
Finding Funding

A Practical Grant Resource Guide for Oregon Artists & Arts Organizations

Presented by Jessamyn Grace West



Hello!

Jessamyn Grace West

- Astoria Arts and Movement Center - Founder, Executive Director, Dance Instructor
- Knappa School District Dance Program - Creative Director
- Clatsop County Cultural Coalition - Member, Performing Arts Representative
- Oregon Community Foundation, North Coast Leadership Council - Council Member
- Astoria Visual Arts - Advisory Board Member
- North Coast Arts Leaders (Sitka Center for Art and Ecology, Astoria Visual Arts, AAMC)
- City of Astoria, Arts and Culture Strategic Direction Report – Consultant
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Strengthening Oregon's Artist Network

Sign Up for the Oregon Arts Commission Artist Registry



STAY INFORMED

Receive updates on upcoming programs and funding opportunities for individual artists across Oregon



PUT YOUR COMMUNITY ON THE MAP

Help ensure statewide funding reaches communities everywhere - let funders know who and where you are



STRENGTHEN OREGON ARTS ADVOCACY

Help build comprehensive data about Oregon artists for statewide planning and advocacy



oregonartscommission.org

-

Registration is

FREE

AMERICANS FOR THE ARTS

Arts & Economic Prosperity 6

AEP6 Study



National Study



Economic Impact



Local Community

The most comprehensive national study of the economic impact of arts and culture - and the data tells a powerful story for our community.



aep6.americansforthearts.org

ARTS & CULTURE DATA



Arts & Culture: A Powerful Local Economic Driver - Clatsop County FY2022



\$829M

Oregon arts & culture sector economic
impact



\$13.7M

Clatsop County total economic activity in
2022



47 Jobs

Supported by Clatsop County nonprofit arts
orgs



\$73.48

Local attendee spending per event beyond
admission



\$141.73

Non-local attendee spending per event per
person



\$445,437

Local, state & federal government revenue
generated

Source: AEP6 | americansforthearts.org

How We'll Build Your Funding Toolkit

1



IDENTIFY

What do you need funding for?



2



FIND IT

Locate grants that fit your goals



3



APPLY

Write a compelling application

4



RECEIVE

Accept the award



5



UTILIZE

Put the funding to work



6



REPORT

Complete required reporting

PROJECT-BASED SUPPORT



Funds a specific creative project with a defined start and end date.

EXAMPLES



A play or performance



A mural or installation



A writer's group or residency

Tied to a specific deliverable and timeline

GENERAL OPERATING SUPPORT



Funds the day-to-day operations that keep your organization running.

EXAMPLES



Rent & facility costs



Staff salaries & income



Insurance & overhead

Keeps the lights on - essential and ongoing

VS

Local, State & Regional Funding Sources



START LOCAL

- Check for funding in your city, county, and state first, before searching nationally



NETWORK

- Join art collectives and organizations; connect with peers in your artistic field



FISCAL SPONSORSHIP

- Artists can partner with a nonprofit or use an organization as a fiscal sponsor



MAILING LISTS & PANELS

- Sign up for funder newsletters; volunteer to serve on grant review panels



ALWAYS ASK QUESTIONS

- Never hesitate to contact a funding agency - they want to help you succeed



BUILD YOUR SKILLS

- Enroll in grant writing workshops and classes to strengthen your applications

SECTION 1

Grants for Individual Artists

Investing in those creating art



Career Opportunity Program

Supports timely opportunities that advance artistic careers

AWARDS

\$500–\$2,000

+ up to \$9,000 Ford Family Foundation support

DEADLINES

Sept 23, 2026

Feb 10, 2027

oregonartscommission.org/grants/career-opportunity



Individual Artist Fellowships

Recognizes outstanding Oregon artists working at the highest levels of their craft

AWARD AMOUNT

Up to \$5,000

SCHEDULE

Fall Annually

Next cycle TBD - check website

ELIGIBILITY

Oregon residents only · All disciplines

oregonartscommission.org/grants/individual-artist-fellowships



Media Arts Fellowship (PAM CUT)

Supports Oregon film & video artists through partnership with the Portland Art Museum's Center for an Untold Tomorrow

FOCUS AREA

Oregon Film & Video Artists Only

SCHEDULE

Fall Annually

Expected Fall 2026

ADMINISTERED BY

Portland Art Museum - Center for an Untold Tomorrow

tomorrowtheater.org/pam-pam-cut



SPARK AWARD

\$25,000 UNRESTRICTED

Unrestricted support for mid-career Oregon artists - use it however best serves your practice.

- ◆ Unrestricted - no restrictions on how funds are used
- ◆ Mid-career recognition - established body of work required
- ◆ Oregon artists only - confirm eligibility at website

📅 **DEADLINE:** Not yet posted - check website; typically late May/early June



Field Artist Fellowship

Supports artists working deeply within Oregon communities over sustained periods

\$150,000

up to, over two years

🔄 Every 2 Years



Opens: early May | Due: mid-June

oregoncf.org



Creative Heights

Supports ambitious, transformative new artistic work and experimentation

\$10,000 – \$100,000



LOI: January annually



Application: February annually

oregoncf.org

Supporting Local & Rural Oregon Artists & Organizations



Clatsop County Cultural Coalition

Supporting Local Creativity

Organizations are welcome to apply
Artists may partner with a local organization

AWARDS UP TO

\$2,500



Deadline: Typically October 31 annually

clatsopculturalcoalition.org

✦ Don't miss the upcoming CCCC Grant Writing Workshops!

6:30 -7:30 PM, Tuesday, September 22, at the Art Loft
6 - 7 PM, Friday, October 16, at the Art Loft



Roundhouse Foundation

Strengthening Rural Arts & Culture

Supports rural Oregon artists and cultural programming
across rural communities

COVERAGE

Rural Oregon Artists & Organizations



Deadlines: Vary by program;
many begin with an inquiry form

roundhousefoundation.org

Additional Opportunities for Local Artists & Art Organizations



Marie Lamfrom Charitable Foundation

Arts, culture, youth & community enrichment

 **Deadline: Varies**

marielamfrom.org



Kinsman Foundation

Arts, culture, heritage & education

 **Up to \$40,000 | Deadline: Rolling**

kinsmanfoundation.org



Lower Columbia Preservation Society

Heritage & preservation projects; fiscal sponsorship available

 **Deadline: No formal cycle**

lcpsociety.org

Also Worth Exploring

- First Peoples Fund
- Keepers of the Earth Fund
- Artwork Archive Grant Listings

- PICA Precipice Fund
- INSTRUMENTL – grant operating system
- Awesome Foundation

Deadlines vary - most are annual or rolling

SECTION 2

Grants for Arts Organizations

Building Capacity in Local Arts Organizations

Organization Opportunities →



Access Reimbursement Program

Reduces barriers to arts participation for underserved communities

FUNDS:

Accessibility improvements, accommodations, transportation & support services

 **Deadline: Rolling**

oregonartscommission.org/grants/access-reimbursement



Arts Build Communities (ABC)

Strengthens local engagement through community-based arts projects

FUNDS:

Community partnerships, cultural events & collaborative arts programming

 **Deadline: Early Fall (annual)**

oregonartscommission.org/grants/arts-build-communities



Arts Learning

Supports arts education partnerships between schools and arts organizations

FUNDS:

In-school residencies, curriculum-based instruction & youth engagement

 **Deadline: Late Spring (annual)**

oregonartscommission.org/grants/arts-learning



Sustaining Arts Program

Provides operating support to strengthen Oregon arts organizations

FUNDS:

General operating support, organizational capacity & long-term sustainability

 **Deadline: Annual (varies by year)**

oregonartscommission.org/grants/sustaining-arts

Investing in Oregon's Arts and Culture Infrastructure



Oregon Cultural Trust

Cultural Development Grants

Supports access, creativity, preservation & organizational capacity-building across Oregon



Early May Annually

- ◆ Access & Community Equity
 - ◆ Creative Projects
 - ◆ Preservation
- ◆ Capacity Building

culturaltrust.org



City of Astoria

Arts & Culture Grant to Promote Tourism

Supports arts projects that attract visitors and promote Astoria as a cultural destination



Late February Annually

- ◆ Tourism-focused programming
- ◆ Funding for marketing and promotion
- ◆ Promote Astoria Fund Transient Lodging taxes)

astoria.gov

Amplifying Community Voices & Supporting Small Nonprofits



Oregon Humanities

Amplifying Community Voices

Supports storytelling, community engagement, dialogue, and cultural work connecting Oregonians

DEADLINE

Varies by Program

- ◆ Public programming
- ◆ Reading & community discussion
- ◆ Cultural conversations

oregonhumanities.org



Autzen Foundation

Supporting Small Oregon Nonprofits

Arts, culture & heritage organizations in Oregon

DEADLINES

Summer & Fall Cycles

- ◆ Small nonprofit focus
- ◆ Oregon-based organizations only
- ◆ Arts, culture & heritage

autzenfoundation.org

Sustaining Oregon's Arts Ecosystem



Miller Foundation

Arts Organization Grants

Operating support for Oregon arts organizations

 **FAST TRACK: Rolling - apply anytime**

 **Seasonal Cycles: Spring / Summer / Fall / Winter**

 **Operating Support Focus**

millerfound.org



Oregon Community Foundation

OCF Arts Grants

Three program areas for arts organizations



Community Grants



Small Arts & Culture Grants



Arts Education Grants

DEADLINE: Annual Cycle

oregoncf.org

Foundations Supporting Arts & Culture Across Oregon



M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust

Strategic Project Grants

Capital, equipment & program expansion

 **LOI: Varies (typically Spring)**

murdocktrust.org



Collins Foundation

GO Grants - General Operating

Supports general operating needs

 **Deadline: Rolling**

collinsfoundation.org



WESTAF / Creative West

Cultural sustainability & professional development

Folk arts, professional & cultural support

 **Deadline: Varies**

wearecreativewest.org



Keeping the Arts

K-12 Arts Education Grants

K-12 arts education, especially rural communities

 **Deadline: Open year-round**

keepingthearts.org



Kinsman Foundation

Arts, Culture & Heritage Grants

Arts, culture, heritage & education

 **Deadline: Rolling**

kinsmanfoundation.org



Roundhouse Foundation

Rural Arts & Culture Grants

Rural Oregon organizations & programming

 **Deadline: Varies**

roundhousefoundation.org

SECTION 3

Applying for Grants

Aligning Your Project with Community Impact

Building a Clear & Compelling Application - Step 1: Do Your Homework



Confirm Eligibility

Read every word of the guidelines; make sure your project, budget, and org type all qualify before investing time in the application.

1



Align with the Funder's Mission

Your application should feel like a natural fit; use their own language to describe your work and demonstrate a shared vision.

2



Review Past Recipients

Grant lists are public; study who gets funded to understand what resonates with reviewers and how to position your own work effectively.

3



Contact the Grant Manager

Program officers want you to call with questions - this is not only allowed, it is encouraged. A conversation can set your application apart.

4

Communicating Your Community Benefit - Step 2: Getting Started



Create Your Account Early

Don't wait - portal setup takes time, and deadline day is too late



Attend Info Sessions

Funders host free orientation webinars - attend even if you know the grant well



Draft in Word First

Write your full narrative offline, then paste into the application - never lose your work



Gather Documents Early

Budget, bios, work samples, org docs - assemble everything before the app opens



Update Website & Social Media

Funders will look you up - your online presence must match your application



Name Your Project Clearly

A specific, descriptive title signals clarity and helps reviewers immediately understand your vision

Answering the Questions - Most Grant Applications Asks These 7 Things

1



What is your project?

Describe clearly what you are creating, producing, or doing

2



How will you do it?

Outline your process, timeline, and methodology

3



Who is involved?

Artists, partners, collaborators, staff, community members

4



Who benefits?

The community, audiences, and participants served by your work

5



Why is it needed?

What gap does this fill? What happens if it doesn't get funded?

6



What makes it unique?

Your artistic voice, approach, or community connection that distinguishes you

7



How will you measure success?

Specific, concrete outcomes - attendance, pieces created, participants reached

Demonstrating Sustainability & Local Support - Budget Tips



Keep It Clear, Simple & Realistic

Make sure you understand what type of budget is being requested- an organization's annual budget or a specific project budget?

1



Use an Easy-to-Read Layout

Clean columns, clear categories, labeled rows - if a budget template has been provided be sure to use it

2



Show Secured Funding

If required, demonstrate what you have already confirmed from other sources - very important

3



Show Community Support

Letters of support, in-kind donations, volunteers, and partnerships all strengthen your case

4



Address Sustainability

Explain how the work continues beyond the grant period - funders invest in futures, not one-time events

5

Finishing Strong: Submitting Your Grant

1



Review Thoroughly

Read every question and every answer at least twice before submitting. Check for typos, gaps, and inconsistencies throughout your entire application.

2



Confirm All Documents

Every required attachment must be uploaded, properly named, and in the correct file format. Open each attachment to verify it uploaded correctly.

3



Naming Conventions

Be sure to use requested, consistent, clear naming conventions in the correct format

OrgName_ProjectTitle_2026.pdf

4



Save a Full Copy

Keep a complete PDF record of your entire submission - every page, every attachment - for your files and for future reference when applying again.

5



Submit 24 Hours Early

Systems crash; files fail; things go wrong - give yourself a buffer. No funder will penalize an early submission.

NEVER submit on deadline day

6



Calendar Your Follow-Ups

Add decision dates, reporting deadlines, and thank-you reminders to your calendar right now - while the details are fresh and the momentum is alive.

Sharing Success & Staying Connected - After the Award



Send a Personalized Thank-You

A genuine note to the funder strengthens the relationship for future applications- let them know how they helped make an impact



Share Publicly

Announce it on social media, your website, and newsletters - celebrate your community, your project and your funder



Set Reporting Reminders

Calendar all reporting deadlines - funders expect timely, detailed reports



Use Momentum to Apply Again

A successful grant is your best asset for the next application - funded projects attract more funding



Celebrate Your Success!

Grant writing is rigorous work - honor what you and your community accomplished together

Thank you for coming!
*And thank you to the Arts Council of Clatsop County
and the City of Astoria Public Library*

Questions?

*Download the slides at: astoriaartsandmovement.com/community
Let us know about your art, art events, and/or art business: [Astoria.Art](mailto:Hello@Astoria.Art)*



ARTISTS



ORGANIZATIONS



COMMUNITY

Reach out anytime

Jessamyn Grace West

Thank you for being part of our creative community!



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