

## Program Overview

**What is America250:** In anticipation of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the Indiana Arts Commission is accepting applications for arts projects, in any discipline, that celebrate American history and connect participants to that history.

The America250 Grant Program is a one-time program made possible through funding from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Indiana General Assembly.

**Who Can Apply:** 501(c)(3) Organizations, units of government, libraries, schools (See page 3 for a full eligibility list).

**Note:** Current organizational grantees of the IAC, excluding those who are fiscally sponsored, are eligible for this opportunity. All applicants must secure a [Unique Entity Identifier \(UEI\)](#) prior to application.

### Key Dates:

- Applications open November 13, 2025.
- Grant period: March 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026.

**Who to Contact:** For information about the program and how to apply, contact the IAC grants team at [grantsadmin@iac.in.gov](mailto:grantsadmin@iac.in.gov).

## Program Details

### Program Goal(s)

- Celebrate American history.
- Provide Indiana's people and communities access to arts experiences.

### Program Outcomes

- Hoosiers celebrate, learn, and reflect on American history through the arts
- Indiana's arts providers have expanded opportunities to enhance the quality of life in their communities§

§ IAC 2024 – 2028 Long-Term Strategic Framework Impact

## About Us

The Indiana Arts Commission (IAC) is an agency of state government, and its funding comes from the Indiana General Assembly and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).

A core component to the Indiana Arts Commission's commitment to investing in the state's vibrant and rich arts and culture sector are grants, which support people and communities through arts organizations and arts projects.

## Program Contacts

This program is conducted by the Indiana Arts Commission.

- **For questions about application, eligibility, and guidelines:** Contact IAC grants and operations team at [grantsadmin@iac.in.gov](mailto:grantsadmin@iac.in.gov).
- **For help or technical assistance with the Online Grant System:** Contact IAC grants and operations team at [grantsadmin@iac.in.gov](mailto:grantsadmin@iac.in.gov).
- **For accessibility accommodations or questions about accessibility at an organization or for a project:** Contact [accessibility@iac.in.gov](mailto:accessibility@iac.in.gov)
- **To apply:** [Access the application](#). Only applications submitted online will be accepted, except in the case of ADA accessibility accommodations.

## Grant Award Amounts, Matching Funds and Grant Payment

Applicants can request up to \$5,000. No matching funds are required.

Applicants recommended for funding will receive the full amount requested and are eligible to be paid in full at the beginning of the grant period provided they are in good standing and supply required information in a timely manner.

## America250 Funding Priorities

The IAC will prioritize artistic quality and statewide geographic reach.

## Dates to Know - America250 (Grant Period March 1, 2026 – December 31, 2026)

Program Milestone	Date
Program Opens for Applications	November 13, 2025
Informational Webinar	November 20, 2025 at 10 a.m. ET <a href="#">Register to attend the webinar.</a>
Application Due	December 15, 2025 by 11:59 p.m. ET*  *Late applications are not accepted. All applications are final following the submission deadline.

Funding Notification	By February 16, 2026
Final Grant Report Due	January 15, 2027

## Eligibility

### Eligible Applicants\*

- Nonprofit 501(c)(3) arts organizations in any arts discipline;
- Other 501(c)(3) nonprofit entities that provide arts programming such as social service organizations, main streets, etc.;
- Local units of government;
- Public libraries;
- Public and private schools from pre-kindergarten through high school;
- Colleges and universities

#### \*Note:

- Current organizational grantees of the IAC, excluding those who are fiscally sponsored, are eligible for this opportunity.
- Applicants must have a valid Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) through SAM.gov by the application deadline. [Learn more about SAM UEI.](#)
- Fiscally sponsored applicants are not eligible.

### Additional Eligibility Requirements:

- Nonprofit organizations must be incorporated in the State of Indiana at the time of application and for the duration of the grant period. They must also be physically located in Indiana. The majority of programming, services, or activities must take place in Indiana and serve and engage Indiana audiences and participants.
- All applicants must be in good standing with all of the following: the State of Indiana; the Indiana Arts Commission; the applicant's [Regional Arts Partner](#); and the National Endowment for the Arts.

## Use of Grant Funds

### Eligible Uses of IAC Grant Funds

America250 grants support eligible expenses of a public-facing short-term arts project or arts activity(ies) which can include but is not limited to artist fees, program supplies, and facility rental.

### Ineligible Uses of IAC Grant Funds

IAC funds may not be used on food and beverage (including alcoholic beverages); cash awards or prizes (including gift cards); and fundraising costs and events. **This is not an exhaustive list of ineligible expenses.** [Consult the Requirements and Policies for Indiana Arts Commission](#)

[Grantees for additional information on eligible and ineligible uses of IAC funds.](#)

## Review Process and Evaluation Criteria

### Eligibility Review

Following the application deadline, applications receive an eligibility review to ensure the applicant is eligible to apply for the program and all required information was submitted. Incomplete or missing information may deem the application ineligible to advance to the review process.

### Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be evaluated by an internal review committee on how well they meet the following criteria:

- **Artistic Quality** – The extent to which the project demonstrates artistic excellence and merit.
- **America250 Celebration and Connection** – The extent to which the project celebrates American history and connects its intended audience to that history.
- **Project Management and Feasibility** – The extent to which the project spending is aligned with the project description and the project timeline is defined and feasible within the grant period.

[Access the Evaluation Criteria.](#)

[Access the scoring rubric that will be used by application reviewers.](#)

The review process is highly competitive, approximately 12 applications will be funded.

## Grant Recipient Requirements

### Final Report Requirements

Grantees will be required to report on their activity(ies) at the end of the grant period. This reporting includes qualitative and quantitative information and an accounting of how IAC funds were used. Collected information is shared with the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to determine trends and funding impact. Grantees should be engaged in participant tracking during the activity(ies).

Final grant reports submitted after the due date may be subject to penalty. Read the [Not in Good Standing policy.](#)

### Additional Requirements

IAC grants come with additional requirements such as acknowledgement of public funding. [Consult the Requirements and Policies for Indiana Arts Commission Grantees for additional information.](#)

## To Apply

Access the eligibility tool and application at

<https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=indianaarts>