



## Eligibility Guidelines for Community Arts Grants

**Bath County Arts Association**  
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The Bath County Arts Association (BCAA) grants program seeks to assist in the creation of new work by individual artists and support the activities of organizations dedicated to providing high quality artistic experiences for the Bath County community. BCAA champions the producers and makers of arts and culture projects that foster community and civic participation and cultural engagement. This includes non-commercial work in the arts including publishing, theater, dance, music, visual art, film and video, journalism, history, and public events. We invite anyone with an interest in creating works and producing cultural projects to apply.

Subject to the availability of funds, the BCAA Board of Directors offers two forms of community grant funding:

**Primary Grants** are larger grants (over \$1,500 to a maximum of \$10,000 per calendar year). Primary Grants are awarded in two funding cycles, with the larger percentage of budgeted funds awarded in phase one.

- Phase I: Applications are due by midnight on December 15. Funding is available by February 15.
- Phase II: Applications are due by midnight on April 30. Funding is available by June 1.

**Rolling Grants** are grant requests of \$250 to \$1,500. Rolling Grants are accepted and distributed year-round.

### Review Process

All Grants, both Primary and Rolling, are awarded via a merit-based review process by the Board of Directors based upon the following criteria:

- Artistic and/or cultural merit
- Community access to created work
- Managerial & financial competence

### Who is eligible for a Primary Grant from BCAA?

#### Individual Programs and Projects

Individual Project grants support the creation of new work by an artist or artisan. The goal of this grant is to support the creative work of artists/artisans in all disciplines, while highlighting the role of artists as vital members of our community. Collaborative projects are eligible for funding, though all participants and their roles should be included in the application.

#### Eligible applicants:

Individual artists living and/or working in Bath County, and engaged in the creation of artwork, projects or programs. Created work may be visual, literary, musical, digital, artisanal, performance or media art. Ideally, artwork would be made accessible, at least temporarily, to a segment of the Bath County community, whether in-person or virtually. Examples include public events, shows, exhibitions, installations, performances, or any other activities or platforms accessible to local residents.

## Community Arts Programs and Projects

Community Arts grants support the activities of community organizations dedicated to providing high quality artistic experiences for broad audiences, especially residents of Bath County. These organizations offer artistic excellence and innovation, accept leadership/partnership roles within the community, and make the arts accessible to all.

### Eligible applicants:

Nonprofit organizations or groups applying with a community-based nonprofit organizations will be given priority consideration for grant funding. Other (for profit) organizations will be considered based on review criteria.

## Primary Grant Review Process

Applications are reviewed each grant cycle in the context of evaluation criteria, available funding, and the number/strength of other requests. An award received in the past neither implies nor guarantees that an applicant's project/program will be funded. There is also no guarantee an applicant will receive equivalent funding to another applicant with a similar request or project, nor are applicants guaranteed award amounts commensurate with prior awards. Each grant application is reviewed by the Board for a full, partial or matching grant award.

Applicants must demonstrate the ability to obtain funds or make modifications if the project exceeds the BCAA grant award. Applicants are encouraged to seek or demonstrate additional sources of funding for the project. The Board reserves the right to add a matching grant requirement as a condition of awarding a particular grant. The match ratio and other specifics would be included in the grant award letter.

The following applicants or projects are NOT eligible for Primary Grant awards:

- Applications for less than \$1500. Applicants seeking less than the minimum award are encouraged to apply through our Rolling Grants program. Please see rolling grant eligibility.
- Prior award recipients who failed to submit final reports for completed projects/programs.
- Applicants who do not submit a completed application and required documents through our online application system.
- Applications for activities unrelated to the arts
- Applications seeking support for utilities, bills, office supplies/ space rental, ongoing general operating expenses, or endowment funds

## Rolling Grants Review Process

The BCAA rolling grants program provides up to \$1500 for short-term arts and cultural opportunities for Bath County residents. Applications for rolling grants are accepted and awarded throughout the year. Applications must be received no less than one month prior to the activity or event. Applications will be reviewed within two weeks of receiving the completed form.

Upon receiving BCAA Board approval, notifications will include a grant acceptance letter to be signed and returned to BCAA. Funding for rolling grant applications will be distributed upon receipt of the grant acceptance form. Examples of activities eligible for funding are classes, workshops, performances, etc. **Eligible activities are purposely unspecified, allowing the program flexibility to respond to community needs; however, an applicant's primary purpose must be arts related.**

Rolling grant funding cannot support the following:

- Projects that already receive funding from the BCAA primary grant program. Applicants may submit multiple applications for rolling grants but can only receive a maximum of \$1500 per calendar year for each project.
- Activities unrelated to the arts.