focus on capacity building, technical assistance, or advocacy and do not offer direct artistic programming.
- + Organizations who receive operational budget amendments (“line items”) from Metro, except for those that are provided by the Metropolitan Charter
- + “Friends of...” 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-arts’ nonprofit organization

***Metro Arts will review additional grant criteria eligibility issues not listed here on a case-by-case basis. Please contact Metro Arts staff with any questions regarding eligibility.**