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FY2020-2021 Arts Organization Support III

A program of the [Indiana Arts Commission](#), the Arts Organization Support III (AOS III) program provides annual operating support for the ongoing artistic and administrative functions of eligible arts organizations that align with the [Indiana Arts Commission's Public Funding Imperatives](#).

(New) The AOSIII program recognizes an organization that:

- **Is a leader in the arts and cultural field, and;**
- **Operates beyond its institutional walls to meaningfully engage and impact diverse communities in its home location, region, and throughout the State of Indiana.**

Eligibility requirements for this grant program can be found on Page 2 of these guidelines.

Required to Apply: Letter of Intent

The Letter of Intent (LOI) will determine program eligibility. All applicants must submit a Letter of Intent by January 15, 2019, 4:30PM EST, and receive approval via a Notice of Eligibility, to apply to this program. Click [here](http://www.in.gov/arts/apply) (www.in.gov/arts/apply) to access and complete the required LOI through the online system.

Timeline	<i>all times eastern</i>
Grant Period	July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2021
Letter of Intent to Apply Due	January 15, 2019, 4:30 p.m.
Eligibility Notifications Sent to Applicants	Week of January 28, 2019
Application Due	March 14, 2019, 4:30 p.m.
Grant Review Panel	April 25, 2019, 10:00 a.m.

Award Notification	Early July 2019
First Payment (75%)	September - October 2019
First Year Final Grant Report Due	July 29, 2020, 4:30 p.m.
Final Grant Report Due	July 29, 2021, 4:30 p.m.
Second Payment (25%)	September - October 2020

All Indiana Arts Commission grantees are required to comply with and agree to the following:

- Requirements of Direct Indiana Arts Commission Grants Recipients
- Accessibility Requirements
- Privacy Considerations
- IAC Funding Imperatives

Detailed descriptions of these requirements can be found online: IN.gov/arts/2387.htm which also includes information about the following:

- Payments Schedule
- Reconsideration and Appeals Process

Applicant Eligibility Requirements (Changes for FY20-21 are in bold)

Applicant must meet all of the following eligibility requirements:

1. Be an arts producing, promoting, presenting service or teaching organization as demonstrated by:
 - a. Significant evidence that it is viewed as an arts organization by its community;
 - b. Arts as core purpose, mission, and focus. The organization's Articles of Incorporation and/or Bylaws must reflect this core purpose;
 - c. The majority of public programs are arts programs and occur with regular, scheduled frequency throughout the year; demonstration of positive impact;
 - d. Facility space (indoor and/or outdoor) is utilized predominantly as arts production or arts activity space (as applicable);
 - e. A proportionate amount of operating budget is allocated to direct arts programs and services;
 - f. Provide significant, verifiable arts education-focused programming.
2. Be a private, nonprofit tax-exempt agency with either 501(c)(3) status from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) OR be an Indiana public entity (part of city or county);
3. Must be incorporated in the State of Indiana at the time of application;
4. Must have a minimum of five years of tax exempt operational history as an Indiana-based arts organization;
5. **Must be a previous grantee of Arts Organization Support Level II funding (minimum of one, two-year cycle) prior to applying to Level III for the first time;**

6. Must be physically located in Indiana, with the majority of its arts programming, services, or activities taking place in Indiana, and must primarily serve and engage Indiana audiences and participants;
7. Must have a governing body that is representative of the organization's service area;
8. Must annually implement program planning and evaluation processes with input from the community to be served;
9. Must have a DUNS number;
10. **Excluding pass-through dollars (e.g. re-granting dollars)**, must have an annual cash operating income of \$1,000,000 or more over a three-year average, as supported by the last three Financial Statements;
11. **Must provide and document significant community and multi-regional (region as defined by the IAC) leadership and impact as evidenced by direct programming, services and planning;**
 - a. **Multi-regional can include:**
 - i. **Extensive community and/or economic development efforts in concert with local, regional, or multi-regional leaders; and/or**
 - ii. **Documented multi-regional school use of applicant-developed arts education curriculum or other related materials/programs.**
12. Must have operated for at least three years according to a strategic or long-range plan adopted by the organization's governing body;
13. Must pay an administrative staff person who reports to the governing body;
14. If required by the state of Indiana Office of the Auditor, must have an annual, independent financial audit conducted by a CPA; at a minimum a Financial Statement is required by the IAC.
15. All eligible applicants must provide a match for every dollar provided by the Indiana Arts Commission with ten dollars of the organization's own funds. One hundred percent of the match must be cash and cannot include in-kind donations. The cash match can constitute funds from the applicant organization's budget.
16. **Organizations funded on a two-year cycle are required to submit a mid-cycle grant report at the completion of the first year. Organizations unable to maintain program eligibility requirements may (1) not be funded in the second year, or (2) may be funded at a lower tier, if applicable.**

Restrictions/Ineligible Applicants

Funding in the AOS III Program will NOT be awarded for the following:

1. Organizations whose primary purpose is not arts-based as defined by item 1. above;
2. Organizations whose primary purpose is educational or instructional e.g., schools, universities, colleges, etc;
3. Entities that receive state-level operating support or non-project support directly from the Indiana General Assembly are NOT eligible for operating support. This includes any line items/support or contributions from the state within the organization's operating, facility, or other budgets or the organization being part of a larger state

4. Any organization whose sole or primary purpose is to fundraise (e.g., “friends of” groups, foundations, etc.) for an otherwise ineligible organization;
5. Any organization with an outstanding Final Grant Report due to the Regional Arts Partner/Indiana Arts Commission or;
6. An organization may only apply for one Regional Initiative Grant (APS, AOSI, or AOSII) in the same fiscal year.

Application Review Criteria

After receipt of completed application, the Indiana Arts Commission will review materials to ensure that all required information was submitted. If any discrepancies are found (such as incomplete answers or uploads), the application may be ineligible for review. Each eligible application will be reviewed and scored by a conflict-free panel of professional peers. The panel review will take place in Indianapolis in the spring of 2019 and will be open to applicants and the public for observation and may be recorded (although audio quality is not guaranteed.) Applicants are invited as observers only and cannot lobby or address the panel on behalf of their applications before, during or after the panel meeting. The panel location and date will be posted on the IAC website.

Applications will be scored on a 100-point scale. The scores will be included as part of a funding formula to assist with the allocation of grant awards. Organizations with a total score of 85 and over will be eligible for funding. Evaluation criteria are each worth 25 points and are as follows:

- **Community Engagement:** Extent to which the applicant organization can demonstrate an active, two-way, ongoing relationship between the applicant and community in the planning, participation and evaluation of the proposed activity(ies), which includes intentional strategies for diversity, equity, access, and inclusion.
- **Organizational Excellence:** The extent to which the applicant organization can demonstrate sound fiscal management and administrative policies and a demonstrable commitment to continuous improvement, and preservation and development of the art form.
- **Arts Education:** The extent to which the applicant organization can demonstrate strategies designed to transfer specific training, skills, abilities and/or knowledge in the arts through publicly recognized standards (e.g. workshop leader has relevant experience; education standards are integrated if a school-based activity.).
- **Artistic Quality:** Relative to the budget size of the organization, the extent to which the applicant demonstrates a committed effort to provide its audience a meaningful, impactful, quality and authentic artistic experience(s).

Grant Award Determination

Following the panel meeting, a Commission-approved funding formula is applied to determine the specific grant recommendations. The applicant does not request a grant amount. The grant amount is based on the average of the applicant’s last three years of total cash income, panel’s ratings, number of eligible applicants, and the dollars available.

The grant award cannot be more than 20% of the applicant's three-year cash operating income average. These completed cash operating income statements must have been approved by the organization's Board of Directors.

The AOS III budget breakdowns and average award amounts (based on the previous fiscal year) are:

- \$1 million – 4,999,999: Average FY2019 grant was \$33,300
- \$5 million – 9,999,999: Average FY2019 grant was \$35,100
- \$10 million + : Average FY2019 grant was \$36,900

The Indiana Arts Commission will review and ratify the funding recommendations at its June quarterly business meeting. Commission meetings are open to the public for observation and may be recorded. All applicants will be notified after the Commission meeting.

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Ready to apply?

Only applications submitted online will be accepted. Access the online system in.gov/arts/apply.

Funding for this program comes from the Indiana General Assembly and the [National Endowment for the Arts](#).