

Frequently Asked Questions

This list will be populated with additional formally submitted questions on October 11, 2024. Please submit your questions to sfac.grants@sfgov.org by 5 p.m. October 10, 2024.

Eligibility Questions

Can I apply if I live outside of San Francisco?

No. All Arts Commission grants require two years of San Francisco residency.

Can I apply if I just moved to San Francisco?

No. All Arts Commission grants require two years of San Francisco residency.

Can I apply if I live outside of San Francisco but work in San Francisco?

No. All Arts Commission grants require two years of San Francisco residency.

Can I apply on behalf of someone who lives outside of San Francisco?

No. The individual or organization doing the work must be the applicant. Please email sfac.grants@sfgov.org regarding collaborations or partnerships.

Can I apply if I live outside of San Francisco, but my fiscal sponsor is in San Francisco?

No. All Arts Commission grants require two years of San Francisco residency for the fiscally sponsored project as well as the fiscal sponsor.

Can I apply with a fiscal sponsor based outside of San Francisco?

No. All Arts Commission grants require two years of San Francisco residency. This includes fiscal sponsors.

Can I apply if one of my required good standing documents is pending (IRS, California Attorney general, etc.)?

No. Organizations and fiscal sponsors must be in good standing at the time of application.

If my San Francisco Artist grant term ends December 2024, can I apply this year?

No. San Francisco Artist grantees with grant terms that end December 2024 are not eligible for this round of funding.

If I close my San Francisco Artist grant with a grant term that ends December 2024 before the San Francisco artist grant deadline, can I apply this year?

No. No matter when the final report is submitted, San Francisco Artist grant terms end in December. San Francisco Artist grantees with grant terms that end December 2024 are not eligible for this round of funding.

If my Arts Impact Endowment grant term ends September 2024, can I apply this year?

It's possible that Arts Impact Endowment grantees with grant terms that end on September 30, 2024 could be eligible for funding. These grantees must submit a complete final report, have their final report approved and their payment process completed before November 13, 2024, to be eligible for this round of funding. Please email sfac.grants@sfgov.org to determine eligibility.

My organization has an open Cultural Equity Initiatives grant with a grant term end date of June 30, 2025 or June 30, 2026, Can my organization apply this year?

No. Cultural Equity Initiatives grantees with a grant term that ends on June 30, 2025 or June 30, 2026 are not eligible for this round of funding.

My organization presents arts or culture programming as part of its core activities, but arts and culture programming does not represent the majority of the organization's programs and services. Is my organization eligible to apply?

No, the organization's mission statement must be clearly focused on the development, production, presentation, and/or support of project-based artistic works and/or youth arts activities in San Francisco.

Are you able to make exceptions to your residency requirements for displaced artists or artists who are really worth funding?

No, we are legally bound by the requirements in our guidelines and cannot make exceptions.

Are you able to make exceptions to your good standing requirements for new organizations, or organizations that are waiting to hear back from external agencies?

No, we are legally bound by the requirements in our guidelines and cannot make exceptions.

I want to apply for an Artistic Legacy Grant, and I've been a practicing artist in San Francisco since 1990. Am I eligible? Yes, you are eligible because you are a San Francisco resident and you have been a practicing artist based in San Francisco for 25 or more years. Artistic Legacy Grant applicants need to have been a practicing artist in San Francisco continuously since 1999 or before.

Fiscal Sponsor Questions

How do I know if I need a fiscal sponsor?

Artists working with vulnerable populations and organizations filing taxes as sole proprietorships or LLCs with a budget cap of \$500,000 must work with a fiscal sponsor. Please email sfac.grants@sfgov.org to determine eligibility.

Can I add a fiscal sponsor if my grant is funded?

No. Fiscal sponsors must be included at the time of application.

Can a fiscal sponsor pay an artist to work with them on an Arts Commission grant?

No. An organization that hires an artist to do work is an employer not a fiscal sponsor. In this case, a third-party fiscal sponsor is required.

Grant Activity Questions

Can I apply to tour my project outside of San Francisco?

No. All grant activities must take place in San Francisco.

Can my project include activities outside of San Francisco?

No. All grant activities must take place in San Francisco.

Can I use my grant funds for travel?

You can use funds for travel within San Francisco. You cannot use funds for travel outside of San Francisco.

Can I use the grant funds to pay project personnel (i.e. artists, staff, contractors, consultants) who live outside of San Francisco?

While the grantee and all project activities need to be based in and take place in San Francisco, project personnel (excluding the grantee that must live and/or operate in San Francisco during their entire grant term), do not need to be based in San Francisco.

Content Questions

What types of work samples can I submit?

There is no limit to the type of work samples we accept as long as they are accessible via link or one of the allowed file upload types referenced in the instructions on page 16: pdf, doc, docx, mpg, mp3, mp4, vma, divx, mov, avi, wmv, wma, jpg. Please email sfac.grants@sfgov.org if you have questions about a specific work sample.

Do you fund film?

We fund every type of artistic genre or practice. There is no limit to the type of project that we fund.

Other Funders

The grant amount does not cover the full cost of my project, what other funders do you recommend?

Please see the Arts Funding Resources section of our website: [Arts Funding Resources | San Francisco Arts Commission \(sfartscommission.org\)](https://www.sfartscommission.org/arts-funding-resources)

I am not eligible for your funding. What other funders do you recommend?

Please see the Arts Funding Resources section of our website: [Arts Funding Resources | San Francisco Arts Commission \(sfartscommission.org\)](https://www.sfartscommission.org/arts-funding-resources)