



MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

GRANTS

Overview of Department of Cultural
Affairs' Grants Process and Programs



The Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs has developed a series of grant programs that serve as a portfolio of equitable public sector investments to promote the growth of Miami-Dade County's diverse cultural community. With 23 grant programs, the Department makes more than 800 grants a year to cultural organizations and artists. Each grant program is designed to address specific kinds of cultural projects and organizations as outlined in the section below (Overview of Department of Cultural Affairs' Grants Programs).

The Department of Cultural Affairs' grants process is designed to be open, friendly, transparent, and collaborative for nonprofit organizations and artists seeking support. The Department is committed to reaching and working with potential new applicants to provide hands-on guidance with grant requirements, the online application procedures and the application review process.

County funding is critical to strengthening, stabilizing and advancing the operations of nonprofit cultural groups and the work of individual artists. Cultural facilities and activities provide affordable, accessible and equitable opportunities for cultural engagement to all residents and visitors while giving our community the competitive edge for attracting commerce and tourism, essential for creating more jobs and economic prosperity.



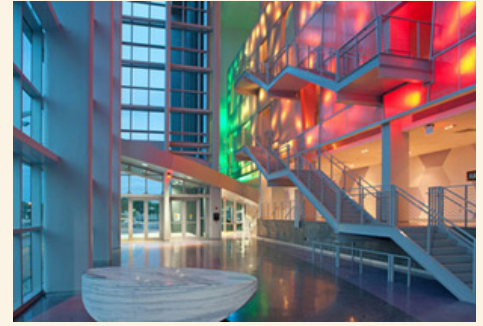
Friendly and Helpful: The Application Process

- Eligible cultural organizations and artists are required to submit applications through the online grants system by the publicly announced deadlines.
- The Department reviews the grant applications for technical eligibility and provides all applicants with feedback and an opportunity to strengthen submitted applications based on this input.
- Each of the Department's grant programs requires organizations to show evidence of matching funds from other public and private sector sources in the form of a complete revenue budget which must correspond in total to the detailed expenditure budget. On average, every County grants dollar is matched by 39 other public and/or private sector dollars.
- The Department has a well-earned reputation for working hard to ensure that applicant organizations of all sizes and backgrounds receive equitable support and guidance to help them through the grants process. The Department's grants administrators are friendly and knowledgeable and know that it is essential to make applicants of all sizes and backgrounds feel welcome and well-served.



OVERVIEW OF DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS' GRANTS PROCESS

The Department's grants programs generally follow the following public process:



Open and Widespread Notice: Public Announcement and Applicant Help

- Grant programs are announced through published and disseminated guidelines and application forms and deadlines are promoted publicly through press releases, direct e-mail announcements, social media, and postings on the Department's web site. In addition, the Department works with key community partners to distribute information about grants opportunities (e.g., municipalities, other private funders, civic organizations like the The Children's Trust, the Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau, etc.).
- The Department has conducted district-focused workshops with County Commissioners to further promote its programs and opportunities.
- The published grants program guidelines set forth the goals of each program, eligibility requirements and instructions for completion of the application form.
- The Department has developed a multi-level review process, which begins with staff review and a required consultation with the applicant. At this interview, Department staff advises the applicant as to eligibility and appropriateness of the proposed project, and informs the applicant of other public and private sector funding opportunities.
- The Department requires applicants to attend free virtual workshops that provide training for use of its online grants application system and that offer information and help regarding each specific grants program.
- Grants assistance is offered in English, Spanish and French/Creole with support also available to people with disabilities. In addition, the Department provides grantswriting assistance through its Arts Help program to organizations that are new and/or have difficulties with the application process.

Equitable and Transparent: The Public Review Process

- A peer review panel of community volunteers is appointed by the Cultural Affairs Council (the Department's volunteer advisory board) for each program with an explicit interest in balancing its composition ethnically, racially, geographically as well as with a sensitivity to gender, age, ability and area of cultural and community expertise. This ensures that the panel is reflective of the diversity of Miami-Dade County.
- The panel meets at a publicly announced session to competitively evaluate grant applications and make initial funding recommendations to the Cultural Affairs Council. Panelists exercise integrity and fairness and adhere to strict conflict of interest requirements.
- Grant applicants are notified of the panel meeting date, time and location and encouraged to attend the grants panel meetings.
- The panels' competitive evaluations are based on the applicants' responses to the published grants review criteria that include such factors as the quality and track record of the program, administrative capability, marketing and outreach strategy, financial feasibility, capability to address community diversity, inclusiveness and audiences served, and ADA accessibility.
- The panels' recommendations are forwarded to the Cultural Affairs Council for review at their monthly publicly noticed meeting. It is important to note that Council members are represented on each grants review panel and typically serve as chair of the panels to provide a link between these stages.
- The Council's action on panel recommendations is submitted to the Office of the Mayor and the Office of the County Attorney for review. Then, the recommendations are calendared for the Housing, Recreation & Community Development Committee and the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners for final approval.
- The Board of County Commissioners reviews these recommendations and grant agreements. The final, approved grant agreements include detailed project descriptions and itemized budgets specifying use of the grant funds and contain performance specifications, reporting and monitoring procedures, and enforcement provisions, which are implemented by Department staff in coordination with involved County departments (i.e., Finance, Budget, County Mayor, and County Attorney).



Accountable: Grant Project Implementation and Monitoring

- The Department monitors grant projects to ensure compliance with grant agreements and implements payment schedules for grant awards.
- The Department reviews grantees' reports to evaluate the projects' results and works with grantees on an ongoing basis to resolve issues, as necessary, and help strengthen their capacity to present successful programs to the public.
- Final grants reports require detailed programmatic and financial documentation and overall results are shared with the Cultural Affairs Council and grants panels in the ensuing year's grants review cycle.



OVERVIEW OF DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS' GRANTS PROGRAMS

The Department's grants programs are structured to address the community's diverse and growing arts and cultural needs, and at the same time, provide fair and equitable opportunities to compete for funding support among organizations of similar size, impact and program or project type. The grants programs are designed to invest more significantly in small, diverse nonprofit arts and cultural organizations. This is "measured" by the percentage of County grant funding in the overall budgets of the applicant organizations (with smaller, more diverse groups receiving grants that represent a larger percentage of their budget).

The Department's portfolio of grants programs is organized around five main objectives:



1 QUARTERLY GRANTS —

Grants opportunities that address cultural events and projects on a rolling, quarterly basis in order to remain responsive to activities throughout the year. These include:

Community Grants Program: support for nonprofit organizations that develop small to medium scale community-based cultural programs, projects and events, such as fairs, parades, neighborhood festivals, conferences and publications, including social service organizations that offer cultural programs or arts intervention projects. The Community Grants Program is particularly sensitive to the needs of indigenous cultural neighborhood activities and projects encouraging the preservation of heritage, traditions and culture; and

Tourist Development Council Grants Program: support for significant cultural and/or special events, including sports activities and television/film origination projects that promote Miami-Dade County's appeal as a tourist destination.

2 CHILDREN AND YOUTH PROGRAMS —

Grants programs, in part made possible with major funding from The Children's Trust, that provide support to nonprofit arts and cultural organizations that focus on activities for and by children and youths. These include:

Youth Arts Miami: support to large and medium-sized, nonprofit youth arts organizations whose primary mission is to create, present or exhibit cultural programs for and/or with children and youth and that have at least a 3-consecutive year track record of providing a year-round season of youth arts activities;

Youth Arts Enrichment Program: support for projects that make live arts experiences available to children and families whose ability to participate in such programs may be limited by geography, economics or disability and that focus on: arts instruction; arts intervention; healing / expressive arts; in-school performances; or public performances / exhibitions;

Summer Arts and Science Camps for Kids: support for nonprofit organizations to provide underserved children in Miami-Dade County with opportunities to attend high quality cultural arts and science summer camp programs at little or no cost; and

Arts Education Initiatives: support for nonprofit organizations that have a track record for working with artists to develop innovative and far-reaching programs for and by children and youth, with an emphasis on activities for children with disabilities.



3 SPECIALIZED PROJECTS —○

Grants programs that provide support for specialized projects of non-profit arts and cultural organizations.

Capital Development Grants Program: support for nonprofit cultural organizations to help renovate, adapt and/or equip neighborhood cultural facilities with priority consideration given to facilities proposing ADA-access improvements; and

International Cultural Partnership Grants Program: support for Miami-Dade County-based professional, nonprofit cultural organizations to develop meaningful artistic exchange, partnerships or collaborations with professional artists, arts professionals and/or organizations abroad.

Audience Access Grant Program: funding to help pay for arts program ADA/access technology and services, such as American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters, captioning, audio description, materials in accessible format, ADA/access training, and other such services to ensure programmatic access for audiences of all abilities.



4 ANNUAL PROGRAMMATIC SEASONS —

Grant programs that provide general operating support to nonprofit arts and cultural organizations with a track record for presenting annual seasons of events and activities.

Major Cultural Institutions Program: support for the community's largest, fully professional nonprofit institutions that have year-round, exemplary programs and annual fiscal operations of a magnitude to satisfy the eligibility requirements;

Cultural Advancement Grants Program: provides funding support and technical assistance to mid- to large-size, artistically excellent and culturally diverse performing, visual, literary and presenting arts organizations that are engaged year-round in the creation or presentation of art and demonstrate the potential to achieve regional, national, or international visibility;

Cultural Development Grants Program: provides grants support and technical assistance to Miami-Dade County's mid-sized, artistically accomplished and culturally diverse performing, visual, literary and presenting arts organizations that are defining the cultural and artistic voice of Miami and are committed year-round to the creation or presentation of art.

Hannibal Cox, Jr. Cultural Grants Program: provides support to small and mid-sized, semi-professional and professional nonprofit organizations whose primary mission is the year-round creation, presentation, exhibition or performance of cultural activities;

Developing Arts in Neighborhoods Grants Program: provides support for small and/or developing, nonprofit cultural groups that produce and present artistic activities at the grassroots level including underserved neighborhoods, communities or populations;

Festivals and Special Events Grants Program: supports nonprofit organizations presenting major annual festivals and special events in Miami-Dade County which have an established reputation for excellence and credibility, are capable of attracting visitors on regional, national and/or international levels, and have a significant and positive impact on the perception of Miami-Dade County as a dynamic cultural community;

Service Organizations: provides support for nonprofit organizations, such as coalitions and umbrella groups, that complement and extend the Department's work by providing services and assistance to specialized constituencies and/or similarly purposed cultural groups and individual artists; and

Targeted Organizations: supports nonprofit organizations that have the capacity to address underserved areas of cultural development and can be effective partners with the Department to advance entire sectors of the community's cultural life.

In addition, a number of **Community Based Facilities Direct Allocations** are made each year. These grants support nonprofit organizations that operate in County-owned facilities or are considered to fulfill a cultural mission of essential interest to Miami-Dade County.

5 SUPPORT FOR ARTISTS —○

Opportunities that provide Miami-Dade based artists with the support that they need to live and create work in our community.

Artist Access Grants: assists practicing, professional artists in any medium or discipline residing in Miami-Dade County with pursuing opportunities that will advance their practice and careers in demonstrable ways. Eligible opportunities include artistic professional development and skill-building opportunities such as specialized workshops, artist residencies, technique classes with master artists, conferences, teaching artist training, arts leadership training and other non-credit artistic learning toward the artist's career.

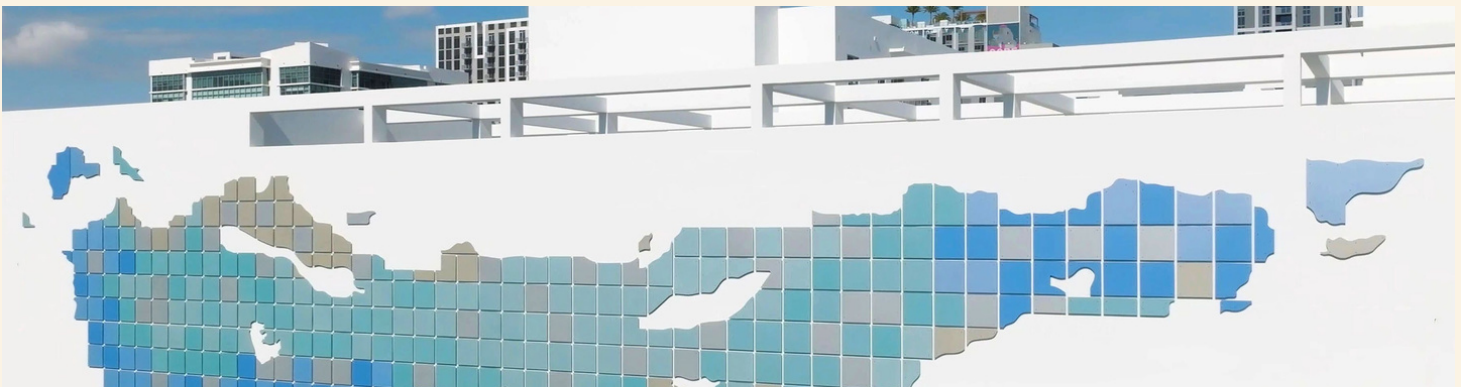
Dance Miami Choreographers' Program: provides funding support to nurture the artistic development of Miami-Dade County-based professional choreographers for the creation of new work in all dance forms, including modern dance, ballet and folk.

Miami Individual Artist Grants Program: provides awards to individual artists of all disciplines in Miami-Dade County on a competitive basis to support their artistic development and practice. The program encourages applications from professional artists of the highest caliber with a recognized body of original artwork, and who are deeply rooted in Miami's diverse cultural life.

Playwright Development Program: provides intensive support for developing new work from Miami-Dade County's growing and diverse community of playwrights through a series of two-day mentoring workshops conducted by nationally-renowned playwrights in conjunction with the Theatre League of South Florida and the Deering Estate.

South Florida Cultural Consortium Grants to Visual & Media Artists provides grants to resident visual and media artists from the counties of Broward, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, and Palm Beach. In addition to receiving the grant, the artists take part in an exhibition hosted and organized by a major visual arts institution in one of the five counties.

In addition, the Department's management of the **Art in Public Places** program has a track record for competitively selecting and commissioning Miami-Dade based visual artists for public art works, in many cases providing our community's artists with their first opportunities in this area of artistic practice. Finally, the Department's **Arts Resilient 305** initiative commissions Miami-Dade visual, media and performing artists to develop public art interventions to bring more public awareness to the issues of climate change and sea level rise.



CULTURAL GRANTS

Through the Department's grants programs:

- County revenues are invested in competitive grants that provide equitable funding opportunities;
- Each County arts dollar invested leverages \$39 of other funds; and
- The local arts industry provides a documented annual impact on the local economy of more than \$1.43 billion, employing 41,000 people full-time, and drawing audiences of more than 16 million people each year.



As core values, the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs embraces diversity; ensures inclusion; promotes equity; creates access; and works to support and represent Miami-Dade's growing numbers of artists, cultural organizations and audiences.

More detailed information about the Department's arts and cultural grants programs, including guidelines, eligibility requirements and application forms can be found at [Grants | Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs \(miamidadearts.org\)](https://www.miamidadearts.org).

Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs' grants and programs are made possible with the support of the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners.

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