

East Central Regional Arts Council

Resiliency Grant Guidelines

For Artists and Art Organizations

reflects revisions adopted by the ECRAC Board on June 15, 2026

East Central Regional Arts Council
540 Weber Avenue South
Suite 109
Hinckley, Minnesota 55037
email: grantinfo@ecrac.org
www.ecrac.org
phone: 320-336-0200

-Fiscal Years 2026 (July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026)
&-2027 (July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027)

Grant Application Deadline: Ongoing (Applications Accepted Year-Round)



This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota
thanks to a legislative appropriation from the Arts and
Cultural Heritage Fund.



EAST CENTRAL REGIONAL ARTS COUNCIL (ECRAC)

INTRODUCTION

The East Central Regional Arts Council (ECRAC) is a regional grant-making agency that supports the arts through funding from the Minnesota State Legislature and The McKnight Foundation. The Council distributes grant awards to artists, culture bearers, arts and other non-profit organizations, educational institutions, and local units of government and provides technical assistance for these grants.

Mission/Vision/Values:

ECRAC's mission is to support the arts and bring the life enhancing values they afford to Region 7E residents. The vision is that all Region 7E residents can participate, appreciate, create, and invest in the arts. The values of ECRAC are arts in action; integrity; artistic merit; and legacy. ECRAC is committed to providing opportunities for all in the arts by fostering inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility in our organization and in the Region 7E arts community.

The East Central Regional Arts Council accomplishes this mission through programs and special initiatives for artists and arts organizations. The work program of the Arts Council includes the following: Grant programs for organizations (501(c)3 non-profits, units of government, schools, or other groups using a fiscal sponsor) are the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund, Art in Our Schools, the Small/Art Project Assistance Grant, Resiliency Grant and the Essentials Support Grant (formerly General Operating); Grant Programs for individual artists such as the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund, the Resiliency Grant, ECRAC Individual Artist Mid-Career and Essential Artist Award Programs, and - IMAGE - the annual regional art show. Other resources include hosting various grant workshops, an arts library, art display equipment rental, an art gallery, and providing other arts related technical assistance and resource information.

ECRAC receives funding through appropriations of the Minnesota State Legislature and through The McKnight Foundation. These funding sources enable ECRAC to provide grant funds for local or regional arts projects in these Region 7E counties of Minnesota: Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Pine, and Mille Lacs; including the sovereign Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe lands. All grants are contingent upon the availability of funds. Funds are offered to organizations and individuals for a variety of arts projects that develop or enhance local arts, arts organizations, artists, or art audiences.

The East Central Regional Arts Council is an independent 501(c)3 non-profit. The address is 540 Weber Avenue South, Suite 109, Hinckley, Minnesota, 55037. You can reach ECRAC by telephone at 320-336-0200, and by email at grantinfo@ecrac.org. The agency website is: www.ecrac.org.

It is always best to contact staff of the ECRAC for assistance prior to submission of a grant application to determine current funding availability, and for other information (for example, if you are using the correct application form). This also allows applicants time to review the grant guidelines and to ask questions regarding your proposed grant project.

❖ What is ECRAC's definition of art?

Art can describe several things: a study of a creative skill, a process of using the creative skill, a product of the creative skill, or the audience's experience with the creative skill. The Regional Arts Council defines "arts" as activities resulting in the artistic creation or artistic performance of works of the imagination. When we say arts, we are speaking very broadly of visual, performing, media, literary, and interdisciplinary art forms through which we learn about, explore, shape, and express the human experience. Every project funded by ECRAC must be an art project.

These activities include the disciplines listed in ECRAC's online application form. The list of disciplines is part of the National Standard for Arts Information Exchange which was developed by the National Endowment for the Arts and other state, regional, and national organizations. Arts agencies are required to report on their activities using this standard set of codes. The Regional Arts Council uses these disciplines to define and report the art project activities supported.

ECRAC Art Disciplines

Discipline	Code	Discipline	Code	Discipline	Code
Dance	01	Visual arts	05	Photography	08
Dance, ballet	01A	Visual arts, experimental	05A	Media Arts	09
Dance, ethnic or jazz	01B	Visual arts, graphics	05B	Media Arts, film	09A
Dance, modern	01C	Visual arts, painting	05D	Media Arts, audio	09B
Music	02	Visual arts, sculpture	05F	Media Arts, video	09C
Music, band	02A	Design arts	06	Media Arts, tech/experimental	09D
Music, chamber	02B	Design arts, architecture	06A	Media Arts, screen/scriptwriting	09E
Music, choral	02C	Design arts, fashion	06B	Literature	10
Music, new-experimental, electronic	02D	Design arts, graphic	06C	Literature, fiction	10A
Music, ethnic	02E	Design arts, industrial	06D	Literature, non-fiction	10B
Music, jazz	02F	Design arts, interior	06E	Theater, playwriting	10C
Music, popular	02G	Design arts, landscape architecture	06F	Literature, poetry	10D
Music, solo/recital	02H	Design arts, urban/metro	06G	Interdisciplinary	11
Music, orchestral	02I	Crafts	07	Folk/Traditional Arts	12
Opera/Musical Theater	03	Crafts, clay	07A	Folk/Traditional dance	12A
Opera	03A	Crafts, fiber	07B	Folk/Traditional music	12B
Musical Theater	03B	Crafts, glass	07C	Folk/Traditional crafts/vis arts	12C
Theater	04	Crafts, leather	07D	Folk/Traditional storytelling	12D
Theater, general	04A	Crafts, metal	07E	Humanities	13
Theater, mime	04B	Crafts, paper	07F	Multidisciplinary	14
Theater, puppetry	04C	Crafts, plastic	07G		
Theater for young audiences	04D	Crafts, wood	07H		
Theater, storytelling	04E	Crafts, mixed media	07I		

Source: Minnesota State Arts Board

ARTS AND CULTURAL HERITAGE FUND (ACHF)

LEGACY GRANT OVERVIEW

In November 2008, Minnesotans passed the clean water, land, and legacy amendment to the Minnesota Constitution. As a result, over twenty-five years, three-eighths of one percent of the state's sales tax will be dedicated as follows:

- 33 percent to a clean water fund,
- 33 percent to an outdoor heritage fund,
- 14.25 percent to a parks and trails fund, and
- 19.75 percent to an arts and cultural heritage fund.

Proceeds from the arts and cultural heritage fund “may be spent only on arts, arts education and arts access and to preserve Minnesota’s history and cultural heritage.”

Funding for this grant program is dependent on the receipt of an appropriation from the Minnesota legislature from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

The Minnesota State Legislature has appropriated a significant portion of the arts and cultural heritage fund to the Minnesota State Arts Board and Minnesota’s eleven regional arts councils. These funds help make arts experiences more accessible and available to Minnesotans throughout the state.

Artists, arts organizations, community groups, human service organizations, public agencies, educational institutions, and others are invited and encouraged to take advantage of the ECRAC ACHF Legacy Grant program in Region 7E.

To see a comprehensive list of some Legacy Amendment projects funded by the arts and cultural heritage fund, outdoor heritage fund, clean water fund, and parks and trails fund visit the Legislative Coordinating Commission's searchable Web site at: <http://www.legacy.leg.mn>

❖ 25 Year Legacy Goals

The 25-Year Vision, Framework, Guiding Principles, and Ten-Year Goals for the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund (PDF) was presented to the legislature on January 15, 2010 and can be found online at <http://www.arts.state.mn.us/pubs/pubs/achf-25-year.pdf>

❖ Definitions of ACHF Areas

Following the direction of the Minnesota State Legislature, the ECRAC Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund will support activities in three key areas. ECRAC ACHF Legacy arts project funding may be spent only on arts and arts access, arts education, and arts and cultural heritage as defined. Ultimately, the fund is intended to create a strong arts legacy in Minnesota.

Arts & Arts Access: Investing in high quality arts activities and expenses for all Minnesotans.

ACHF funding will support artists and arts organizations in creating, producing, and presenting high-quality arts activities; to overcome barriers to accessing high-quality arts activities; and to instill the arts into the community and public life in this state. Such grant activities may be, but are not limited to:

- Investing in activities that make the arts available to people who might not otherwise have access due to economic, geographic, or physical barrier.
- Ensuring that artists and arts organizations have sufficient financial support to create high quality art.
- Investing in the long-term health and vitality of the arts sector by supporting capacity-building and professional development.
- Investing in efforts that enable Region 7E residents to connect with arts/arts experiences and performances.
- Investing in efforts to fully integrate the arts into local community development efforts.
- Investing in efforts to integrate the arts into local and regional economic development planning.
- Investing in public art that is available throughout the region.
- Recognizing and rewarding artists/arts organizations/arts providers for exceptional artistic quality and service to their audiences and/or the region.
- NEW from the 2025 Minnesota Legislative Session: Arts and Arts Access funds must be used “to support Minnesota artists and arts organizations in creating, producing, and presenting high-quality arts activities; to preserve, maintain, and interpret art forms and works of art so that they are accessible to Minnesota audiences; to overcome barriers to accessing high-quality arts activities; and to instill the arts into the community and public life in this state. Grants provided under this paragraph must prioritize artists and arts organizations that plan to present art from communities that have been historically underrepresented in the arts or that improve access to the programs and projects for groups, including youth and historically underserved communities, that have struggled to access arts programming in the past.”

Arts Education: Investing in lifelong learning in the arts

ACHF funding will support high-quality, age-appropriate arts education for residents of all ages to develop knowledge, skills, and understanding of the arts. Such activities may be, but are not limited to:

- Investing in efforts that enable Region 7E residents to connect with arts learning opportunities and residencies.
- Ensuring that artists/arts organizations/arts providers can invest in professional development and workshops.
- Ensuring that arts learning opportunities and professional development are available.
- NEW from the 2025 Minnesota Legislative Session: Arts Education funds must be used “for high-quality, age-appropriate arts education for Minnesotans of all ages to develop knowledge, skills, and understanding of the arts. Priority in the award of grants under this paragraph must be given to providing educational opportunities to underserved communities with grants for organizations or entities providing opportunities to K-12 students throughout the state for arts education, including access to arts instruction, arts programming, museums, and arts presentations.”

Arts & Cultural Heritage: Building bridges between Minnesotans through arts and culture

ACHF funding may be used for events and activities that represent the diverse ethnic and cultural arts traditions, including folk and traditional artists and art organizations, represented in this state. Such activities may be, but are not limited to:

- Providing Region 7E residents with opportunities to celebrate our cultural heritage through events and activities that represent the range of Minnesota’s ethnic and cultural arts traditions including festivals.
- Ensuring that Region 7E residents can experience folk/traditional arts of diverse cultures by supporting the work of traditional and folk artists/arts organizations.
- NEW from the 2025 Minnesota Legislative Session: Arts and Cultural Heritage funds must be used “for events and activities that represent, preserve, and maintain the diverse cultural arts traditions, including folk and traditional artists and art organizations, represented in this state.”

GRANT PROGRAM DESCRIPTION – \$600

The Resiliency Grant provides up to **\$600** to support Region 7E artists, culture bearers, and arts organizations in responding to unexpected circumstances, urgent needs, sudden opportunities, or barriers resulting from systemic inequities that affect their creative work.

Projects may be in any artistic discipline consistent with ECRAC's definition of art. Resiliency Grant funds may not be used for activities already supported through another ECRAC grant. Applicants may receive up to **three Resiliency Grants per fiscal year** based on funding availability.

Proposed projects must directly benefit a Region 7E artist or art organization, include a public component, and take place in Minnesota for the benefit of Minnesota residents.

Grant Questions

1. What circumstance, need, opportunity, or barrier has led you to apply for an ECRAC Resiliency Grant?

Please describe the unexpected circumstance, urgent need, sudden opportunity, or systemic barrier that this grant would help you address.

2. What do you propose to do with this grant?

Describe your project, activity, or opportunity and what you hope to accomplish.

3. How will this project benefit you, your artistic practice, your organization, or your community?

Tell us about the impact you expect this project to have.

4. How will the public engage with or benefit from this project?

Describe the public component and who you hope to reach.

5. How will you know if your project is successful?

Share the outcomes, goals, or indicators you will use to measure success.

6. How will you use the grant funds?

Provide a brief budget or description of how you will spend the requested funding.

Optional Question

Is there anything else you would like us to know about you, your work, or your proposed project?

We may contact you if additional information or clarification is needed.

ECRAC Grant Program Outcomes

It is important for grantees to understand that funding for this program comes from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund (ACHF), a fund created by the people of Minnesota to support the arts. Because our fellow citizens have made this commitment, we have an obligation to be intentional about arts projects: the outcomes, impacts and results, and the community benefits. Therefore, outcomes and outcome evaluation are an important part of the funding proposal; in fact, they are a legislatively mandated requirement.

ECRAC's very broad ACHF outcomes are: artists and the arts are visible in communities; artists develop their practice; organizations develop capacities that advance the arts; people access arts experiences; people develop arts skills or knowledge; people have meaningful arts experiences; and people make connections to ideas, organizations, or one another.

Grant Project Outcomes & Measuring Results

During and after the grant project activities you will have to evaluate your grant project outcome. In the application proposal ECRAC will ask you to describe the outcome evaluation planned for your project. You will provide either quantitative or qualitative measurements or both. If funded your grant final report must include a summary of these evaluation results.

ELIGIBILITY

Individual Artists:

The applicant may be any individual artist or culture bearer who is a permanent resident (for at least 6 months) in one of the five Minnesota counties of: Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, or Pine, including the sovereign Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe lands. The applicant must be at least 18 years of age. The applicant must be either a U.S. citizen or have attained permanent resident status. The applicant must not have any outstanding or unacceptable final reports with ECRAC. Applicants must use the ECRAC grant application form online. Individual artists may not have more than one active ECRAC Resiliency grant at a time but can have 3 Resiliency Grants within a fiscal year. Artists will need to submit a W-9 and proof of Region 7E residency

Organizations:

Arts organizations in the following counties: Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, or Pine, including the sovereign Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe lands. Organizations that are State-registered and federally recognized non-profit, tax-exempt organizations with a focus on the arts. Your organization must be an arts producing, arts presenting, or artist service agency, dedicated primarily to the arts. "Primarily" is defined as more than 75% of your organization's activities and budget must be solely dedicated to the arts. Your programming, services, or activities must take place in Region 7E in Minnesota, and must primarily serve and engage Minnesota audiences and participants. Your organization must have a history of at least one year of arts-related programs and services prior to applying. Your organization must have at least one staff person that is paid or is a designated volunteer. Organizations will need to submit a W-9 form.

If your art group has not yet received nonprofit, tax-exempt status, you may apply by using a non-profit organization, accredited school, tribal government, or other unit of government as a fiscal sponsor. For information on how to use a Fiscal Sponsor, contact us.

GRANT FUNDING LIMITS

Individual artist applicants seeking funding support from both ECRAC and the Minnesota State Arts Board (MSAB) for the same project should do so only after consulting with ECRAC staff.

Arts Organizations currently receiving Operating Support from the Minnesota State Arts Board (MSAB) are not eligible to apply to this grant program, though they may serve as an eligible group's fiscal sponsor.

Past ECRAC grant recipients with an overdue, unaccepted, or a falsified final report are ineligible to apply. Also ineligible are artists or organizations that are ineligible due to a Misuse of Funds determination from the Minnesota State Arts Board or a Regional Arts Council.

Applicants are required in the grant application budget form to identify where all grant project funds will be expended. All, if any, matching funds included in the budget should be committed to the grant project.

No part of the grant may be used to cover expenses incurred before the approved start date or after the end of the project. The entire project must be completed before June 30, 2027, for FY 2026 funds and June 30, 2028, for FY 2027 funds.

Special Requirements for Art Project Equipment Purchases

The act of only purchasing equipment does not constitute a fundable grant project.

WHERE AND HOW TO APPLY ONLINE

Grant writing technical assistance is provided by ECRAC staff upon request by the grantee. Keep in mind that assistance from an ECRAC staff person does not imply that grant funding will be received.

Upon request the application and grant guidelines can be made available in alternative formats. To accommodate your request for an alternative format, ECRAC will need at least 10 working days' notice.

You may access the ECRAC website for the online application forms at www.ecrac.org/grants You will also find information on past funded grant projects at the bottom of the webpage.

For the online grant portal, used to access the upcoming grant applications and your previous grant proposals, go to <https://www.ecrac.org/manage-my-grant>

Be sure to upload all requested attachments with your application, or your application will be considered incomplete and ineligible. Applicants cannot submit any grant application proposal materials by mail, in person, or by email.

Grant questions? You can reach ECRAC by telephone at 320-336-0200 and by email at: grantinfo@ecrac.org.

DEADLINES

Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis. ECRAC will fund projects as funding allows.

Grant projects are required to be completed during the project period and require a start and end date. Choose a start date a few weeks out from the date you submit your application and an end date that will allow you the time needed to complete the project. You can't receive more than 1 Resiliency Grant at a time but are allowed to apply for up to 3 in a fiscal year.

❖ What determines a project's start date?

The start date for an ECRAC grant is defined as "the point at which the project is set in motion (e.g. rehearsals, advertising and public notification, payment of fees, ordering and/or paying for supplies or printed material, etc.)." ECRAC does not fund projects that are already underway. Grantees must wait until their notification of grant award before printing and/or disseminating publicity materials. No funds can be expended prior to the project start date. Funds incurred before the project start date (such as entering into a contract with performers) cannot be included in the grant project and may make your project ineligible. Please contact ECRAC staff if you are unclear about whether ECRAC would consider your project as already started.

GRANT REVIEW PROCEDURE & CRITERIA

The accuracy, content, completeness, and merits of the application are solely the responsibility of the applicant. ECRAC staff will review all applications for accuracy, completeness, and eligibility. The staff makes a recommendation of funding. Applicants will be notified via email of the decision. Successful applicants will be assigned a grant agreement and a final report form. The final report must be completed and submitted within thirty days of completion of the project. Applicants must receive approval from ECRAC in writing for any major changes to their proposed project. The funding decisions may be appealed solely on alleged procedural errors. An applicant must request an appeal within ten days of notification of the decision.

REVIEW CRITERIA

The East Central Regional Arts Council makes every effort to distribute available funds fairly and equitably among the various art forms and across all geographic and cultural areas of the region. Projects supported by ECRAC are expected to encourage and reflect the high standards of artistic excellence. The Regional Arts Council will consider each application on its own merits. Applications are reviewed in the order received. The Criteria to be reviewed will include:

- Merit and artistic quality (10 points available)
 - considerations include: does this proposal instill the arts into community and public life, provide a high-quality arts experience, give access in region 7E to quality arts experiences, help develop knowledge, skills, and understanding of the arts? Does the artists resume, and work samples substantiate the artistic merit and quality of the project? Does the project expand artistic capabilities and/or the artistic experience of the audience?
- Applicant ability (10 points available)
 - The ability of the applicant to accomplish the project or program outcomes and activities as proposed. This is demonstrated by providing evidence of a mission and history of projects, a planning process, qualifications of the artistic and administrative personnel, a publicity plan and previous successful grant or other efforts.
- Applicant need (10 points available)
 - Applicants must demonstrate a demand/need for the grant project or program in the community served.
- Equity and inclusion (6 points available)
 - Applicants must demonstrate equity and inclusion for the grant project or program in the community served.

ECRAC'S CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

ECRAC observes strict procedures to prevent any conflict of interest. For additional information contact ECRAC staff.

GRANT PAYMENTS

Grantees will receive notification regarding the ECRAC grant funding decision. If funded, a contract called the Notification of Grant Award (NGA) contract and a Request for Payment (RFP) form will be emailed. In cases where the grant is less than the full amount requested, or if ECRAC has stipulated revisions, the applicant will receive a revised approved budget in the NGA. If the grantee agrees with the approved budget and other terms of the contract, an authorized signer of the grantee (or fiscal sponsor, if applicable) must sign and submit both forms to the Arts Council within 45 days of receiving the grant award notification. No funds will be authorized until the signed NGA and RFP have been submitted. Funds will be approved and forwarded to the grantee within 45 days of receipt of the NGA and RFP. With Resiliency Grants payment will most likely be within a few weeks. ECRAC may request additional grant requirements as a stipulation of grant funding and those are due at the time the NGA/RFP is due.

GRANTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

If a grant is received, the grantee must:

- ❖ Ensure that all grant project press releases, advertisements or public service announcements for open to the public events will be uploaded to the ECRAC Art Events Calendar at [Events Calendar | ECRAC](#)
- ❖ Grantees agree that the project will be completed before either June 30, 2027 for FY 2026 grants or June 30, 2028 for FY 2027 grants, and as described in the grant application and budget. Per the contract, any changes in the project from what was approved by ECRAC must be requested of and approved by ECRAC *in advance*.
- ❖ Include the ECRAC logo and Legacy logo along with the following credit line in all publicity, advertising, and promotional materials: **"This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota thanks to a legislative appropriation from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund."** In addition, you should use the hashtags #ecrac and #ArtsLegacy when talking about your grant on social media.
- ❖ Ensure that access to participation in the project, if any, will not be limited based on national origin, race, religion, age, or gender.
- ❖ Be legally responsible for the completion of the project and for the proper management of the grant funds. This includes keeping copies of project related receipts. All grant records must be kept for 3 years.
- ❖ That this funding will be used in implementation of East Central Regional Arts Council's grant program as outlined in the current guidelines and as proposed in the ECRAC approved grant application submitted by the Grantee. The approved grant proposal is incorporated herein, and the funding is contingent on funding availability.
- ❖ That any ECRAC Arts and Cultural Heritage Funds are spent only on activities that are directly related to and necessary to accomplish the intended grant program or project. Arts and Cultural Heritage Funds may not be spent on administrative costs, indirect costs, or other institutional overhead charges that are not directly related to and necessary for a specific program or project.
- ❖ That the grant funded project will be carried out in compliance with the grantee's submitted and approved project description, budget, dates, and outcome evaluation, as the grantee set forth in the approved application; and, as reflected in the information contained in the terms of the contract (NGA) and the current ECRAC grant guidelines.
- ❖ To notify ECRAC staff in writing, for prior approval, of any proposed changes to the grant project or any revision of the approved budget of 20% or greater per line. The Regional Arts Council must preapprove significant changes in the project such as changes in dates, project goals or outcomes, and/or budget changes of 20% or greater (per line item). No revisions are allowed to this agreement or to the grant project without ECRAC prior approval.
- ❖ That accurate financial documentation and records will be tracked separately from other accounts regarding the project and all costs.
- ❖ That all eligible costs must be incurred during the approved project period of the grant contract.
- ❖ That a project final report shall be submitted to ECRAC on the form provided within 60 days following the project end date and will include all grant project proofs of payment. You will need to save your supporting paid receipts or canceled checks; sales slips for 3 years for audit purposes.

- ❖ That the Grantee agrees to indemnify, save and hold harmless the East Central Regional Arts Council, the Board, its agents, and the employees from any and all claims or causes of action arising from or relating in any way to this agreement. This clause must not be construed to bar any legal remedies Grantee may have for the ECRAC's failure to fulfill its obligations pursuant to this agreement.
- ❖ That any grant activities occurring outside of region 7E (unless part of the ECRAC approved grant proposal) and ALL travel outside of Minnesota are prohibited under this grant contract.
- ❖ That any grant funds not expended by the Grantee in carrying out the project, or expended in violation of this contract, shall be returned to ECRAC when the Final Report is submitted.
- ❖ That the Grantee will return the entire grant award to ECRAC in the event the project cannot be completed as stated.
- ❖ That failure of the Grantee to comply with any of these terms of the grant award shall result in the suspension of the award pending ECRAC action.
- ❖ That the distribution of grant funds will be determined by the amount of approved budget, the scope and time frame of the project, and by completion of financial and project reports as indicated.
- ❖ Other conditions as described herein, if any stipulations provided by ECRAC before payment can be made.

LEGAL COMPLIANCE AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

All applicants and grantees are responsible for complying with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

A current IRS Form W-9 must be uploaded with the application. ECRAC uses this form to verify the legal name and tax identification information of organizations that may receive grant funds, helping ensure compliance with grantmaking and financial reporting requirements.

Failure to provide required documentation or comply with applicable laws and regulations may result in an application being deemed ineligible, termination of an awarded grant, or the return of grant funds.

FINAL GRANT REPORT & EVALUATION

Grant recipients must submit a final report to ECRAC. Grantees have 30 days, from the end of the grant project date as proposed in the approved application and as stated on the NGA and RFP. The final report must be the online Final Report Form provided in the grant portal and will include project narrative, photos, project publicity, website pages, and news articles. The final report will show how grant funds were used and will provide documentation of income and expenses pertaining to the project. Applicants who fail to submit the final report within the prescribed time without good cause, subject to Board approval, will automatically be considered ineligible for future funding.

❖ Misuse of Funds Policy

The East Central Regional Arts Council has a Misuse of Funds Policy. The ECRAC staff document their questions and conclusions about possible misuse of grant funds. Staff then works with the grantee to ensure misuse did not occur. Any determination of Misuse of Funds is made by the East Central Regional Arts Council Board of Directors. A misuse determination will impact the grant in question and also future funding. Any Misuse of Funds determination is reported to the Minnesota State Arts Board and the Forum of Regional Arts Councils of Minnesota.

GRANT TERMINATION OR REVOCATION

A grant contract may be terminated at any time upon written request of the grantee. Such termination does not necessarily relieve the grantee of its responsibilities as set forth in the grant contract. ECRAC may terminate a grant contract at any time upon failure of the grantee to comply with one or more of the conditions that will be placed on the use of the grant funds. These conditions, or in some cases recommendations, from the Regional Arts Council will be clearly outlined in the contract.

ECRAC will rescind its grant commitment if:

- a grantee does not submit the signed NGA and RFP with appropriate signatures within 45 days, or
- upon request, the recipient does not submit any required grant stipulations within this time period.

APPEALS POLICY & PROCEDURE

If an applicant can show cause that the established grant review procedures have not been followed, the applicant may file an appeal. There is no right of appeal for disputes of decisions of the East Central Regional Arts Council with respect to artistic merit.

To file an appeal, the applicant must notify the Regional Arts Council Executive Director in writing within 10 days of the notification of ECRAC's action and describe the point or points of issue with the grant review procedure. ECRAC will approve, disapprove, or table the appeal based on adherence to its grant review procedures within 30 days.

FUNDING RESTRICTIONS

What Kinds of Things are INELIGIBLE for this ECRAC Funding? To ensure fairness and alignment with public funding guidelines, the East Central Regional Arts Council (ECRAC) does not fund the following types of projects or expenses:

Project Focus & Eligibility

- Applications that do **not center on arts or culture**
- Applicants who are **not based in Region 7E in Minnesota**, or whose grant activities **do not take place in Region 7E of Minnesota**
- Projects led by **for-profit businesses or organizations**
- **Travel costs outside of Minnesota**

(Note: You may include out-of-state artists in your project, but their travel to/from Minnesota cannot be covered by the grant)

Funding Restrictions

- Projects that request funds to **cover past debts or deficits** from activities that began before the approved grant start date
- Applications that propose to **match other ECRAC-funded grants** with this funding
- Requests for **new building construction, real estate purchases, or endowment funds**
- Expenses related to **alcohol**, including beverages, servers, insurance, or licensing
- **Fundraising events**, where the primary goal is to raise money and donors receive tax-deductible acknowledgments
- Requests for **general operating support**
(Arts organizations may apply separately for the ECRAC Essentials Support Grant)

Accountability & Compliance

- Projects that **cannot clearly track and report how grant funds are spent**
- Use of Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund (ACHF) dollars to **replace traditional public funding**
(ACHF funds must supplement, not substitute, state general fund or capital investment dollars)
- Spending ACHF dollars on **administrative, indirect, or overhead costs** that are not directly tied to the funded project *(Grantees must document all grant-related costs and submit proof with the final report)*

Ineligible Activities

- Projects that involve **political lobbying** or aim to influence public policy
- Religious organizations or projects focused on **religious instruction or socialization**, including parochial schools
- Activities that **require artists to pay excessive fees** to exhibit or perform
- Events or programs that are **not open to the public or not ADA accessible**

Promotion Requirements

- Grantees who do **not promote their project or don't use the required ECRAC and ACHF logos** or credit line in a **legible font** during project promotion

Fair Review Process

- Applicants who **contact ECRAC board members or grant panelists** about their proposal after submission and before final approval *(this may result in disqualification)*
- **Artificial intelligence (AI)** cannot be used to fully generate art, application answers, or art grant proposals. Applications with excessive AI-generated content may be deemed ineligible. For additional information and to review ECRAC's full AI Policy visit ecrac.org.

Note: ECRAC has attempted to provide a thorough and clear articulation of its eligibility rules, but it reserves the right to declare an application ineligible for reasons not explicitly stated here. If you have questions about the eligibility of your project, please contact the ECRAC office. Grantees are responsible for complying with all federal, state, and local laws, rules, regulations, and ordinances in relation to the use of these funds. Failure to comply may result in termination or forfeiture of the grant.

OTHER ECRAC SERVICES

ECRAC provides a variety of services to the arts community in the region, including:

- Art Gallery showcasing regional artists
- Arts Resource Information to support planning and growth
- Community & Economic Development Support through arts-based initiatives
- Arts Library with materials for inspiration and learning
- Workshops for artists and arts organizations
- Grant Information Sessions to guide applicants through the process
- Grant Writing Technical Assistance available by request
- Art Show Display Equipment Rental for community art events
- Annual IMAGE Art Show celebrating local artists
- Meeting & Event Space available for arts-related gatherings
- Annual Zoom reimbursements for art organizations or groups of artists
- Reimbursements for professional development, *Event Scholarships* for artists or art project personnel

Please contact ECRAC if you, or your organization, would like further information regarding these services.

Grant Application Workshops: Information sessions are held monthly. Participants will learn about the grant programs, application process, and how to write an effective ECRAC grant application. This is a great opportunity to get your questions answered on your project ideas.

Grant Library: ECRAC maintains a library of submitted and funded grant applications. Reviewing these materials can enhance your understanding of the process and may improve your application. The application library is normally open during regular office hours (Monday through Wednesday 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.). Our staff is happy to help you. Calling to make an appointment in advance is required.

To see a list of all previously funded projects, visit this web page and scroll to the bottom:
<https://www.ecrac.org/grants-available>

QUESTIONS & GRANT FUNDING CREDIT LINE

ANY QUESTIONS??? Call 320-336-0200
or email grantinfo@ecrac.org www.ecrac.org

East Central Regional Arts Council
540 Weber Ave S
Suite 109
Hinckley, MN 55037

STAY UP TO DATE!

Make sure you are on the ECRAC newsletter mailing list!

ECRAC Mission

The ECRAC mission is to support the arts and bring the life enhancing values they afford to Region 7E residents.

If funded by this grant program, any publicity
for your grant project needs to include:

1. the ECRAC and ACHF logo, found at
<https://www.ecrac.org/manage-my-grant/press-kit>
2. the following funding credit line and hashtags (for social media use).

*This activity is made possible by the voters of
Minnesota thanks to a legislative appropriation from the Arts
and Cultural Heritage Fund.*

#ecrac #ArtsLegacy