

What is a Mini Grant?

In 2019, the Arts Council began funding small-scale arts, history, and culture projects in Cumberland County. Mini Grants offer nonprofits, municipalities, and artists in Cumberland County an opportunity for funding outside of the Arts Council’s traditional Project and Artist Support Grants.

Who May Apply?

Mini Grant applicants can be a nonprofit organization, municipality, or artist operating or residing in Cumberland County. An individual or group of artists may apply for a Mini Grant if they are based in Cumberland County and the funded project also occurs in Cumberland County. Schools are generally not considered for Mini Grant applications and should refer to the Artists in Schools program for consideration. Organizations that are ineligible to receive funding through other Arts Council grant mechanisms due to unfulfilled grant requirements may not apply for a Mini Grant.

Applicants may apply for more than one Mini Grant in the same fiscal year but cannot be awarded for the same project in the same fiscal year.

What Projects are eligible?

Projects funded by a Mini Grant must be open to the public. Mini Grant projects can occur in any cultural art form and must be completed within six (6) months from the date of award. Any project that has previously been reviewed twice by an Arts Council grants panel or Grants Assessment Committee and was not funded is ineligible for a Mini Grant.

All virtual/online projects must use artists whose primary residence is Cumberland County.

Fundraisers for non-arts and cultural nonprofits are not eligible for Mini Grants.

What May I Ask For?

A Mini Grant award will not exceed \$1,250. There is no matching requirement for a Mini Grant. The Arts Council building has multi-use spaces for meetings, receptions, workshops, rehearsals, exhibitions and performances. Mini Grant requests may include the use of these spaces for a specific purpose related to the grant.

What are the Evaluation Criteria?

Applications are evaluated on:

- Quality of arts, history, or cultural experience.
- Feasibility of project - including the budget, potential Cumberland County community impact, and the need for support.
- Grants of Arts Council building space are dependent on scheduling restrictions.

What is the Deadline for Application?

Mini Grant applications may be submitted anytime but must be received by the corresponding deadline.

- *July 24, 2020 - August 2020 Project Start Date*
- *November 20, 2020 - December Project Start Date*
- *February 19, 2021 - March 2021 Project Start Date*
- *May 21, 2021 – June 2021 project start date.*

Applicants may be asked to attend the Grants Assessment Committee meeting to answer questions about their proposed project before a grant is awarded.

Can I Get Assistance in Preparing my Application and Proposal?

Yes! If you have any questions about the application or your proposal, please contact Blanca LaCortiglia, Grants Assistant at 910-323-1776 or BlancaL@theartscouncil.com.

How do I Apply for a Mini Grant?

Mini Grant Guidelines and application are available on the Arts Council website. Download and complete the application. Sign and submit the original and supporting materials to: Blanca LaCortiglia, Grants Assistant at BlancaL@theartscouncil.com.

How will I receive my grant funds?

Grant funds will be distributed in one of three ways:

1. The Arts Council will pay invoices related to the project.
2. The Arts Council will reimburse the grantee for expenses from the approved project budget.
3. Prior Arts Council grantees may qualify to receive 80% of the Mini Grant award upon execution of their contract; the final 20% will be paid upon receipt and approval of the Mini Grant Final Report.

Reporting Requirements

A Final Report template will be provided to each grantee to complete at the end of their project. Final Reports with support materials and required financial documentation must be submitted on or before the date indicated in the grant contract. The grantee must submit copies of the project's publicity acknowledging recognition of the Arts Council of Fayetteville/ Cumberland County for the grant. Style guidelines and Arts Council logos will be provided to the grantee upon execution of the grant contract.

Grantees may also be required to present in-person to the Grants Assessment Committee upon completion of their project.

A late or incomplete Final Report is a violation of the grant contract and may result in the loss of grant funds. A report is "late" when it is received after the "report due" date shown on the grant contract unless otherwise approved by Arts Council staff.

Project Changes

Changes to the project’s budget, dates, or scope of work that differ from the original Mini Grant application must be requested in writing to the Arts Council. No such change can be made without the advance written approval of the Arts Council (e.g., a second project cannot simply be substituted by the grantee if the approved project is unable to be executed).

The grantee must immediately inform the Arts Council of any funds not spent as part of the Mini Grant award. Failure to do so is a violation of the grant contract and may result in the forfeiture of any outstanding payments due to the grantee and/or the repayment of Arts Council funds. Mini Grant funds cannot be used as a match for other grants from the Arts Council.

An applicant’s past performance with Arts Council grants are considered by the Grant Assessment Committee when reviewing Mini Grant requests. Applicants may be denied based on their performance with accounting, reporting practices, and/or the failure to meet deadlines for the Arts Council.

Accounting Procedures

The Arts Council reserves the right to periodically conduct an internal audit of a grantee’s financial records to assure accuracy and assess the financial condition of the grantee. Grantees must maintain grant records for three years from the date of the submission of the Final Report or in the case of an audit, from the date when audit findings and recommendations are resolved, whichever is later.

2019-2020 Mini Grant Awards

| Organization/Artist | Nonprofit, Artist, Municipality | Summary |
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| Cumberland Choral Arts | Nonprofit | Lift Every Voice and Sing: A Musical Journey Through Black History |
| Fayetteville-Cumberland Parks & Recreation | Municipality | Diorama for Clark Park Nature Center |
| Town of Wade | Municipality | Halloween Fall Festival |
| Devra Thomas | Artist | 4-Part Reading Series of New Plays |
| Brian Adam Kline | Artist | Marketing; Props, Costumes, Scene materials for two theatrical productions |
| Gilbert Theater | Nonprofit | GATE: Gilbert Adult Theater Education workshops |
| Fayetteville PRIDE | Nonprofit | Fayetteville PRIDE Celebration |
| Greater Life of Fayetteville | Nonprofit | Art supplies and materials for I am YOU-Nique Summer Academy |
| Sweet Tea Shakespeare | Nonprofit | Artist Subsidies for Podcast Performances |