



Community Arts Development Grant Program

Arts Programming Support
General Operating Support

Fiscal Year 2025 Guidelines

Funding Period: July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

Application Deadline: Tuesday, April 30, 2024 11:59 PM

Harford County Cultural Arts Board

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To obtain this publication in an alternate format, contact Harford County Cultural Arts Board
410-273-5601 ext. 6509 or Arts@HCPLonline.org

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OVERVIEW OF HARFORD COUNTY CULTURAL ARTS BOARD

The mission of the Cultural Arts Board is to “Preserve, Enhance, and Promote the Culture of Harford County, Maryland.” As the official county arts agency, Harford County Cultural Arts Board is the primary local resource for arts organizations, independent artists, and the audiences of Harford County, Maryland. The Board provides grant opportunities, advocacy and administrative support; sponsors workshops, events, and promotional opportunities; and encourages and invests in the advancement of the arts for the community.

According to Chapter 9, Part 2, Article XVIB of the Harford County Code, “The Cultural Arts Advisory Board shall consist of 15 citizen representatives and a member of the County Council, who is ex-officio, non-voting member. The members shall be appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the County Council pursuant to Section 223 of the Harford County Charter. The Board members shall be residents of the County; and insofar as possible, be representative of the County's population with respect to race, gender, political affiliation and geography. The terms of the members are coterminous with that of the County Executive.” The powers and duties of the Cultural Arts Board include but are not limited to the following:

- Promote and support the overall development of arts and culture in Harford County
- Encourage local government and citizen interest in the arts and culture
- Act as the official Arts Council for Harford County in order to accept and disburse funds from Maryland State Arts Council.

Harford County Cultural Arts Advisory Board, its grants, operations, and programs are administered by staff employed by Harford County Public Library.

All grants, operations, and programming are made possible by an annual County Arts Development Grant from Maryland State Arts Council.

COMMUNITY ARTS DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Community Arts Development Grant program is the foremost means by which Harford County Cultural Arts Board invests in the development of arts and culture in Harford County, specifically the arts organizations and other nonprofit, tax-exempt entities presenting and/or producing arts in Harford County.

Each year, a County Arts Development Grant is made from Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) to each of Maryland's twenty-three counties, plus Baltimore City. A portion of the grant to Harford County Cultural Arts Board is designated towards this Community Arts Development Grant program during the annual budgeting process.

Applications are accepted on an annual basis for support of (1) General Operating costs of nonprofit arts organizations in Harford County, Maryland and (2) direct costs of Arts Programming located in Harford County, to benefit the general public, presented by nonprofits incorporated in Maryland, other than arts organizations; not-for-profit units of government, colleges or universities, and faith-based institutions are eligible for Arts Programming support.

Harford County Cultural Arts Board members review and rates applications on the basis of *artistic merit, service to the community, organizational effectiveness, and evidence of IDEA principles (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access)*. Ratings are integrated with metrics representing size of organization, past grant performance, and types of programming to determine the total dollar amount awarded to each qualifying applicant.

Annually, Harford County Cultural Arts Board members complete Conflict of Interest Disclosures, updating as needed, and recuse themselves from discussions on topics of which they may have conflicts.

ELIGIBILITY

- A. Arts organizations whose principal place of business is Harford County, that are incorporated in Maryland as nonprofit, and receive tax-exempt status from the U.S. Internal Revenue Service may request support for day-to-day General Operating expenses.
- B. Other nonprofits whose principal place of business is Maryland, and are incorporated in Maryland as nonprofit, and designated with tax-exempt status from the U.S. Internal Revenue Service may receive support for direct costs of Arts Programming presented to the residents and guests of Harford County, Maryland. Units of government, colleges or universities, and faith-based institutions that meet these criteria are also eligible.
- C. Entities must be in good standing with Internal Revenue Service Tax Exempt Organization Search, Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation, as well as Maryland Office of the Secretary of State, Charitable Organization Division.
- D. Entities must have operated as an arts organization or arts program for a minimum of one full fiscal year and be able to submit a financial statement for their most recently completed fiscal year at the time of application.
- E. All grant-funded programming must be open to the general public.
- F. All grant-funded programming must be accessible to persons with disabilities in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. No persons, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, sexuality, gender, age, or their handicap shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination during or in connection with programming.
- G. Grant-funded activities must occur within the Fiscal Year funding period of July 1 through June 30. An activity rescheduled outside this funding period is no longer eligible.
- H. Grants may not be used towards any of the following: capital projects, major equipment purchases, paying down existing debt, re-granting, scholarships, pro-rated staffing, travel outside Maryland, any fundraising activity, or compensation for board members who are also employees (defined as those who receive a W2).

APPLICATION

- I. Organizations may submit only one Community Arts Development grant application to Harford County Cultural Arts Board per year.
- J. There is an online grant portal, GrantSpace, where all applications, reports, and other grants-related tasks will be completed. A hyperlink to GrantSpace can be found under the Grants menu on the www.CulturalArtsBoard.org website.
- K. Workshops to introduce the website and the grants process are scheduled periodically. Telephone technical assistance is available upon request. Please notify Harford County Cultural Arts Board fifteen days prior to any deadlines to request assistance and any special accommodations.

AWARD

- K. Harford County Cultural Arts Board considers applications and awards grant funding on the basis of the following Review Criteria:
 - a. Artistic merit
 - b. Organizational effectiveness
 - c. Service to the community
 - d. Current and past adherence to grant guidelines
 - e. Size of organization
 - f. IDEA principles are incorporated into each criterion. IDEA stands for Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access.

- L. Grant awards are announced with an email that will include instructions to access and accept the terms of the contract (known as the "Grant Agreement"). The Grant Agreement is not finalized until signed and witnessed, which must be completed by the specified date or all funds will be forfeited.

- M. At all times, grant awards, or any part thereof, are contingent upon the availability of funds from Maryland State Arts Council, a Maryland State agency under the authority of the Department of Commerce, Division of Tourism, Film and the Arts.

- N. Failure to comply with any terms of the Grant Agreement may result in the organization being required to repay grant funds and may jeopardize any future grant eligibility.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

- O. An interim report must be filed with Harford County Cultural Arts Board no later than the stated deadline. Failure to report may jeopardize any future grant eligibility and may result in the organization being required to repay current grant funds.
- P. A final report must be filed with Harford County Cultural Arts Board by August 1st after the funding period, to include photographs, copies of event programs and advertising materials, dates, financial information, and counts of artists and audiences. Failure to report may jeopardize any future grant eligibility and may result in the organization being required to repay current grant funds.
- Q. Accurate financial reports, including a signed financial statement, may be a required part of interim, final, or other grant-related reports.
- R. Harford County Cultural Arts Board reserves the right to request financial reports or other documents relating to operations or activities at any time.
- S. Organizations receiving grants must maintain complete and accurate records of all activities and operations connected with the grant. This includes the following data for each activity:
 - a. Name/title of program
 - b. Location
 - c. Date
 - d. Number of artists participating
 - e. Total in-person adult audience paid admission
 - f. Total in-person adult audience unpaid admission
 - g. Total in-person juvenile (under 18) audience paid admission
 - h. Total in-person Juvenile (under 18) audience unpaid admission
 - i. Total number of artists actively participating during entire funding period
- T. If a significant change is made in any Harford County Cultural Arts Board-funded organization, program, or project, Harford County Cultural Arts Board must be notified in writing within 60 days or by August 1, whichever is sooner.

PROMOTIONAL and CREDITING REQUIREMENTS

- U. All arts programs, including performances, auditions, exhibits, etc., must be submitted to Harford County Cultural Arts Board website's *Cultural Arts Calendar* ninety (90) days prior to the event or as soon as dates are scheduled. Contact Arts@HCPLonline.org with technical questions. The *Cultural Arts Calendar* is online at the following address: www.culturalartsboard.org/cultural-arts-calendar.html

Suggested posting schedule for optimum exposure:

- a. April – June activities posted no later than January 15
 - b. July – September activities posted no later than March 15
 - c. October – December activities posted no later than June 15
 - d. January – March activities posted no later than September 15
- V. If tickets are required to attend arts programming, a minimum of four tickets for shall be made available to Harford County Cultural Arts Board.
- W. Credit must be given to Maryland State Arts Council and Harford County Cultural Arts Board whenever and wherever credit is being given – verbally, in print, and/or electronically – including but not limited to verbal introductions, advertisements, radio or print media interviews, press releases, program brochures, flyers, online and social media event descriptions.
- a. On printed materials - logos and *crediting sentence* must appear.
 - b. Online (website, email, online calendars, etc.) - logos and *crediting sentence* must appear, linking to both websites (www.MSAC.org and www.CulturalArtsBoard.org)
 - c. Always check website (www.CulturalArtsBoard.org) for current and best quality logos and *crediting sentence* examples.
 - d. Contact Cultural Arts Board office for technical assistance if necessary.

Crediting sentence examples:

Support for operations of (Arts Organization) has been provided by Harford County Cultural Arts Board with funds from Maryland State Arts Council.

Or

(Arts Program) is supported by Harford County Cultural Arts Board with funds from Maryland State Arts Council

TYPES OF GRANTS

There are two types of grants under the Community Arts Development grant umbrella, (1) General Operating and (2) Arts Programming.

(1) General Operating

Nonprofit arts organizations in Harford County are eligible to receive support of their operations. Arts organizations are defined as those producing or presenting the arts through public programs or services. This definition is determined as any organizations whose mission and financial statements reflect that the majority of resources are dedicated to producing and presenting the arts. Examples of these include galleries, orchestras, theaters, or art museums.

(2) Arts Programming

Nonprofit organizations whose main purpose is not producing or presenting the arts, but do regularly provide public arts programs in Harford County, are also eligible to receive support of the direct costs of their arts programming only. These might include community centers, human service organizations, or non-art museums in Harford County. Units of government, colleges or universities, and faith-based organizations are eligible.

Arts Programming support is also available to Maryland arts organizations located outside of Harford County, who are producing or presenting arts programs within Harford County. Those organizations may receive support for the direct costs for any Harford County arts programs that are open to the general public.

COMPLETING THE APPLICATION

Applications are completed entirely online including the use of electronic signatures by authorized officials of the organization.

Applications are accessed through GrantSpace, a secure site of Harford County Cultural Arts Board. All forms, contracts, and uploads are to be completed within the GrantSpace portal. The link to GrantSpace is accessed through www.CulturalArtsBoard.org. Though all submitted documents are available to applicants via GrantSpace after submission, it is strongly recommended that all applicants print and save their completed forms.

Throughout GrantSpace, there are buttons for “save” and “submit.” Once submitted, an on-screen confirmation will appear, and an email will be sent to confirm submission has occurred. Until submission is confirmed, the form is not an officially submitted application and will not be considered.

Harford County Cultural Arts Board does not accept responsibility for lost, misdirected, late, incomplete, or unsubmitted applications.

Applications must be submitted before stated deadline. Any extensions or exceptions to official deadlines will not be granted.

Once an application has been submitted, it can no longer be edited.

Completed forms will be accessible for viewing or printing.

In the event that a revision or addition is needed and/or requested, applicants must meet all revision deadlines as specified in email communication from Harford County Cultural Arts Board or the application will be considered withdrawn.



To obtain application in an alternate format, contact Harford County Cultural Arts Board 410-273-5601 ext. 6509 or Arts@HCPLonline.org

Organizational Profile

Organization must use their same Organizational Profile for each application, report, etc., throughout a grant cycle, and year-to-year. Access to Profile is controlled by the user id, the email used to sign in to Grants Workspace. If organization needs to change the user who can access their account, contact Harford County Cultural Arts Board office for assistance.

Communications

Organizational Profile requires contact information for people controlling the organization. These are labeled as Executive Director and Grant Contact. Regardless of whether the primary Grant Contact is the Executive Director, different people, phone numbers, and email addresses must be identified. All communications are sent via email, to the email addresses found in the Organizational Profile.

It is mandatory that users to keep their Organizational Profile accurate at all times and retrieve email regularly and frequently.

Content of Application

Harford County Cultural Arts Board reviews and updates the grant application and reporting process annually. The grant review panel also reviews the applications annually. Each application panel may comprise different people from year to year. Therefore, do not assume the review panel is knowledgeable about the applicant organization or activities.

Please refer to the Review Criteria (see K. above) when completing the application. All submissions should tell a cohesive story and represent the organization at its best. Panelists look for evidence of the applicant's commitment to its mission and artistic excellence, sound governance, effective organizational management, an understanding of and responsiveness to its community, all through the lens of inclusion, equity, diversity, and access. During grant panel review meetings, panelists will discuss, and rate applications based on evidence presented within the application.

Some forms will have conditional questions; this means that subsequent questions may change or be added or removed based on answers to prior questions. Be aware of these changes, as it is the organization's responsibility to ensure the application is complete, comprehensive, and correct.

Financial Information

Financial information from years past (actual revenue and expenses) and a balanced budget (projected revenue and expenses) for the upcoming fiscal year and/or arts program are essential to a successful application. Please pay particular attention to the accuracy of this section.

All funding and reporting are done on a fiscal year basis that begins on July 1 and ends June 30.

NOTE: If applying for General Operating support, total organizational financial information is required. If applying for Arts Programming support, please provide only that program's expenses and revenue. Total organizational financial information may also be requested. For all budgets provided, income and expenses should balance.

A signed financial statement for the most recently completed fiscal year (actual income and expenses) may be requested during application or later in the funding period. 990 forms are not accepted.

See also: Allowable Income and Expense.

ALLOWABLE INCOME AND EXPENSE

All Community Arts Development Grant applications must include financial information from immediate past, current, and future fiscal years. Categories are divided into "allowable" and "non-allowable" to standardize expenses and revenue for various organizations and programming.

Regardless of how category is placed on chart, all expenses and revenue should be include to provide complete information.

The following are not allowable as expenses when determining total costs eligible for grant support, but many are legitimate and normal expenses for an organization.

- Acquisition of capital assets
- Activities for the exclusive benefit of an organization's members
- Activities not open to the general public
- Capital projects or improvements
- Compensation for board members who are also employees (defined as those who receive a W2)
- Contributions to any persons who hold, or are candidates for, elected office; to any political party, organization, or action committee; or in connection with any political campaign or referendum
- Paying down debts
- Fundraising activities
- Lobbying activities
- Pro-rated staff
- Purchases of major equipment
- Re-granting
- Scholarships awarded by the applicant organization for its own activities
- Travel outside Maryland

The following are not allowable as income when determining organization's "match,"but are often legitimate and normal for an organization.

- Loans
- Carryover
- Debt forgiveness
- Transfer of funds earned in prior years
- Revenue raised for capital or endowment funds
- Funds intended for the purpose of re-granting
- Unrealized gains/losses
- Funds, grants, or services from the State of Maryland
- *Other items may be deemed not allowable

APPENDIX A –GLOSSARY

accommodations/interpreters: Services provided to persons with disabilities in order to improve accessibility of arts programming.

administrative worker: Individuals employed or contracted by an organization to perform duties related primarily to the management of the organization.

administrative worker costs: Salaries, fees, and the cost of benefits paid to administrative workers.

advertising sales: Income an organization derives from the sale of space in printed programs or other advertisements.

access: Providing inclusive, mutually beneficial and meaningful participation of people with disabilities.

agreement: A legally-binding contract between Harford County Cultural Arts Board and a successful applicant setting forth the rights and duties of the parties, which must be executed before grant funds may be disbursed.

allocations to cash reserves: Funds an organization places in an income-bearing account for the purpose of building cash reserves.

allowable/non-allowable (as income or expenses): Income or expenses deemed by Harford County Cultural Arts Board to be permissible in figuring total operating expenses and income to determine funding amounts. Examples of allowable operating income and expenses include: ticket sales income, grants and contributions. Allowable expenses include: specific salaries, artist fees, marketing expenses, equipment rental, program costs, supplies, etc. See also non- allowable.

Americans with Disabilities Act, 1990 (A.D.A.): A law that protects the rights of individuals with disabilities to receive the same accommodations and benefits as individuals without disabilities. ADA.gov, an official website of the United State government, provides [The ADA Standards for Accessible Design](#), covering: Newly constructed buildings and facilities; Alterations—such as, renovations and other changes that affect usability—made to buildings and facilities; Making architectural changes in existing state and local government buildings to provide “program access”; and Removing architectural barriers that are easily accomplishable without much difficulty or expense in existing buildings of businesses.

artistic workers: Individuals or groups employed or contracted by an organization to create, curate, design, perform, or produce artistic work presented by the organization to general audiences.

artistic worker costs: Salaries, fees, and the cost of benefits paid to artistic workers.

arts organization: Harford County Cultural Arts Board defines an arts organization as an organization which produces or presents the arts through public programs or services. This definition is determined as any organizations whose mission and financial statements reflect that the majority of resources are dedicated to producing and presenting the arts. Examples of these include galleries, orchestras, theaters, or art museums. See also: non-arts organization.

audit: See independent external audit.

authorizing official: Individual legally empowered to submit this application.

budget: Estimate of income and expenditure for a set period of time

(CY) calendar year: Budget year that runs from January 1 through December 31.

capital assets: Those assets of an organization, including buildings, equipment, and facilities that are intended for long-term ownership and use.

capital improvements: Improvements to capital assets that increase their value, or otherwise benefit the owner of the improved asset.

community: The individuals or groups identified by an organization as those for whom the organization's activities are intended.

contracted services: Services rendered under contract to another party (agency, school, organization, company, or individual), and revenues derived from such services.

cost of goods purchased for sale: Money paid by an organization for artwork or other goods intended for subsequent sale, with proceeds benefiting the organization.

depreciation: The systematic charging of the diminished value of fixed assets to annual expenditures.

direct costs: Those expenses directly billed to the applicant's arts program by invoice and/or transfer of funds and documented as a dollar amount on the arts program's financial statement.

diversity: reflecting or having many different ideas, forms, types, and qualities. Including but not limited to physical or cognitive ability, age, belief, culture, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, gender expression, language, race, sexual orientation, socio-economic background.

educational activities: Eligible educational activities include, but are not limited to, activities that have the primary purpose of instruction or training, including workshops, artist residencies, lessons, classes, or other educational outreach and learning activities open to the public.

Non-eligible educational activities include but are not limited to those intended for public, private, and charter K-12 school and preschool classroom use; implementation of arts curriculum or curriculum development for schools; showcases of student school work; school fundraisers.

educational personnel: Individuals employed or contracted by an organization to perform duties related primarily to educational programming and/or teaching.

educational salaries and fees: Salaries, fees, and the cost of benefits paid to educational personnel.

endowment: Investment funds that remain in perpetuity and generate interest income.

equity: Embodying values and practices that ensure all people—including but not limited to those who have been historically underrepresented based on race/ethnicity, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, socioeconomic status, geography, citizenship status, or religion—are included fairly and provided with the supports that they need to participate and fully engage.

Federal Employer Identification Number (EIN): A nine-digit account number identifying an employer for purposes of reporting wages and taxes to the Internal Revenue Service. May also be called Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN)

(FY) fiscal year: Budget year that runs on a 12-month period other than January 1 through December 31.

financial stability: The ability of an organization to generate the financial resources necessary to support current and planned activities, as measured by the organization’s prior record and the soundness of budgetary estimates and projections.

financial statement or audit: A document required for all Harford County Cultural Arts Board applications which provides information on the applicant organization’s operating budget for the most recently completed fiscal year. The statement is not narrative but a list of actual revenues and expenses.

fundraising event: Dinners and dances, door-to-door sales of merchandise, concerts, carnivals, sports events, auctions, casino nights..., and similar events not regularly carried on that are conducted for the primary purpose of raising funds. An event where the primary purpose is programmatic in nature is generally not considered a fundraising event.

grant contact: Individual who is best able to provide information regarding application content and activities described therein.

inclusion: organizational effort or practice of creating environments, and/or providing equal access, to opportunities and resources for individuals or groups who might otherwise be excluded or marginalized, such as those who have disabilities, are of a different background, or are members of a minority group

income from goods/services sold: The total amount paid by purchasers to an organization for artwork or other goods sold and/or services provided by the organization.

independent external audit: An audit report certified by an independent CPA firm that must include an unqualified opinion on the financial statements of an organization

in-kind: Any contribution of service, equipment, supplies, printing, space, or other property made by an individual, organization, or business to an organization, as distinguished from a monetary (cash) donation.

merit of arts services activities: Caliber of the arts services activities an organization provides.

non-allowable (as income or expenses): Not allowable as operating expenses are: re-granting, acquisition of capital assets, accessions, allocations to cash reserves, capital improvements, depreciation, deficits, loan principal payments, contributions to endowments, scholarships awarded by the applicant organization for its own activities, or compensation for board members who are also employees (defined as those who receive a W2). Not allowable as operating income are: loans; carryover; debt forgiveness; transfer of funds earned in prior years; revenue raised for capital or endowment funds or funds intended for the purpose of re-granting; unrealized gains/losses; prorated salaries, rent, or utilities; or other prorated expenses. Other items may be deemed non-allowable. Grant funds may not be used to make contributions to any persons who hold, or are candidates for, elected office; to any political party, organization, or action committee; or in connection with any political campaign or referendum. Grant funds may not be used for any lobbying activities.

non-arts organization: Harford County Cultural Arts Board defines a non-arts organization as a nonprofit organization whose main purpose is not producing or presenting the arts, but that regularly provides public arts programs in Harford County. These might include community centers, human service organizations, or non-art museums in Harford County. Units of government, colleges or universities, and faith-based organizations are eligible. For example, a church's mission is not to produce or present the arts, but it may present an ongoing series of orchestral concerts. The church is considered a non- arts organization and is eligible to apply for support only for its ongoing arts program, the orchestral concert series. See also: arts organization.

organizational effectiveness: The ability of an organization to develop and organize the operational means necessary to support current and planned activities, as measured by the organization's prior record and the soundness of plans of action.

received/not received: The status of contributed support at the time a Harford County Cultural Arts Board application is submitted. "Received" funds are those awarded or in-hand; "not received" includes funds applied for, pending, pledged, and/or yet to be raised.

service to the community: The degree to which an organization's operations and activities display an understanding of and responsiveness to the community

special constituencies: People who, by virtue of their age, income, locale, physical or developmental ability, or any other characteristic, have fewer opportunities, less visibility, or limited access to programs available to the general public.

technical workers: Individuals employed or contracted by an organization for technical management and staff services (e.g., technical directors; stage managers; exhibit preparers and installers; wardrobe, lighting, and sound crews; stagehands; video and film technicians).

technical worker costs: Salaries, fees, and the cost of benefits paid to technical personnel.

user: individual person accessing GrantSpace. Will have their own login and password.

total cash income: For a completed fiscal year, the sum of all funds an organization received during the year through earnings and contributions; for the current fiscal year, the sum of all funds, received and/or not yet received. Organizations applying to Harford County Cultural Arts Board for general operating support are required to present budgets for a planned year in which the year's total allowable cash income and total allowable cash expenses are equal.

venue: Facility or location where arts activities take place.

APPENDIX B – REVIEW CRITERIA

Artistic Merit: the aesthetic achievement and quality of activities produced and/or presented by an organization. Not only is the organization producing or presenting high-quality programs, but is also employing evaluation techniques as an ongoing part of the planning process, and to demonstrate that priorities are achieved. There is a clearly articulated explanation of how programs and services fulfill the organization's mission.

Artistic Aesthetic Achievement

5 = Excellent--Outstanding: Clearly evident and well-articulated artistic aesthetic achievement. Artistic programming on a superior level and continues to evolve creatively. Artistic decisions are made by highly qualified personnel or invitees with diverse backgrounds and perspectives. Organization is a leader in its field in artistic excellence.

4 = Good--Very Good: Clearly evident and well-articulated artistic aesthetic achievement. Artistic programming on a high level.

3 = Satisfactory: Adequate evidence of artistic aesthetic achievement, artistic programming remains consistent.

2 = Marginal--Fair: Implied but not specific evidence of artistic aesthetic.

1 = Poor: Hard to determine, no evidence provided.

Program Evaluation

5 = Excellent--Outstanding: Excellent and effective evaluation techniques that are an ongoing part of the planning process and provide evidence that priorities are achieved. Model for the field in program evaluation and continued update of evaluation process.

4 = Good--Very Good: Effective evaluation techniques are part of the planning process and provide evidence that priorities are achieved.

3 = Satisfactory: Evaluation techniques are in place and provide evidence that priorities are achieved.

2 = Marginal—Fair: Evaluation efforts are outlined, but leave questions as to how the resulting information is to be used.

1 = Poor: Fails to address how the organization will evaluate its programming.

How Arts Reflect Mission

5 = Excellent--Outstanding: Articulate and clear explanation of how the programs and services fulfill the organization's mission. Evident that the mission is regularly evaluated.

4 = Good--Very Good: Clear explanation of how the programs and services fulfill the organization's mission.

3 = Satisfactory: General statement on how the programs and services fulfill the organization's mission, but lacks clarity.

2 = Marginal—Fair: Statement on how the programs and services fulfill the organization's mission is not fully formed.

1 = Poor: Lacks an explanation of how the programs and services fulfill the organization's mission.

Part II - Organizational Effectiveness: The ability of an organization to develop and organize the operational means necessary to support current and planned activities, as measured by the organization's prior record and the soundness of plans of action.

Financial Information

5 = Excellent--Outstanding: Accurate and realistic budget. Applicant's budget and development plans reflect a broad base of revenue and support from earned, unearned, and in-kind sources. Organization is financially stable or has articulated plans for stability. If applicable, applicant has a viable plan to reduce any accumulated deficit. Finances are regularly reported to board and revised as necessary. Major variances from year to year are explained clearly. Model in the field.

4 = Good--Very Good: Accurate and realistic budget reflecting a broad base of revenue and support from various sources. Appears to be financially stable. If applicable, applicant has a viable plan to reduce any accumulated deficit. Finances are regularly reported to board and revised as necessary. Major variances from year to year are explained clearly.

3 = Satisfactory: Basic, itemized budget appears realistic. Revenue sources are specified, but financial strength of the organization is not detailed. Finances are regularly reported to board and revised as necessary. Major variances from year to year are explained clearly.

2 = Marginal—Fair: Confusing and unrealistic budget; Development plans leave doubts about the fiscal health of the organization.

1 = Poor: Budget is incomplete and unacceptable.

Planning

5 = Excellent--Outstanding: Thorough planning is indicated with clarity, including a relevant and timely strategic plan; articulated vision and mission; appropriate goals, strategies and evaluation plans; adaptability; centrality of the arts, and clarity. Plan is updated regularly.

4 = Good--Very Good: Thorough planning is indicated, including a relevant strategic plan; articulated vision and mission; appropriate goal, strategies and evaluation plans.

3 = Satisfactory: A plan is in place that includes strategic planning, mission, and goals and strategies. Evaluation plans could be included or strengthened.

2 = Marginal—Fair: Vague statements about process and does not address future needs of the organization.

1 = Poor: Strategic plan is absent or contradictory to organization's stated mission.

Management & Structure

5 = Excellent--Outstanding: Clear evidence that the skills and capacity of the board and professional staff are high; demonstrated personnel structure (paid or volunteer) to implement projects and programs on a high level; evidence of sound management and planning including regular reporting to board. Applicant's artistic, educational and cultural activities are strengthened by qualified personnel.

4 = Good--Very Good: The skills and capacity of the board and professional staff are high. Personnel structure allows implementation of activities on a good level. Regular reporting to the board is evident. Personnel are qualified.

3 = Satisfactory: The skills and capacity of the board and professional staff are adequate to allow implementation of activities on a satisfactory level. Regular reporting to the board is stated. Personnel are mostly qualified.

2 = Marginal—Fair: The board and professional staff are not all adequate to meet the needs of the organization to produce activities on a satisfactory level.

1 = Poor: Board and staff structure and composition are not explained.

Part III - Service to Community: The degree to which an organization’s operations and activities display an understanding of and responsiveness to the community, as the organization defines that community. Evaluation is based on evidence that the organization is committed to serving the community. Community is defined as the constituents served by the applicant, and can be based on artistic discipline or geography, or it can be culturally-based.

Description of Community

5 = Excellent—Outstanding: Thorough description of constituents served by the applicant including artistically, geographically, or culturally-based. Leader in the field.

4 = Good--Very Good: Clear description of constituents served by the applicant including artistically, geographically, or culturally-based.

3 = Satisfactory: Basic description of constituents served by the applicant is included

2 = Marginal—Fair: Unclear and confusing description of the constituents is provided

1=Poor: Inadequate description of constituents.

Community Engagement & Outreach

5 = Excellent--Outstanding: Proactive plan for attracting new audiences and audience development, including outreach programs and activities that go into the community. Evidence of understanding and responsiveness to the community. Clear plan and implementation of community engagement evaluation is in place. Leader in the field and model for community engagement.

4 = Good—Very Good: Plan for attracting new audiences and audience development, including outreach programs and activities that go into the community. Evidence of understanding and responsiveness to the community. Plan for community engagement evaluation is in place.

3 = Satisfactory: Open to new audiences, but not engaging new audiences proactively or reaching out to the community. Basic audience and community engagement efforts need strengthening.

2=Marginal--Fair Passive outreach to those that come to the organization’s activities. No plan for attracting new audiences, engaging current audiences, or reaching out to the community.

1 = Poor: Does not address audience engagement or outreach.

Part IV: IDEA Principles - Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access: The degree to which an organization's operations, activities, goals, and planning display an understanding of and responsiveness to a need to strive towards IDEA at all levels of the organization (programs, administration, audience, artists, board, etc.)

IDEA Principles - Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access

5=Poor: Inadequate description of constituents. 5 = Excellent--Outstanding: Clearly evident and well-articulated IDEA Principles and Practices. Organization is a leader in its field in IDEA.

4 = Good--Very Good: Frequently evident and well-articulated commitment to inclusion, diversity, equity, and access. IDEA practices incorporated throughout operations and programming.

3 = Satisfactory: Adequate evidence of goals and strategies developed to address to inclusion, diversity, equity, and access and practices appear consistent with stated plans.

2 = Marginal--Fair: Implied but no specific evidence of iDEA inclusion, diversity, equity, and access Principles in action.

1 = Poor: Hard to determine, no evidence provided.

APPENDIX C – POST AWARD REVIEW PROCESS

Harford County Cultural Arts Board takes great care during the grant review process to ensure fair and equitable distribution of grant monies based on a clearly defined set of criteria. Using these criteria, each grant is assessed by a panel resulting in a numerical rating based on how well each criterion is met.

If a grantee would like to learn from the grant application outcome, a post award review may be permitted upon request. All grant awards are final. The purpose of the review is not to change the outcome, but to provide the grantee a better understanding of the review process and to aid in the preparation of future grant applications.

To schedule a post award review, please contact the Harford County Cultural Arts Board Coordinator by midnight of the fifteenth day following receipt of the grant decision email. The coordinator will schedule a time for either an over-the-phone or a face-to-face review. During the post award review the coordinator will provide the grantee with a summary of the numerical ratings for each criterion along with comments made by the review panel. The names of panel members will remain anonymous. The coordinator will answer questions regarding the grant award process and the scoring algorithm.