



COMMUNITY ARTS GRANT PROGRAM

Meridian Council for the Arts, Inc.'s Community Arts Grant Program is designed to support projects that broaden access to art experiences, address community quality of life issues through the arts and provide innovative arts experiences that are new or unfamiliar to Lauderdale County community residents.

Meridian Council for the Arts, Inc. (MCA) makes every effort to assess and prioritize the needs of the art community. Once MCA receives an application, it will be checked for completion of all required materials. **Any application without an attached copy of a tax identification letter from the Internal Revenue Service showing name of organization, tax identification number and nonprofit designation (preferably 501(c)3), will not be considered for funding.** This does not apply to public agencies or schools.

The Grant Review Committee will then review the applications and make recommendations to the Board of Directors. The Board makes the final decision on all grants to be awarded by the Meridian Council for the Arts, Inc. After the Board meeting, notification will be made to all applicants of either approval or regrets.

Eligibility:

Nonprofit organizations with an arts-based mission in Lauderdale County, Mississippi, with a minimum three-year history of presenting quality arts projects as well as schools, colleges, public and social service agencies are eligible to apply. Organizations must have an active and supportive Board of Directors and be organized as a nonprofit, preferably a 501(c)3.

Grants must be matched dollar-for-dollar (please review "Matching Requirements" in these guidelines).

No grants are made for:

- Religious organizations for religious purposes
- Dinners, pageants, fund-raising events
- Cash awards
- Endowments
- Operating expenses, capital improvements
- Scholarships, fellowships or tuition assistance
- Arts activities outside Meridian/Lauderdale County or those not open to the public

What to include in your application:

1. A cover letter summarizing:
 - a. The purpose and anticipated benefits of the grant
 - b. An abstract or summary of your project in one paragraph
 - c. The dollar amount requested
2. Grant Application
3. Financial Information
 - a. A line item income and expense budget for the project including in-kind and cash support
 - b. A description of the funding contributed by your organization and a detail of other funding sources
 - c. A list of other organizations, corporations or individuals that have been asked to fund this project with the amounts that were requested from each and a notation as to whether funds have been committed, declined or pending.

Matching Requirements:

Dollar-for-dollar match means the applicant must cover at least half the total cost of the project or program.

In-kind contributions cannot be used for the dollar-for-dollar match requirement. The value of volunteer time should be estimated and included only as it directly relates to the project/program and should be calculated at the current minimum wage.

After receiving grant approval:

Grantees will receive fifty percent (50%) of the award within 30 days of notification.

Final Report:

The final award monies will be paid after the Meridian Council for the Arts' approval of the final report, which must be filed within **thirty (30) days** after completion of the project/program. **If the report is not received within thirty (30) days, the organization will not receive the final fifty (50) percent of their grant.**

After receipt of the final report, the Grants Committee will perform a review. This review will focus on evaluating the project/program's outcomes versus the initial proposal's goals as well as the accuracy and completeness of the report. **If the final report does not meet the guidelines, the organization will not receive the final fifty (50) percent.**

Acknowledgement

All published materials and announcements regarding the funded project/program must acknowledge that it is supported in part by the Meridian Council for the Arts. Failure to do so will jeopardize final funding under the grant guidelines. Meridian Council for the Arts will supply its logo.

Statement of assurances

As part of the grant award contract agreement, **grantees must give assurance to Meridian Council for the Arts, Inc. that they comply with all applicable Federal and State laws, rules and regulations regarding the use of public funds.** These include but are not limited to assurances of compliance with Federal and State statutes relating to nondiscrimination which provide in part that no person in the United States shall on the ground of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age be excluded from participating.

TIMELINE FOR 2022 GRANTS

Grant Application Available: December 1, 2021

Application Deadline: January 14, 2022

MERIDIAN COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS, INC.
GRANT APPLICATION

Please type or print your answers on this form and include it with your cover letter and any additional information.

DATE _____

AMOUNT REQUESTED (not to exceed \$1,500) _____

Organization Name _____

Date Established _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Contact Name _____ Phone No _____

Email address of contact person _____

Geographical area served by organization _____

Please attach a list of current members of your governing board.

Need for the Project/Program _____

Project/Program Description _____

Project/Program Goals and Anticipated Outcome _____

Describe how your program meets MCA's goal of supporting projects that

- broaden access to art experiences;
- address community quality of life issues through the arts; and/or
- provide innovative arts experiences that are new or unfamiliar to Lauderdale County community residents.

Application submitted by: _____

Date submitted: _____

Signature

Print Name

Mail completed application with two copies and supporting documents to:

Meridian Council for the Arts
P. O. Box 1405
Meridian, MS 39302

Proposals not postmarked by January 14, 2022, will not be considered. No exceptions will be made.