Arts & Culture Grant Program:
2020 Guidelines

Through its Fund for the Arts & Culture, the Foundation for MetroWest has historically awarded discretionary grants that align with our vision for a vibrant community where artistic and cultural projects improve the quality of life for our residents and contribute to the economic vitality of our region.

2020 has proven to be a challenging year for our communities as the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted all facets of life in our region. We recognize the immense pressure the last 6 months have put on our cultural sector in MetroWest as organizations suspended programming, cancelled events, and continue to grapple with what the future holds for this fall and beyond. In the face of adversity, we have been heartened by the quick and creative adjustments arts and culture organizations have made and are working towards to continue offering a vibrant and connected cultural experience to our communities.

The Foundation’s 2020 Art & Culture Grant Program will focus on supporting our arts & culture organizations in MetroWest that contribute to our region’s vibrancy and economic strength by providing one-year grants of up to $25,000. In particular, we will provide funding to nonprofits who can demonstrate financial sustainability and have adjusted their offerings in creative ways to continue engaging our community in arts and cultural experiences. The Foundation will consider grants for:

- General operating needs
- Program or project specific initiatives
- Capacity building efforts

GRANT PROCESS

The 2020 grant cycle is an online process and will operate based on the following timeline:

- August 24 9:00 AM.................... Applications open online: www.bit.ly/ffmw_foundant
- October 2 5:00 PM.................... Deadline for proposals
- October 19–October 30th ............. Potential virtual site visits / follow-up conversations
- End of November.......................... Applicants notified of decision

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must:

- Have 501(c)(3) tax status as a registered nonprofit organization OR have an eligible fiscal sponsor
- Not discriminate in the hiring of staff or the provision of services on the basis of race, religion, gender or gender identity, sexual orientation, age, national origin, or disability
- Serve the MetroWest region

Ineligible organizations or requests include:

- City/town agencies, including libraries
- Individuals
- Schools – private, public, pre-K, charter, or Chapter 766
- youth-serving arts & culture initiatives (learn about our Youth Development Grant Program on our website)

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• human service organizations providing an arts-based program to their clients

WHAT WE WILL FUND

We support nonprofit organizations whose primary mission is to provide access to arts and cultural programming in our region. Specifically, we encourage proposals that focus on creative ways to offer experiences that engage diverse communities and contribute to a strong economy during the COVID pandemic. This includes:

• Visual and/or performing arts education for adults and families, including veterans, individuals with disabilities, aging adults, etc., virtual or in-person
• Performance series that resonate with changing audiences
  o Note: single performances will not be considered
• Gallery exhibitions or programming, virtual or in-person
• Celebration or preservation of local history and historic cultural landmarks in our region

SELECTION CRITERIA

When reviewing proposals the Foundation considers organizations who:

• prioritize serving the MetroWest region or a specific community within the region
• meet a documented need, are well planned, and have clear, measurable goals
• demonstrate financial stability
• have a clear and meaningful impact on the intended beneficiaries
• identify potential for sustainability and impact beyond the grant period
• clearly indicate how the requested funds will be used within a specified timeframe

HOW TO APPLY

1. Beginning August 24th, applicants will have access to the application form online.
2. If your organization is new to FFMW, please create an account.
3. If your organization has applied to FFMW in the past, please log into your existing account.
4. Once you are logged into your account, click on the Apply icon from the top menu bar.
5. Select 2020 Arts & Culture Grant Program.

GRANT AWARDS

Awards will be determined by end of November. Grantees will be notified by email of decisions and grant recipients will receive necessary paperwork and funding within two weeks of the notification date.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: October 2, 2020 AT 5:00 PM

If you have questions regarding the eligibility or suitability of your proposal, we encourage you to email grants@foundationformetrowest.org as early as possible to schedule a time to discuss.