



Thrive Grant

# Agenda

- Grant Overview
- Eligibility
- Application Process
- Q&A



# Grant Overview

# About

Thrive provides **three-year general operating grants** to arts and culture organizations that intentionally reflect and serve the priorities of Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC), LGBTQ+ people, women, and people with disabilities, and those at the intersection of these identities

# Purpose

- Create **opportunities for advancement, sustainability, or visibility** by providing support and a runway for stability to community-rooted arts organizations.
- Give organizations autonomy and flexibility to decide how the funds will best benefit their organization and community.
- Learn, share, and model new ways of looking at arts organization vitality beyond the traditional measures of success typically used by funders.

# Overview



General operating grants for your organization to decide how to best apply the funding.



Three-year grants to help your organization stabilize, grow, or sustain.



Organizations propose an amount that will address its specific needs.

Focus on BIPOC, women, LGBTQ+ people, and people with disabilities, and those at the intersection of these identities

Thrive intentionally supports organizations from and serving communities that historically have had limited access to unrestricted, general operating support due to racism, homophobia, ableism, and misogyny.

## Focus on BIPOC, women, LGBTQ+ people, and people with disabilities, and those at the intersection of these identities

- Organization should have a specific mission to engage these communities and their leadership and staff should reflect the community it serves.
- Organizations self-define their community, which can be geographic or demographic.
- We welcome all organizations to share their unique story about the people and communities they serve.



# Grant Amount

- Each organization will propose an amount that will address its specific needs.
- Grant sizes will vary depending on the organization's current budget, its vision for its future, and potential opportunities for growing its revenue streams.
- In most cases, grants will not exceed 20% of the organization's budget.

# How many Thrive grants will be awarded?

The exact number of grants will be unknown until we receive applications. We anticipate awarding **up to fifteen** Thrive grants in each grant cycle.



Eligibility

# Eligibility

Your organization must...

- Have a mission and primary purpose that supports artists and the production and presentation of art.
- Be based in and serving Chicago or Cook County.
- Be a 501(C)(3) or have a formal relationship with a fiscal sponsor.
- Annual operating expenses are under \$2 million, based on the most recently completed fiscal year.

# Restrictions

The Thrive grant program does not support...

- Universities, schools (private, public, charter), and religious entities
- Arts service organizations
- Organizations whose primary purpose is arts learning (i.e., more than 50% of its programming, staff time, and/or budget is for arts education activities)
- Organizations with a mission and primary purpose that fall outside supporting artists and producing and presenting artmaking.

# Can past AWF grantees apply?

Yes! Past AWF Think and Explore grantees can apply for a Thrive grant.

However, if your organization receives a Thrive grant, it will be ineligible to apply for any **future** AWF grants during the three-year Thrive grant period. Once the grant period ends, organizations can apply for other AWF grants.



# Application Process

# Timeline

- Applications Open Now!
- **Deadline Sunday March 19, 11:59PM CT**
- No late applications will be accepted.
- Site visit conduct with finalists: **April 24-May 5**
  - These will occur during on weekdays between 9-5pm
- Notification of application status: **June 1**, at the latest



# Logistics

- Applications will be accepted on Submittable
- Save your application at any time and come back
- Submit **before** the deadline, otherwise we won't have access to your application.

# Logistics

- Applicants can answer short answer questions in writing or by submitting video/audio.
  - You can submit only text or only video/audio – **not both**
  - For video/audio: **submit direct answers to the questions asked**, not promotional videos or media created for different purposes.

The program prioritizes organizations that practice and promote the following:

- Artistic & Cultural Focus
- Community Rootedness & Relevance
- Interconnectedness
- Self-determination & Leadership

# Artistic & Cultural Focus

## What we mean...

The organization's core mission promotes artistic and cultural practices that resonate with their communities and advance artistic and cultural life in Chicago.

## What question(s) addresses this on the application...

**Tell us about how your organization advances artistic and cultural life in Chicago?\***

- *Please tell us about any programming, collaborations, resources, etc. that contribute to your mission.*
- *Share about how your organization enhances and contributes to the arts ecosystem in your community and beyond, including any collaborations or exchanges that occur on a regular basis.*

## What criteria will the panelists use to evaluate...

Does the organization's core mission promote artistic and cultural practices that resonate with their communities and advance artistic and cultural life in Chicago?

# Community Rootedness & Relevance

## What we mean...

The organization is rooted in its community, actively reflecting and responding to its community's cultural needs and wants.

## What question(s) addresses this on the application...

**Who are the organization's communities of focus?\***

*Organizations are encouraged to define communities in whatever way best aligns with their mission: geographically, demographically, etc.*

**How does your organization reflect and respond to the cultural needs and wants of the community you defined in the last question?\***

*Include some examples of how you engage with the community to receive feedback and/or suggestions.*

## What criteria will the panelists use to evaluate...

Is the organization rooted in its community, actively reflecting and responding to its community's cultural needs and wants?

# Interconnectedness

## What we mean...

The organization enhances and contributes to the arts ecosystem via connection, collaboration, and exchange with organizations, groups, and individuals serving the same community and/or addressing complementary community needs.

## What question(s) addresses this on the application...

**How does your organization reflect and respond to the cultural needs and wants of the community you defined in the last question?**

*Include some examples of how you engage with the community to receive feedback and/or suggestions.*

**Tell us about the organization's approach and practice of leadership within and outside of the organization.**

## What criteria will the panelists use to evaluate...

Does the organization enhance and contribute to the arts ecosystem via connection, collaboration, and exchange with others serving the same community and/or addressing complementary community needs?

# Self-determination and Leadership

## What we mean...

Organizational leadership represents the community it seeks to serve, and decision-making reflects community needs. The organization enables people and communities to participate in cultural life through a lens of choice, empowerment, and freedom.

## What question(s) addresses this on the application...

**Tell us about the organization's approach and practice of leadership within and outside of the organization.**

*Does your organizational leadership represent the community it engages? How are decisions made at the organization and who is involved in the decision-making process?*

## What criteria will the panelists use to evaluate...

Does the organizational leadership represent the community it seeks to serve, and decision-making reflects community needs?

# Vision for Funding

## What we mean...

The organization has a vision for using the grant funding in meaningful and impactful ways that further embed it into the community's cultural fabric.

*The definition of "impact" will differ from organization to organization, community to community.*

## What question(s) addresses this on the application...

**If awarded this three-year grant, what is your vision for the funding?**

*What will this grant help you accomplish? How will you use the funds to achieve your vision?*

## What criteria will the panelists use to evaluate...

If awarded this three-year grant, does the organization have a vision for the grant in meaningful and impactful ways that further embed it into the community's cultural fabric?



# Organizational Capacity

## What we mean...

The organization can maximize the benefits of this grant and finds itself in an opportune moment to pursue its plans as reflected in their leadership, staff, processes, programs, etc.

## What question(s) addresses this on the application...

### **Please submit the following required documents**

- 2021 990 and/or Audited financial statement
- 2022 Year-End Actual Budget
- 2023 Confirmed / Projected Budget

*This criteria will be evaluated and discussed during the site visit to ensure further nuance in understanding organizational capacity.*

## What criteria will the panelists use to evaluate...

How can the organization maximize the benefits of this grant and is it the opportune moment to pursue it given its current state?

Relevant qualities include: stable leadership and governance, active programs and services, strong administrative processes, clear mission and well-defined goals, to name a few.

# Selection Process

- **Late March to late April:** Panelists review all application
- **Late April to early May:** Finalist Site Visits
- **Mid to late May:** Final review, panelist deliberation, and board approval
- **Late May to early June:** Applicant notification



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