CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS
Arts Commission

General Guidelines

The Newport News Arts Commission (NNAC) provides funding for:

- performing and fine arts organizations holding nonprofit status, as determined by the United States Internal Revenue Code. Applicants must provide proof of nonprofit status, or pending application, and must inform the NNAC immediately of any change in the organization's tax-exempt status.

- applicants who are in compliance with Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; the Age of Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; and the Immigration and Control Act of 1986.

- applicants who produce, present, or support dance, literary arts, media arts, music, theater, visual, and related arts within the City, or which serve City residents.

Low priority will be given to organizations that do not exhibit strong efforts to seek alternative funding resources prior to making application.

All applications must be typewritten following the appropriate format and submitted to Downing-Gross Cultural Arts Center not later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday, May 1, 2026. No applications will be considered after the announced deadline. No application will be considered from a previous grantee that has not filed a final report on any previously funded project, unless this requirement has been waived by written notice from the NNAC. Final reports for the 2026-2027 year are due in the Downing-Gross Cultural Arts Center not later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, June 11, 2027. All necessary forms and information are available on the NNAC website at https://www.nnva.gov/1018/Grants

Completed applications must be signed by an officer of the applicant organization or an individual authorized to certify the accuracy of the application and any attachments, as well as the organization's compliance with all criteria of eligibility for funding.

Applicants should put the names and addresses of Commissioners on their mailing lists.

Each grantee must maintain accurate financial records for any activity supported by the NNAC. The Commission or its authorized representative will have access to these records.

The following activities are not eligible for funding from the NNAC:

- activities restricted to an organization's membership;
- costs of parties, receptions, fund-raising benefits, etc.;
- activities that are primarily religious in nature;
- college or university-based projects that are part of a required course or curriculum, or that do not involve and serve a significant non-student population;
- art programs which are essentially recreational, rehabilitative, or therapeutic;
- general operating support for historic celebrations or community promotional activities;
- individuals (funding may be available through an eligible organization); and
- capital campaigns/expenditures.