



**Hillsborough
County Florida**
Arts Council

**COMMUNITY ARTS IMPACT GRANT (CAIG) APPLICATION SCORING RUBRIC FOR NON-PROFITS AND COLLEGES/UNIVERSITIES
PROJECT SUPPORT FISCAL YEAR 2026**

Must receive a minimum of 75 points to be eligible for funding.

Instructions:

- 1. Review all grant applications.**
- 2. Review scoring descriptions and grant criteria.**
- 3. Score the grant application using the scoring rubric.**
- 4. Evidence for meeting the criteria may be found in any portion of the application or associated support materials.**

Scoring Descriptions:

Exceptional: The applicant has provided **overwhelming and clear** evidence throughout the application that demonstrates that all of the funding criteria are met. The plans are clear, well-articulated and appropriate. The budget is realistic, comprehensive, and carefully aligned with the narrative. The support materials are of the highest quality, highly relevant, and lead to a deeper understanding of the organization and its work.

Good: The applicant has provided **sufficiently clear** evidence throughout the application that demonstrates that the most crucial criteria are met. The plans are clear and appropriate but are not always well-expressed. The budget is realistic and reasonably aligned with the narrative. The support materials are of good quality and relevance.

Fair/Weak: The applicant has provided **limited or very limited** evidence in the application that demonstrates that criteria are barely met or not met at all. The plans lack detail and may be hard to understand. The budget has limited detail or is unrealistic and not well aligned with the narrative. The support materials are limited or of poor quality.

Access & Community Engagement: 45 points

The Arts Council defines access and community engagement as an organization's ability to reach diverse audiences across a wide range of the community providing both a public benefit and access.

Project will create cultural equity and access by engaging a very diverse range of voices and participants including people with disabilities.	Project sufficiently creates equity and access by engaging a limited range of voice and participants including people with disabilities.	Project struggles to create equity and access by engaging a very limited range of voices and participants including few people with disabilities.
Project has been very well-thoughtfully planned and included a wide range of voices in the planning process.	Project has been planned using a limited range of voices in the planning process.	Project has not been thoughtfully planned and did not use a wide range of voices in the planning process.
The community that the project will serve has been very clearly defined.	The community that the project will serve has been clearly defined.	The community that the project attempts to serve has not been clearly defined.
Specific outcomes for the project are very clearly stated and are clearly attainable.	Specific outcomes for the project are clearly stated and attainable.	Specific outcomes for the project are not clearly stated and not readily attainable.
Meaningful and sustainable collaborations and partnerships have been formed in the project development that will continue throughout the implementation.	Collaborations and partnerships have been formed in the project development that will continue throughout the implementation.	Very limited collaborations and partnerships were formed in the project development that may or may not continue throughout the implementation.
Score:		

Artistic & Cultural Vibrancy: 35 points

The Arts Council defines artistic and cultural vibrancy as an organization's ability to create quality, mission-driven work that inspires and challenges the community.

Project will create pathways for supporting rural and underserved communities and diverse citizens of Hillsborough County by leveraging existing or new cultural assets.	Projects will create limited pathways for supporting rural and underserved communities and diverse citizens of Hillsborough County by leveraging some existing and new cultural assets.	Project will create very limited pathways for supporting rural and underserved communities and diverse citizens of Hillsborough County by leveraging just a few existing and new cultural assets.
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Project will provide high quality arts and culture experiences that are very relevant for the targeted participants.	Project will provide quality arts and culture experiences that are relevant for the targeted participants.	Project will provide limited arts and culture experiences for the targeted participants.
Very clear goals and objectives have been established for the project.	Clear goals and objectives have been established for the project.	Limited goals and objectives have been established for the project.
The planning process demonstrates a reasonable timetable to complete the project.	The planning process demonstrates a sufficient timetable to complete the project.	The planning process does not reveal a reasonable timetable to complete the project.
Score:		

Organizational Capacity: 20 points

The Arts Council defines organizational capacity as an organization's ability to manage effectively for today and tomorrow.

Administrative and artistic staff is very qualified to implement the project and ensure its success.	Administrative and artistic staff is qualified to implement the project and ensure its success.	Administrative and artistic staff sufficiently qualified to implement the project but not fully qualified to ensure its success.
The budget is well-thought out, reasonable, and will support full implementation of the project.	The budget is reasonable and will support implementation of the project.	It is unclear whether the budget will support implementation of the project.
Appropriate financial and other resources have been or will be secured to support the project.	Limited financial and other resources have been or will be secured to support the project.	It is not apparent whether financial and other resources have been or will be secured to support the project.
Score:		