



Kresge Foundation

The Kresge Foundation is a private, national foundation that supports communities in the United States and around the world. Over the years, its grantmaking has focused in six fields of interest – health, environment, arts and culture, education, human services, and community development. The Foundation is best known for its facilities capital program. At the Kresge Foundation, we believe a thriving arts and cultural community – one that is well supported and well recognized – enriches the quality of life for residents and visitors and, in doing so, inspires new thinking, spurs innovation and accelerates the creative vitality of the region. Not just a frill for an elite few, art and culture can inspire citizens to transform neighborhoods and encourage civic dialogue around challenging issues. In times of uncertainty, we need creative outlets that feed the human spirit. We believe that when we make purposeful investments of our time and talents, great things can happen.

In 2009, the Kresge Foundation launched a two-year Community Arts pilot initiative designed to use art and culture as a tool to address community issues in five unique, yet distressed urban American cities - Baltimore, MD, Birmingham, AL, Detroit, MI, St. Louis, MO, and Tucson, AZ. One might ask why these cities were selected over many others. Based on our work in other programs areas, and our interest in testing this initiative in geographically diverse urban cities across the country, we researched more than 20 urban cities and selected the five listed above. One criterion was partner readiness. We selected cities with 501c3 intermediaries that have established grantmaking systems, a network of public and private partners, and the capacity to execute this initiative collaboratively and effectively.

Kresge Arts in St. Louis

What are we looking for? In each city there are examples of pressing community issues and challenges facing citizens. Whether historic or current, these issues can be complex. Community arts projects can help address all of the above challenges and many others. We choose not to define what constitutes a community issue or challenge, because they will vary in each city. Instead, we will ask each applicant to clearly state the issue and the creative solution the project will address and how it meets the Kresge program goals. While the inspiration will come from each applicant, ideas could include artist's residencies for after-school programs in low-income housing developments, juvenile detention or battered women's shelter, planning to re-purpose an existing property into artist's live/work space, gallery or performance space, or an arts project created by elementary school students with the neighborhood around the school.

We are most interested in collaborative projects that are initiated, designed and implemented for and by groups of residents, youth and neighborhoods. Projects do not have to be new, but status quo initiatives such as the continuation of existing outreach programs, festivals or projects that are proposed for versus with citizens will not receive high priority. Previous applicants that were declined in the first year may apply again. However, first year grantees are not eligible to apply unless their project is complete.



GUIDELINES

Please review the following for project and proposal guidance.

1. Projects must include arts and cultural activities.
2. Grant amounts will range from \$2,500 - \$10,000. No match will be required.
3. Grants will be made for projects occurring from May 1, 2010 – April 30, 2011.
4. Grants for one and two-year projects will be considered.
5. Grants will be made only for programs that take place in St. Louis City and St. Louis County.
6. Grants will be made based on their individual merit.
7. No applicant can receive more than one grant per year.
8. Grant payments will be made in two installments: 75% prior to the event, at the written request of the applicant to the Council. The final 25% is paid upon the successful completion of the project to the Council.
9. Grants will be awarded to support projects, only. Requests for operating or capital grants will not be considered.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility for *Kresge Arts in St. Louis* is open to individuals (youth and adults), non-profit organizations, and community-based groups.

For nonprofit, tax-exempt organizations:

1. The organization, or the entity for which it is a part, must be nonprofit, 501c3 tax-exempt organization in the state of Missouri for 1 year or more.
2. Organization must remain a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization for the duration of the grant period or the grant will be forfeited.
3. Presented a program open to the public or in a school setting during the past year.
4. Operate under a reasonable, board-approved budget.
5. Community or neighborhood support of the project.

For individuals: As a private, independent foundation Kresge cannot legally award a grant to an individual directly. As a result, individuals must apply with a fiscal sponsor at the time of application. Please see the Frequently Asked Questions section for more information. Additional requirements for individuals include:

1. Individual artists, historians or youth (with written consent from a parent or legal guardian) must be US citizens.
2. Community or neighborhood support for the project.

For local municipalities, community-based groups such as Community Development Corporations, neighborhood and homeowner associations:

1. Have a fiscal agent, a non-profit, 501c3 tax-exempt fiscal sponsor at the time of application, if not currently a 501c3. Please see the Frequently Asked Questions section for more information.
2. Community, neighborhood, or municipal support for the project.

Review Process – We will accept a narrative and a budget that describes the project, the project costs, and how it meets Kresge's criteria. A review panel made up of committee members will review applications against the criteria listed below.



This is an extremely competitive process. The total number of applications last year was 109. The total number of grants awarded was 10, and the average grant amount was \$8,000. Projects must be creative, well-conceived, compelling and meet the criteria. Need is not a criterion.

CRITERIA

Proposals will be judged on how well they meet the criteria below in comparison with other proposals submitted. Specifically, successful projects will include:

- Innovative and creative projects that use arts and culture as a tool to address community-wide issues;
- Arts and cultural activities designed by or with (not for) residents including youth and families in St. Louis City and St. Louis County;
- Reasonable and appropriate costs to execute the project;
- Oversight and management responsibility in place to ensure a well designed and implemented program; and
- Authentic cross-disciplinary and agency collaboration.

OUTCOMES

Through these grants, *Kresge Arts in St. Louis* will encourage sustainable partnership models between artists, arts organizations and human service agencies, educational institutions, governments, and for-profit businesses. This experiment allows the Foundation's Arts and Culture team to test its assumptions that the arts can be used as a tool to address society's pressing issues; it has the ability transform our communities, and uplift our spirits in challenging times. We foresee the development and continuation of rich cross-sector and cultural experiences in pilot cities.

Desired outcomes include:

- Invest in arts and cultural activities that meet the needs of the community;
- Support unique projects and collaborations; and
- Inspire the creative process in community development activities.

Grantees will be required to submit a final report to the Arts and Education Council before receiving final payment. This report will include a narrative and budget summarizing the funded project and how the grantee used the *Kresge Arts in St. Louis* grant.

INQUIRIES

All inquiries must be directed to:
Susan Rowe Jennings
Arts and Education Council
3547 Olive Street
St. Louis, MO 63103
314.289.4004 or susan-r@keeparthappening.org



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is a Fiscal Sponsor/Agent?

A Fiscal Sponsor, sometimes called a Fiscal Agent, is a non-profit, 501 (c) 3 tax-exempt organization who agrees to receive the grant funds on behalf of an individual or an organization which does not have non-profit status.

What does a Fiscal Sponsor do?

The Fiscal Sponsor serves as a “pass through” for the grant funds. The grant contract must be signed by an authorizing official of the organization, and that official also approves and signs the final report.

Why does an artist need a fiscal sponsor/agent?

By law, private foundations cannot give grants to individuals.

How do I find a fiscal sponsor/agent?

Artists and other individuals may already have a relationship with a non-profit who can serve as fiscal sponsor. Artists and individuals can look to an organization who will be a collaborator in the proposed project. Or they may look to a church, school or social service agency who serves the target population. In some instances, a Fiscal Sponsor may have no relation to the proposed project, but is simply agreeing to be the fiduciary agent for the grant.

Can my Fiscal Sponsor make decisions about how the grant funds are spent?

When a grant is approved, the proposed budget line items become the approved budget. While artists often collaborate with their Fiscal Sponsor as the project is implemented and budgets get adjusted, the sponsor cannot override the approved budget without prior approval of the artist and notification to the Arts and Education Council.

Is there a formal agreement between the artist/individual and the Fiscal Sponsor?

Artists and Fiscal Sponsors often decide to execute a Letter of Agreement between the parties that spells out the roles and responsibilities on each side, including how funds will be released to the artist and how the final accounting will be handled.

If an organization agrees to be a Fiscal Sponsor, does it receive some funds?

Fiscal Sponsors do not receive funds unless the budget provides for this or the artist and sponsor agree that funds for administrative overhead should be allocated. If this occurs, funds for administrative overhead should not exceed 10% of the project budget.

What is an “in-kind” budget contribution?

In-kind contributions are non-cash contributions that can be given a cash value. Examples include loaned space and donated supplies or services.

What is meant by “community engagement”?

Community engagement refers to the active, authentic involvement of the target population in the planning and implementation of the project. This can take the form of focus groups to plan the design of the project to the participation of community members in the actual creation of the artistic work. It can also include structured opportunities for dialogue around the community issue the project is addressing. *(Source: Americans for the Arts)*

What is a “community need”?

For this grant program, a community need refers to a pressing issue which the project plans to address. Examples include neighborhood blight, poverty, school drop-outs, immigration or cross-cultural understanding.



What is meant by “authentic cross-disciplinary and agency collaboration”?

Agency collaborations are partnerships between artists and educational, governmental or human services entities which are reciprocal and mutually beneficial in order to advance the goals of the project.

Does my project have to be new?

Projects do not have to be new, but status quo initiatives will not receive funding priority. We encourage innovative projects that re-combine ideas in new ways.

Does the Letter of Intent mean I may be asked to submit a full proposal?

No, for this grant program, only three items are required: the one page Letter of Intent (narrative), the cover sheet and the budget form.

Should I send my IRS determination letter or other support materials?

No, please do not submit support materials for this grant.

Can I fax, mail or hand-deliver my proposal?

No, proposals should only be submitted electronically to susan-r@keeparthappening.org

What are the most important keys to success for this grant program?

Adhere to the guidelines and criteria posted on the Arts and Education Council website, and be as specific as possible about *who, what, when, where* and *why*. Also, check the budget to be sure the numbers are accurate and added correctly. There are no guarantees, however, and this grant program is highly competitive.