

Grants for the Arts

GREATER JACKSON

ARTS Council



Cultural Programs
Major Grants
Arts Education
Arts Therapy
Creative Artists

Thank you for your interest in the Greater Jackson Arts Council's Grants for the Arts, our flagship program designed to fund projects that actively engage. By that we mean people being stimulated or inspired by, or getting involved with, the arts. This can include attending an arts event, taking part in an arts program, or creating art for the public interest.

5 Steps To Apply:

1. Read This Information Packet. *It provides an overview about applying for our grants and answers the most common questions.*

2. Fill Out The Application Form. *This gives us key information about you or your organization, the general scope of your project, and your budget. Also, this form provides important data to share with funders and sponsors regarding the outreach and impact area of our grants.*

3. Write A Proposal Brief. *This is the most important part of your application. You must write a proposal about the activity you want us to fund.*

4. Attach Relevant Information/Examples. *Depending on the type of activity you are producing, this might include a sample of previous work or a work-in-progress, publicity materials from previous activities, or links to other information sources about your work (such as a website).*

5. Send Us Your Application Materials. *By mail to Greater Jackson Arts Council, Grants for the Arts, P.O. Box 17, Jackson, MS 39205 or via hand-delivery to Greater Jackson Arts Council, Arts Center of Mississippi, 201 East Pascagoula, Suite 301, Downtown Jackson.*

When You Will Know:

45-60 days for Cultural Programs, Arts Education/ Arts Therapy, and Creative Artist grants of \$2,500 or less.

How To Contact Us:

For general information about Grants for the Arts, contact us as follows:

Telephone: (601) 960-1557

Email: jon@jacksonartscouncil.org

Website: www.jacksonartscouncil.org

Facebook: Greater Jackson Arts Council

Twitter: JacksonArts

General Grants for the Arts Information

About GJAC:

The Greater Jackson Arts Council was founded in 1981 and designated as the official local arts agency for Jackson and Hinds County. Our primary programs include Grants for the Arts, cultural advocacy, artistic management of public exhibition space, planning agent for the Arts Center of Mississippi as a modern community arts facility and collaborative, and production of the annual Storytellers Ball arts fundraiser.

What Kind of Major Grants We Offer:

1. Cultural Programs

Award Size: *Up to \$2,500*

Deadline: *November 15 and April 30*

Examples: *Performances, exhibits, and special collaborations.*

2. Arts Education/Arts Therapy

Award Size: *Up to \$2,000*

Deadline: *November 15 and April 30*

Examples: *Arts instruction for special groups, arts therapy programs, educational outreach.*

3. Creative Artist

Award Size: *Up to \$1,500*

Deadline: *November 15 and April 30*

Examples: *Creation of new bodies of work for public benefit, skill development for artists with a track record, promotion of events and showcases.*

Who Can Apply:

Our grants are open to individuals (artists, art therapists, teachers, community activists), arts organizations, neighborhood associations, K-12 schools, colleges, and other groups that use the arts in their work. Activities must take place within Jackson and Hinds County.

What You Cannot Apply For:

- *Activities not related to the arts or primarily religious in nature.*
- *Activities exclusive to private participation, including programs blocking public engagement on the basis of income, race, gender, sexual orientation, religious affiliation, or disability.*
- *Fundraising events.*
- *Activities that provide no short-term or long-term public benefit or engagement.*
- *Purchase of equipment or self-promotional ventures where there is no significant artistic track record.*
- *Prize money for contests.*

How Many Applications May Be Submitted:

GJAC will only review one grant proposal per applicant at a time. Also, you must meet all conditions of any previously received grant (including submission of the post-activity Grant Flash Report) before consideration will be given to a second proposal.

Possibility Of Partial Funding Or Not Being Funded:

There is a high demand for Grants for the Arts and a limited pool of funds to accommodate the number of requests we receive throughout the year. Have a backup plan in the event that your proposal is partially funded or not funded at all. And do not incur expenses for a project before you are approved for funding. The act of submitting an application does not guarantee financial support for your project. It is merely the first step in a process.

How GJAC Makes Funding Decisions:

We have a budget for Grants for the Arts, which we manage carefully and flexibly so that we have funding available throughout the year. Our goal is to support a balanced and broad scope of community activities. In addition to general assessment criteria, we consider the overall range of projects in the program as well as agency reports detailing spending to date and future commitments. All of these factors influence the choices we make.

Applications We Ask For:

At any point in the funding year, GJAC may request specific Grants for the Arts applications to help us achieve our mission and special priorities.

How We Assess Proposals:

A Grants for the Arts Committee (comprised of GJAC board members, staff, and community volunteers) assesses each application based on four general review criteria. They also use key expertise, professional judgment, evidence in the application materials, and comments from others to render the overall opinion. The Committee comes to a Word Score for each assessment criteria as follows:

OUTSTANDING: *Application meets criteria and shows outstanding qualities.*

STRONG: *Application meets criteria and shows strong qualities.*

GOOD: *Application meets criteria and shows good qualities.*

POTENTIAL: *Application does not meet criteria but shows potential to do so*

CONCERN: *Application does not meet criteria.*

Any application assessed as having **POTENTIAL** or **CONCERN** in any of the four general review criteria will not be recommended for funding.

General Assessment Criteria:

Although a wider range of prompts may be used to assess applications, most proposals are reviewed by taking an account of the following general criteria:

- 1. QUALITY.** *Refers to the quality of the activity and the quality of effect the activity will have on the people experiencing it. Does the activity benefit those taking part in it or significantly develop the skills of the participating artist? Does the artistic component of the project demonstrate a high standard?*
- 2. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT.** *Refers to how the activity will engage the public with the arts in the short-term or long-term. Does the activity increase opportunities for people to engage with or benefit from the arts? Does the application show evidence of publicity plans to make audiences aware of the project?*
- 3. PROJECT MANAGEMENT.** *Refers to how the project will be managed in the broader sense. Is the activity realistic and well planned? Does the proposal and/or applicant history reflect an ability to successfully manage the activity?*
- 4. FINANCIAL OUTLOOK.** *Refers to the activity from a financial perspective based on expense and income projections. Is the overall budget reasonable and relevant for the activity? Is the amount of money the applicant is asking for suitable for the scale of the project?*

APPLICATION FORM

Section A: About You

Are you applying as an individual or organization?

Individual

- Artist
- Art Therapist
- Teacher
- Community Activist

Organization

- Arts Group
- K-12 School or College
- Neighborhood Association
- Other

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City, State & Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Mobile: _____

Email: _____

Web Site: _____

Section B: About Your Project

Which major grant are you applying for?

- Cultural Programs (up to \$2,500)
- Arts Education/ Arts Therapy (up to \$2,000)
- Creative Artist (up to \$1,500)

Please give us a brief description of the activity:

How much money are you requesting: _____

What is the name or working title of the activity you are applying to do: _____

Where will your activity take place: _____

	Day	Month	Year
Start Date			
End Date			

Section C – About Your Background, Impact Area, and Potential Audience Benefit

Special Note: It is important that this section be completed as accurately as possible. We need this information to report back to existing and future funding sources regarding GJAC Grants for the Arts.

Background of Individual

White Black Hispanic Asian Other

Background of Organization

Professionally Staffed Organization Volunteer or Amateur Group

Municipal Impact Area

City of Jackson Ward Number: _____

City of Jackson Council Representative: _____

For assistance with the above, call the City of Jackson City Clerk's Office: 601-960-1035

County Impact Area

Hinds County Board of Supervisors District Number: _____

Hinds County Board of Supervisors Representative: _____

For assistance with the above, call the Hinds County Board of Supervisors: 601-968-6501

State Impact Area

U.S. Congressional District Number: _____

U.S. Congressional Representative: _____

Mississippi Senate District Number: _____

Mississippi Senate Representative: _____

Mississippi House District Number: _____

Mississippi House Representative: _____

For assistance with the above, visit the Project Vote Smart Website at www.votesmart.com.

Potential Audience Benefit

Please indicate the potential audience benefit:

- Individual/Group creating an event to actively engage people in the arts as audience members.
- Individual/Group creating a project to actively engage people in the arts as participants.
- Individual creating a body of work/pursuing additional skills to enhance cultural scene.

How many people do you think will attend, participate, or be inspired by your activity? _____

What are the expected age ranges (check all that apply)?

- All Ages
- Children Under 5
- Children 5-11
- Youth 12-19
- Youth 20-24
- Adults 25-64
- Seniors

Section D – About Your Budget

Please complete the form on the next page. Your project budget should be balanced. Total income and total expenses must be the same. Try to be as specific as possible. Budget concerns from a review panel are often the chief reason for a proposal to be declined, so please take the time to present your situation as clearly as possible.

Budget Worksheet

INCOME FOR PROJECT:

GJAC Grants for the Arts Request

Other Grants:

Foundations

Federal

State/Regional

Local

Project Income

Ticket Sales/Other

Special Income

Corporate Sponsors

Individual Donations

TOTAL INCOME

EXPENSES FOR PROJECT:

Payments To Individuals

Artists

Project Coordinator

Instructor/Speaker

Other

Venue Expenses

Facility Rental

Equipment Rental

Security/Insurance

Other

Project Expenses

Art Supplies

Food/Drink

Special Equipment (attach details)

Professional Conference (attach details)

Other

Marketing / Public Relations Expenses

Fliers/Posters/Postcards/Other Print Collateral

Graphic Design/Video Editing/Broadcast Production

Advertising (attach details)

Postage

Other

Travel (attach details)

Other Expenses

TOTAL EXPENSES

Section E – About Your Proposal Brief

Please write a 1-2 page proposal making a case for your project. For clarity, divide your brief into the following four subject headings (these coincide with the four general assessment criteria).

- 1. QUALITY.** *Discuss the various qualities of the arts component and make a case for the merit of your project.*
- 2. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT.** *Discuss how the project will engage people in the arts or benefit the public. How will the public be made aware of the activity?*
- 3. PROJECT MANAGEMENT.** *Discuss how the activity will be managed and executed.*
- 4. FINANCIAL OUTLOOK.** *Discuss your need for GJAC funding and financial plans to carry out the project.*

Section F - What Happens After You Submit Your Application:

- You will be notified by regular mail, email, or telephone that your Grants for the Arts application has been received and is being processed.*
- Status of review committee meetings, general application volume, and project funding news will be updated regularly on the Grants Blog page of our website: www.jacksonartscouncil.org.*
- If your application is approved for funding, you will be notified by regular mail, email, or telephone.*
- Grants for the Arts payments will be tendered in accordance with your project timeline needs and GJAC fund schedules.*
- A post-activity Grant Flash Report (provided along with your payment) must be submitted after the project is completed (and before a follow-up proposal will be assessed).*



P.O. Box 17
Jackson, MS 39205
Phone: 601.960.1557
Fax: 601.960.1596
www.jacksonartscouncil.org



There's no retirement
for an artist, it's your
way of living so there's
no end to it.

– Henry Moore