

# Creative Intersections

## *Building Community Through the Arts*

The Creative Intersections program funds up to \$8,000 to support innovative and effective partnerships that integrate arts and culture into plans for community development and enrichment. This program is designed for organizations that engage the arts as an important element in building and strengthening community.

## FAQ's

### 1. Am I eligible?

If the answer to the following three “tests” is *yes*, then you are likely eligible.

Yes, I am an organization defined by mission as a local arts organization or group that

- provides local community access to artistic activities,
- develops and encourages leadership for the arts and culture at the community level,
- coordinates and/or spearheads community arts activities, and encourages support for arts and culture in the area served by our organization/group, and
- is “looked to” by the local community as the hub for community arts development.

*And*

Yes, I am an organization that operates with the support of a board of directors or advisory committee that is empowered to form policies and be responsible for the governance/oversight of the organization, its programs, and finances.

*And*

Yes, I am an organization

- Incorporated as a nonprofit *arts* organization in the State of Minnesota, located in the seven-county metropolitan area with annualized operating expenses less than \$300,000 and at least a one-year history as a developing group, *or*
- Incorporated as a nonprofit, *non-arts* organization with an arts programming history of at least one year with expenses less than \$300,000. Examples might be a local arts commission, a park and recreation arts department, a community education managed arts center, etc.

*All non-arts organizations should call MRAC staff to determine eligibility before applying.*

## 2. Does my project meet program intent?

This funding stream is not an alternative pathway to funding the “usual and customary” programs of your group. The tests to help you consider whether or not your project idea clearly meets program intent are outlined in the six grant review criteria. The criteria focus on a local arts organization’s role in civic engagement to

### A. demonstrate a compelling project capable of building community involvement and momentum beyond the project itself:

- Yes, the project has the ability to contribute to the *development of a creative community* or build community through the arts in a quality manner.
- Yes, the project is capable of building community *momentum beyond* the life of the project itself.
- Yes, the project *convenes a partnership “triad”* (public, private nonprofit, commercial business) in project design and execution.

*And*

### B. demonstrate a robust process of community engagement and support:

- Yes, the project is soundly *based on demonstrated aspirations and assets of the local community as a whole* and demonstrates an understanding of the demographics, the assets, and the unique aspirations of the local community.
- Yes, the project recognizes the richness of community and seeks to *embrace the ethnic, cultural, age, gender, and economic diversity* within the applicant’s local community.
- Yes, the project is *accessible and welcoming* to all members of the community through identification of and response to key barriers to participation.