



Arts & Health Initiative
FY26 Collaborative
Planning Grants

Background

Arts & Health is a broad framework of practices that uses the power of the arts to enhance health and well-being in diverse institutional and community contexts.

The fields of *arts in medicine*, *arts in healthcare*, *creative aging* and *creative arts therapies* are just a few examples. A growing body of data and research recognizes the arts having a lifelong impact on a person's health and health outcomes.

Arts Participation

Participating in the arts has been shown to build healthy social connections and improve community well-being through shared purpose and experiences.

“The absence of social connections and a sense of belonging in communities has been linked to a greater risk of cardiovascular disease, dementia, stroke, depression, anxiety, suicidality, and premature death. The mortality impact is “similar to that caused by smoking up to 15 cigarettes a day, and even greater than that associated with obesity and physical inactivity”, according to a 2023 US Surgeon General’s Advisory, [Our Epidemic of Loneliness and Isolation](#).

Strategic Priorities

Connect

Connect partners in state government, grant makers, nonprofit health, social service and arts organizations that are addressing issues of social connectedness and belonging to improve individual and community well-being.

Convene

Convenings and technical assistance to support best practices, capacity building and collaborative approaches to the challenges of social connectedness and belonging.

Contribute

Collaborative Planning Grants that address social connectedness and belonging.

Collaborative Planning Grant

Thoughtful planning is essential for the successful integration of arts-based practices to improve community and individual well-being.

The Collaborative Planning Grant will empower organizations to engage in a local planning process by offering funding and technical assistance.

The grant will result in a written strategy document for use in future funding proposals and project implementation.

Why

- Opportunity and resources to plan/grow your organization's programming.
- Expand and deepen connections with audiences/members to strengthen and support your organization.
- Engaged audiences/members result in higher participation and increased financial commitment.

Why

- Reframe the impact of your arts programming through the lens of arts, health, and community.
- Develop Community Leadership through collaboration and collective impact.
- Create access to new funding sources, partners, and opportunities.

Grant Opportunity

- Offer eight (8) grants to organizations that impact a broad constituency within their communities.
- Grants are fixed-amounts of \$5,000.
- Matching funds are not required.
- The grant period is January 1, 2026- June 15, 2026.
- Funding is on a reimbursement basis.

Selected Grantees

If selected for funding, awardees create a *Collaborative Community Plan* that addresses, but is not limited to, the following:

- Collaborating Organizations
- Community Health Need
- Goals & Objectives
- Intended Audience(s)
- Arts Integration & Interventions
- Roles and Responsibilities
- Timeline/Phases
- Budget Projections
- Evaluation Plan
- Sustainability
- Communications

Capacity Building & Technical Assistance

- Foster peer-to-peer learning, engage grantees in virtual sessions, panel presentations, and hands-on planning activities that will focus on best practices, capacity building, and collaborative approaches.
- Grantees will be required to consult with the program coordinator to support planning progress and final report development.

Eligibility

Nonprofit, tax-exempt 501(c) (3), U.S. organizations; units of state or local government; or federally recognized tribal communities or tribes may apply.

Eligible applicants must:

- Have received a New Mexico Arts award in FY2025. Have previously submitted complete Final Invoices and Reports by the required receipt deadline(s) for all New Mexico Arts grant(s)

Eligibility

- Be limited to one application per organization/institution.
- Comply with state and federal legal requirements including nonprofit, tax-exempt status at the time of (All organizations must apply directly on their own behalf. Applications through a fiscal agent are not allowed.)

Eligibility

- An eligible organization must have a minimum of one planning partner including, but not limited to, nonprofits, local arts agencies, arts service organizations, units of state or local government, federally recognized tribal communities or tribes.

Eligibility

- If applying for other New Mexico Arts funding opportunities, ensure that the applications do not have any overlap of costs during the same period.
- Have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI). All organizations who apply to New Mexico Arts are required to have a Unique Entity ID (UEI) from sam.gov in alignment with requirements from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Planning Project Budget

New Mexico Arts funding is limited to the following:

- Personnel support, full or partial, for one or more staff positions for planning activities.
- Contracted Fees & Services for artists and/or contractual personnel to support the services they provide for specific activities as part of the planning process .

Planning Project Budget

- Travel
- Marketing & Public Relations
- Rent: Planning & Meeting Spaces
- Supplies: Planning/Meeting related
- Other (phone, postage, etc.)

Funding Restrictions

Funding from New Mexico Arts cannot be used for the following: *(partial list – see guidelines)*

- Direct grants to individuals.
- Any events or activities already listed as part of another organization's application.
- Direct aid to individuals, including fellowships, scholarships, cash prizes, or awards.
- Cost of parties, receptions, fund-raising events, and other social functions.

Funding Restrictions

- Projects in which school, college, or university course credit is the primary purpose
- Projects whose main purpose is recreational
- Grant writing, solicitation of gifts/services, and donor appreciation programs
- Any food except when food is part of a per diem
- Capital supplies & equipment such as copy machines, musical instruments, electronic equipment, computers, etc.

How to apply

- Review and download the Guidelines, Application, Collaborative Community Plan Outline at <https://nmarts.org/all-programs/arts-health/>
- Application Form is a Fillable PDF.
- Complete all sections of the Application Form.
- Send the complete Application to: Kevin Lenkner
Kevin.Lenkner@dca.nm.gov

Evaluation Criteria

The following criteria are considered during the review of applications:

- Artistic Work of the Organization (Artistic Quality)
- Alignment/Relevance to Organization's Mission and Programming
- Potential for Collaborative Engagement
- Administrative Ability & Capacity

Key Dates

- **Deadline: October 31, 2025, 5PM, MST**
- **Award Notification: December 1, 2025**
- **Award Effective Dates: Jan 1, 2026 – June 30, 2026.**

Grantee Requirements

- Sign a grant agreement and submit required supporting grant agreement documents.
- Participate in peer-to-peer learning and capacity building workshops.
- Submit required Collaborative Community Plan document and data to New Mexico Arts.

Questions & Discussion

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Thank you!

