



# ***Advancing the Arts*** **SPRING 2026 GRANT GUIDELINES**

## **ARTS FOR EDUCATION · CREATIVE INSPIRATION** **Funding range: \$500-\$1,500**

### **Spring 2026 Timeline**

- January 2026: Grant cycle opens
- February 19, 2026 at 5 pm: Free Online Grant Info Session #1 - [Click here to register](#).
- February 24, 2026 at 4 pm: Free Online Grant Info Session #2 - [Click here to register](#).
- March 11, 2026: Grant applications due by 5 pm (*NOTE: Late/incomplete applications will not be accepted.*)
- April 1, 2026: Grant recipients notified
- April 1, 2026 - October 31, 2026: Projects occur
- November 1, 2026: Final Reports due by 5 pm

### **Our Mission**

Arts Council of the Valley cultivates the arts, creates experiences, and connects communities in the City of Harrisonburg and Rockingham County.

### **Who We Are**

Arts Council of the Valley (ACV) was founded in 2000 as a 501(c)3 nonprofit dedicated to promoting and providing memorable arts experiences for the City of Harrisonburg and Rockingham County. It is supported in part by government grants from the Virginia Commission for the Arts and the City of Harrisonburg; and by individual and corporate donations. ACV has grown into a multi-faceted community organization that fosters innovative partnerships among area businesses, civic organizations, schools, and artists. Today, ACV manages Smith House Galleries; coordinates monthly First Fridays of the Valley community gatherings, supports public art installations, and funds local art projects through its Advancing the Arts grant program.

ACV's Advancing the Arts grants support artists, art educators, and organizations working in the visual, performing, and literary arts. Funds are awarded to those that advocate for the arts as a basic, central part of lifelong learning in the Harrisonburg-Rockingham community.

Arts Council of the Valley is a nonprofit 501(c)3, supported in part by the City of Harrisonburg, Virginia and the Virginia Commission for the Arts, which receives support from the Virginia General Assembly.

# Advancing the Arts Grant Guidelines

## ELIGIBILITY

### Individuals who:

- Have not received an ACV grant of any type in the past twelve (12) months (*Example: a recipient of a Fall grant would not be eligible to apply again until the next Fall cycle*).
- Are eighteen (18) years of age or older at the time of application.
- Are not enrolled as degree-seeking students at the time of application or during the grant period.
- Have submitted all required reports for any prior ACV grants.
- Are not current ACV board members, ACV employees, or immediate family members of such persons.

**NOTE:** Organizations are eligible provided no officer, director, or principal shareholder of said organization is a current member of the ACV Grants Committee, ACV employee, or immediate family member of a current board member or employee of ACV.

## FUNDING

Applicants may submit funding requests ranging from \$500 to \$1,500. Payment of awarded grants will be made in two installments. The first payment of 75% will be paid upon receipt of a signed Grant Agreement Form. The second payment of 25% will be paid upon completion, receipt, and approval of a Final Grant Report (see [valleyarts.org/grants-arts-for-education](http://valleyarts.org/grants-arts-for-education) and [valleyarts.org/grants-creative-inspiration](http://valleyarts.org/grants-creative-inspiration) for report form). Failure to submit a complete final report by the stated deadline may result in forfeiture of all or part of the final grant payment, and may preclude Grantee's eligibility for current or future funding by ACV.

### Expenses that **CANNOT** be funded:

- Events whose sponsors are not in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1983
- Projects that are religious or sectarian
- Projects designed to satisfy an academic requirement
- General organizational operating support
- Construction of new facilities, renovation of existing facilities, or similar facility improvements
- Deficits from past grant-funded projects
- For-profit, fundraising or private events, or lobbying efforts
- Food and beverages

## AWARD REQUIREMENTS

Award recipients shall receive a Grant Agreement outlining terms of the grant. Recipients must sign and return the Form to ACV within ten (10) days, or risk ACV's denial of full or partial payment. Grantees are required to acknowledge ACV's support for their program in all printed and electronic materials. In addition, grantees are encouraged to invite ACV's Board of Directors and staff to any performances or exhibitions resulting from their projects.

## ARTS FOR EDUCATION GRANTS

[Arts for Education](#) grants are intended to help community artists, organizations, and art educators pursue a creative educational initiative. Proposals should articulate creative and educational goals, demonstrate a clear mission and significant purpose, contribute to arts enrichment for the local Harrisonburg-Rockingham community, and provide a feasible plan to realize the project. If the grant includes collaborative work, all participants and their roles should be explained.

**Arts for Education Grant proposals will be evaluated on the following criteria:**

Clarity of project goals, mission, purpose; degree of impact and benefit to Harrisonburg-Rockingham residents	Exhibits artistic integrity and quality (innovative and creative thinking; artistic value).	Feasible with funds requested or scalable with partial funding. Reasonable, balanced budget supports project goals; shows itemized costs, ACV fund use.	Raises awareness of, and respect for, the value of the arts in the community.	Complements an educational curriculum within the schools or in related arts education programs.
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## CREATIVE INSPIRATION GRANTS

[Creative Inspiration](#) grants are intended to help community artists and organizations pursue creative development. Proposals should articulate creative goals, demonstrate a clear mission and significant purpose, contribute to arts enrichment for the local Harrisonburg-Rockingham community, and provide a feasible plan to realize the project. If the grant includes collaborative work, all participants and their roles should be explained.

**Creative Inspiration Grant proposals will be evaluated on the following criteria:**

Degree of impact and benefit to the residents of Harrisonburg and Rockingham	Exhibits artistic integrity and quality (innovative and creative thinking; artistic value).	Feasible with funds requested or scalable with partial funding. Reasonable, balanced budget supports project goals; shows itemized costs, ACV fund use.	Raises awareness of, and respect for, the value of the arts as central to lifelong learning in the community.	Demonstrates primary proposal component to fund time, supplies, facilities (rehearsal or studio), etc. for creation of new work. Work may be at various stages of completion. During or shortly after the grant period, there must be strong potential for public presentation of work created.
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[\*\*Applications must be submitted online using this link.\*\*](#)

**Questions? Email [advancingvalleyarts@gmail.com](mailto:advancingvalleyarts@gmail.com)**

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Arts Council of the Valley is a nonprofit 501(c)3, supported in part by the City of Harrisonburg, Virginia and the Virginia Commission for the Arts, which receives support from the Virginia General Assembly.

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