



**HAWAII**

STATE FOUNDATION on  
CULTURE and the ARTS

# COMMUNITY ARTS GRANT PROGRAM

(FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE BIENNIUM GRANTS PROGRAM)

## Program Overview

## COMMUNITY ARTS GRANT PROGRAM

The State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA) provides funds through Community Arts Grants to support projects designed to promote, perpetuate, and preserve culture and the arts in Hawai`i.

The legal provisions of the Community Arts Grant Program are in Sections 9-11 through 9-18 of the Hawai`i Revised Statutes. Each fiscal year grant budget is contingent on the State fiscal budget and appropriations from the Hawai`i State Legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts. Grants awarded are subject to available funding for the fiscal year.

Applicant organizations must meet all legal eligibility requirements, application requirements, State and Federal compliance requirements, and policies established by the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts.

## REQUIRED STATE & FEDERAL COMPLIANCE

Applicant organizations must meet State compliance with Hawaii Compliance Express and have an active registration with SAM.gov by the date the project application is submitted through Hawaii GO Smart.

### Hawaii Compliance Express (State)

Certificate of Compliance for the following:

1. Hawaii Department of Taxation
2. Internal Revenue Service
3. Hawaii Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs
4. Hawaii Department of Labor & Industrial Relations

### SAM.gov (Federal)

1. Active Registration
2. Provide the SAM Unique Entity ID (UEI) PDF verifying registration

A Hawaii GO Smart account is required to submit the Intent to Apply and the Project Application

## Community Arts Grant Fiscal Year 2026

### **Intent to Apply:**

August 1, 2024, through September 30, 2024

### **Project Application:**

September 1, 2024, through October 30, 2024

### **Grant Implementation Period:**

July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026

## Community Arts Grant Fiscal Year 2027

### **Intent to Apply:**

August 1, 2025, through September 30, 2025

### **Project Application:**

September 1, 2025, through October 30, 2025

### **Grant Implementation Period:**

July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027

## INTENT TO APPLY

Applicant organizations who wish to apply to the Community Arts Grant Program must meet the State legal eligibility requirements.

The organization's legal eligibility documents are provided in the Intent to Apply.

The Intent to Apply is submitted through Hawaii GO Smart to each fiscal year funds are requested.

### State Legal Eligibility Documents

1. A copy of the organization's tax-exempt status letter from the IRS; and
2. A copy of the organization's bylaws and/or policies which must include:
  - a. A description of the manner in which business is conducted;
  - b. A prohibition against nepotism; and
  - c. Procedures for managing potential conflict-of-interest situations.
  - d. A statement from the organization affirming that the members of its governing board have no material conflict of interest and serve without compensation. (The organization must have a governing board whose members have no material conflict of interest and serve without compensation.)



## PROJECT APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

1. Applicant organization must be a nonprofit arts, culture, or humanities organization, 501(c)3 exempt from federal income tax by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS)
2. Not SFCFA Staff, members of the SFCFA Board of Commissioners, or immediate family member
3. Organization is incorporated under the laws of the State of Hawai'i
4. Project takes place in the State of Hawai'i
5. Organization has at least one year of project experience
6. Not barred or suspended from receiving federal funds
7. Registered and active with SAM.gov
8. Compliant with Hawai'i Compliance Express- ([Vendors.eHawaii.gov/HCE](https://Vendors.eHawaii.gov/HCE))
9. Accessibility: The organization has a National Endowment for the Arts- Section 504 Evaluation on file.
10. 1:1 match is required
11. Fiscal sponsorship is not permitted
12. Only one application per fiscal year grant cycle
13. Application must be entirely completed and submitted via the Hawaii Go Smart online application system ([Hawaii.GoSmart.org](https://Hawaii.GoSmart.org))

# COMMUNITY ARTS GRANT PROGRAM

## PROJECT APPLICATION

The Intent to Apply must be submitted by the deadline and approved by the SFCA to access the Project Application.

The Project Application must be submitted for each fiscal year funding is requested.

The project must be arts based, meet one of the four grant categories, and take place in the State of Hawai`i.

Submission of a Project Application is not a guarantee of a grant award.

## COMMUNITY ARTS GRANT PROGRAM

### GRANT CATEGORIES

The project funding is requested to support must fall within one of the four categories to request support.

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**Heritage and Preservation (Culture)** projects are well grounded in the history of Hawai`i and the living cultures in Hawai`i. Amplify Hawaiian cultural arts, history, and heritage and support communities to advance cultural knowledge, build cultural capacity, and preserve cultural legacies.

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**Community Arts: Community Arts, Community Development, Arts & Healing (Engagement)**. Art-based community development projects that increase the creative capacity of rural communities and enhance opportunities to experience culture and the arts statewide and within rural communities and underserved populations.

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**Presenting & Performing Arts: Literacy Arts, Visual Arts, Media Arts, Performing Arts (The Arts)**. Projects support programs or activities of organizations that present artists in performances, exhibitions, in-residency settings, online format, and televised broadcasts.

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**Arts Education (Education)** provides educational opportunities in any arts discipline for arts in the school environment, out-of-school learning, Early Childhood Development, adult life-long learning, and professional development.



# THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE COMMUNITY ARTS GRANT PROGRAM

- Competitive grant program
- Each Project Application is peer-reviewed and scored by the SFCA grant review panel
- Submission of a Project Application is not a guarantee of funding
- A grant awarded for the fiscal year 2026 is not a guarantee of a grant award for the fiscal year 2027
- A non-award for the fiscal year 2026 is not a guarantee of non-award for the fiscal year 2027
- Supports arts, culture, and humanities projects/programs
- Applicant organizations may not request grant funds to support general operating expense

## **AVAILABLE RESOURCES**

The SFCFA recommends reviewing the Community Arts Grant Program documents before submitting the Intent to Apply and the Project Application:

- Legal Eligibility Requirements
- Project Application Requirements
- Grant Categories
- Project Application Instructions
- Project Application Evaluation Rubric

The above resources are available on the SFCFA grants website, and the Hawaii GO Smart Community Arts Grant page and grant cycle portals.

The resource documents are hyperlinked in applicable sections of the Project Application.

GO Smart platform navigation tutorials are available by logging into your Hawaii GO Smart account and clicking 'Tech Tips'.

## Resources:

[State Foundation on Culture and the Arts](#)

[www.sfca.Hawaii.gov](http://www.sfca.Hawaii.gov)

[www.sfca.Hawaii.gov/grants](http://www.sfca.Hawaii.gov/grants)

[Hawaii GO Smart](#)

<https://Hawaii.gosmart.org>

[Contact SFCA Grants Team](#)

[SFCAgrants@Hawaii.gov](mailto:SFCAgrants@Hawaii.gov)