Arts and Culture Giving Circle
Request for Proposals

Greater Cincinnati Foundation (GCF) invites your organization to apply for funding. An invitation to submit a proposal in no way guarantees a grant award. This is a competitive process. The deadline for proposal submission is Friday, August 30, 2019, by 5:00 p.m.

Funding Focus
GCF and a group of passionate donors have joined together to offer this Request for Proposals (RFP) to collectively support organizations using the arts to bring together different cultures to strengthen our region’s social fabric. Applications should explicitly address the following purpose:

- To support creative placemaking* projects and programming, as well as cultural events that help transform communities into lively, beautiful, inclusive and resilient places with the arts at their core — especially local efforts that enhance the quality of life and help build relationships and opportunities for existing residents.

*Creative placemaking happens when artists and arts organizations join their neighbors in shaping their community’s future, working together on place-based community outcomes. It’s not necessarily focused on making places more creative; it’s about creatively addressing challenges and opportunities. Success is measured in the ways artists, formal and informal arts spaces, and creative interventions have contributed toward community outcomes. We believe creative placemaking at its best is locally defined and informed and about the people who live, work and play in a place. (The National Consortium for Creative Placemaking, www.cpcommunities.org)
Use of Funds
Grants will be awarded in an amount of up to $25,000 (one-year grant). Funding may be used to support, expand or strengthen existing programs, enact capital improvements, launch a new program or build organizational capacity.

Criteria
- Applicants must be classified as tax-exempt by the IRS, typically 501(c)(3) status.
- Grants will be made to organizations with efforts based in the Greater Cincinnati region which includes the counties of: Hamilton, Butler, Warren and Clermont in Ohio; Boone, Kenton and Campbell in Kentucky and Dearborn in Indiana.
- Preference will be given to:
  - Organizations that provide programming that is inclusive of all ages, abilities, income levels, races and ethnicities
  - Innovative and community-based programming serving communities with limited resources and/or opportunities to create art
  - Organizations with strong and consistent programming that have demonstrated learnings from their past results
  - Proposals with clear and measurable outcomes
- Proposals will be accepted from any organization that meets these criteria as well as aligns strongly with the details of this RFP.
- If your organization needs to utilize a fiscal agent, the fiscal agent must be identified in the application.

Application Process
Respond to this RFP via [GCF's online grantmaking system](#) using the “GCF Giving Circle Application.” After creating a new account and/or logging in, complete the application and submit by the deadline listed in this RFP.

Upload the required documents in the final section of the application. The use of provided templates is not required by highly encouraged.
RFP Timeline

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<th>Key Steps</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Proposal Deadline</td>
<td>August 30, 2019, by 5:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Site Visits*</td>
<td>Oct. 14-18, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Decision Communicated</td>
<td>Late-October 2019</td>
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<td>Funding Received</td>
<td>November 2019</td>
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* The Arts and Culture Giving Circle may schedule site visits with RFP finalists. If your organization is selected as a finalist, a GCF staff member will contact you to schedule a site visit during this timeframe.

Questions
Answers to general questions are available on our website at [www.gcfdn.org/faq](http://www.gcfdn.org/faq). Please direct any additional questions that you may have to Rickell Smith, Director of Community Strategies, [rickell.smith@gcfdn.org](mailto:rickell.smith@gcfdn.org). She the GCF staff member leading this RFP process and should serve as your primary contact. Questions about the Foundant system or process timeline can be directed to Evie Epifano, Community Strategies Manager, at [evie.epifano@gcfdn.org](mailto:evie.epifano@gcfdn.org). Thank you for considering partnership with Greater Cincinnati Foundation and we look forward to learning from your submission.

GCF Mission

As a trusted and connected partner, we inspire generous people to invest in a more equitable and vibrant region, now and for generations to come.