

WHAT HAPPENED TO IGNITE ARTS?

The Ignite Arts program was restructured to align each fund with the donor's intent and strengthen Erie Arts & Culture's strategic plan. Erie Arts & Culture recognized that investing in Erie County arts organizations' long term growth would have a greater impact on the arts sector than supporting one-time projects. The new programs will fund mission-based, operational, and programmatic work. For more information about this transition, [click here](#).

WHAT PROCESSES HAVE CHANGED?

Application process: To honor each donor's intentions, eligible applicants will apply to the individual subfunds for support, rather than a general pool of grant funding.

Grant review process: All applications will be reviewed by Erie Arts & Culture staff for eligibility using an objective checklist. Eligible applicants will be forwarded to Erie Arts & Culture's Programming Committee for review against criteria. The Programs Committee will present final grantee recommendations to the Board of Directors for approval.

Reporting process: No more written reports. Erie Arts & Culture staff will host a brief interim check-in call with grantees to track progress towards goals and identify grantees' needs outside of funding. At the end of the grant period, small peer groups (assembled based on common feedback from interim calls) will meet and discuss their projects in a round table, oral report.

WHAT IS THE ERIE ARTS ENDOWMENT?

Erie Arts & Culture's grantmaking is fueled by the Erie Arts Endowment and the sub-funds that compose it. Notable sub-funds include The Lydia McCain Fund, the Clarence E. Beyers Fund, the Virginia P. Vieser Fund, the Rosemary Omniewski Fund, and the stARTup Fund. These funds were established to carry on the legacy of community members who valued the arts and the impact they have on individuals and communities.

MY ARTS ORGANIZATION IS LOCATED OUTSIDE OF ERIE COUNTY, CAN I APPLY?

The Erie Arts Endowment subfund grants are for organizations located in Erie County. Please refer to Erie Arts & Culture's other opportunities for [organizational support](#).

MY ORGANIZATION IS NOT A 501(c)3, CAN WE APPLY THROUGH A FISCAL SPONSOR?

Grassroots organizations may use a fiscal sponsor to apply to the McCain Next Steps Grant and the Beyers Fund. The Vieser Fund does not permit fiscal sponsorship. Individuals, local municipalities, local education agencies (school districts), institutions of higher learning, community development corporations, and non-profit organizations with primary missions outside of the arts are ineligible for grants made from the Erie Arts Endowment subfunds.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A PROJECT AND A PROGRAM?

The Beyers Fund awards project *and* program-based grants, whereas the Virginia P. Vieser Fund awards one project-based grant.

A *project* is defined as a *limited, one-time effort* that is intended to achieve a specific deliverable, or output.

- Projects:
 - Deliver outputs, a tangible result
 - Allow for a degree of risk-taking and uncertainty
 - Have cost, date, and resource constraints

Programs are administered on a *recurring* basis, central to an organization's operations, and involve a number of related projects and other activities over time.

- Programs:
 - Are measured by their ability to achieve specific, measurable outcomes. Outcomes quantify success and program performance.
 - Have proven to be sustainable long-term

How to determine whether your idea is a project or a program:

- What is the size and scope of work involved?
- Is success measured through outputs or outcomes?
- How does this relate to other operational activities?
- Does the activity have a recurring timeline?
- What is the degree of uncertainty involved?

WHAT CAN I DO TO MAKE MY APPLICATION STAND OUT?

- Use clear and concise language. The word limits on narrative sections are *not* a requirement.
 - Demonstrate that your proposal is ready to be implemented. This may include a clear delegation of tasks, a realistic timeline, identified matching funds, or pending/confirmed partnerships.
 - Demonstrate a commitment to Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility (IDEA).
 - Align your proposal with one of EAC's strategic priorities:
 - Increase the capacity and impact of creative and cultural sector in the NWPA region
 - Fund opportunities for the arts in lifelong learning
 - Preserve, enhance and promote diverse cultures
 - Facilitate placemaking initiatives
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Questions? Contact Casey Corritore, Program Officer of Capacity Building:
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