



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Equity in the Arts Fund

A Supporting Organization of the Cleveland Foundation

ISSUED

September 2, 2024

APPLICATION DEADLINE: September 23, 2024

Application will open September 2, 2024

FUNDING PERIOD:

Jan. – Dec. 2025

PURPOSE AND RATIONALE

The Equity in the Arts Fund (EITAF) seeks to strengthen and build the capacity of small and medium cultural organizations led by and serving Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) in Cuyahoga, Lake, and Geauga Counties with a special focus on the City of Cleveland. We envision a vibrant, inclusive arts and cultural community that uplifts the voices, cultures, and experiences of all residents. Historically, organizations that are led by people of color and engage in and promote the arts and cultures of communities of color struggle to obtain the financial resources necessary to build their organizational capacity and sustainability. In recognition of this unique need, the EITAF will award grants to start-up, small and medium organizations that are led by people of color and serve, engage in, and promote the arts and cultures, both traditional and new, of communities of African, Indigenous, Latin/X, Asian, Pacific Islander, and Middle Eastern descent.

ELIGIBILITY AND AWARD INFORMATION

In 2024, EITAF grants will range **\$10,000-\$30,000**. Applicants will be notified via email of final board decisions by December 31, 2024.

Arts and Culture organizations may apply for grants to strengthen organizational sustainability, improve operations and/or grow their capacity to deliver culturally relevant arts and cultural programming and services.

Eligible organizations:

- Non-profit organizations with a yearly budget of up to \$300,000
- Individuals and collectives with a fiscal sponsor:
 - An organization currently holding 501(c)3 tax-exempt status must serve as the lead applicant for an EITAF grant. Organizations that do not currently have 501(c)3 tax-exempt status are eligible to apply in partnership with a tax-exempt organization (*fiscal sponsor*) and the fiscal sponsor must be the organization submitting the application.

Applicants who have not previously received grants from the Cleveland Foundation are encouraged to apply and will receive priority.

- Why organizational capacity? [Candid.org](https://www.candid.org) states: “Capacity building can help make an organization more focused, efficient, and productive” and this “makes it easier to attract the money, leadership and visibility that nonprofits need to thrive.” Examples include: building organizational strategic plan; improving fundraising; leadership development; transitioning from voluntary to paid leadership; research; development of new forms of audience or community engagement; equipment purchase, and other long-term organizational investments. For more examples see [The Free Management Library](https://www.thefreemanagementlibrary.com).

<p>APPLICATION AND EVALUATION INFORMATION</p>	<p>Applications must be submitted online by September 23, 2024. Hard copy applications will not be accepted. To apply:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Visit the Grants Gateway 2. If you do not have login information, complete the Grantee Login Request Form. 3. Login to the portal and establish or update your organization profile. 4. Scroll down to find the Equity in the Arts Fund application. 5. Complete the online application. Questions you will find in the application include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What is your Project Title? ○ How much money are you requesting from the EITAF? (Note: in 2024, EITAF grants will range from \$10,000-\$30,000) ○ Are you applying as a fiscal sponsor for another organization? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ If yes, please name the organization you will be fiscally sponsoring. ▪ If yes, please describe your organization. ○ Please introduce yourself: What is the core mission of your organization? What is the history of the organization? Highlight any key programs. Who does it serve – age, communities, cultures, etc.? How many people does it engage? Demographics of Board, Staff, Leadership, and population served. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ If you received a grant from the EITAF in 2023, please provide a brief update and/or outcomes from your previous project/program. ○ Grant Purpose: Please describe: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1) What is the challenge that your organization is facing? ▪ 2) How will this grant help you address this challenge? ▪ 3) How do you plan to sustain the new organizational capacity that these funds will help you build after the grant period ends? ○ Budget Narrative: Specifically, what would these funds be used for (equipment, strategic planning, salaries, etc.)? If a project, what is the full project budget? ○ Additional Information: Is there anything else that you believe we should know to evaluate your proposal well? ○ Upload the Required Attachments, which include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Board list with affiliations. ▪ Lead applicant organization budget for the current fiscal year. ▪ Complete audit (if available, include auditor’s notes and management letter, if issued). If no audit is available, please provide: Statement of Revenue/Support and Expenses for your organization’s most recently completed fiscal/calendar year, Current Balance Sheet and Statement of Activities for most recently completed fiscal/calendar year. <p><u>Interested in finding a fiscal sponsor?</u> Connect with Assembly for the Arts</p>
<p>BACKGROUND</p>	<p>The Equity in the Arts Fund (EITAF), a supporting organization of the Cleveland Foundation, was established in 1994 to provide for the planning, preparation, production, and/or presentation of cultural, educational, and scientific programs and projects which promote and benefit Cleveland’s communities of color.</p> <p>The EITAF is an endowed fund with assets of approximately \$3.6 million providing grantmaking in the local community from investment income. The Board of Directors is comprised of two appointees by the Mayor of the City of Cleveland, two appointees by the Chair of City Council, and five appointees by the Cleveland Foundation.</p>
<p>QUESTIONS?</p>	<p>For programmatic or technical questions, contact: Grants Management, 216-615-7254, GrantsMgmt@clevelandn.org</p>