



Release date: June 26, 2026

The David C. Herriman Fund of Greater Cincinnati Foundation

Request for Proposals

Greater Cincinnati Foundation (GCF) invites eligible organizations to apply for funding. Organizations must submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) no later than **August 17, 2026 by 11:59 p.m.** Organizations will be notified in early September if they are invited to submit a full proposal. The deadline for full proposal submission is **October 1, 2026 by 11:59 pm.** This is a competitive process. The invitation to submit a proposal does not guarantee a grant approval.

About the David C. Herriman Fund of GCF

The David C. Herriman Fund of Greater Cincinnati Foundation was established by Mr. Herriman to facilitate grants to regional performing arts organizations through a competitive process. The funds available for distribution in 2026 are \$450,000.

Funding Focus

The Fund was created to support the arts in the Greater Cincinnati area of Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky, with a preference for the performing arts. Special consideration will be given to enhancing performance through support for bringing in performance artists, directors, choreographers, authors, musicians, etc. Proposals for the performance of new works and for the education of youth, specifically in the performing arts, are encouraged.



Purpose

In Mr. Herriman's words, "to make possible what would otherwise be impossible" opportunities for arts organizations in the Greater Cincinnati area.

Result

Cincinnati area audiences will enjoy unique and extraordinary arts experiences.

Use of Funds

Funding may be used to help launch a new program or project or to significantly enhance existing programs. Grants for capital purposes are discouraged, other than grants for equipment related to a specific performance. Funding will not be approved for campaigns, special events or fundraising.

Criteria

- Applicants must be local 501(c)(3) organizations, which support the arts in Hamilton, Butler, Warren and Clermont counties in Ohio, Campbell, Kenton and Boone counties in Kentucky, and Dearborn County in Indiana.
- Applicants may be large or small organizations, with a strong preference for performing arts organizations, including musical groups. Colleges and universities, however, are excluded.
- In accordance with Mr. Herriman's wishes of creating meaningful impact, this funding opportunity may provide one larger grant and up to two smaller grants. The total granted will not exceed \$450,000. The ranges of these grants, depending on proposals under consideration, will be between \$200,000 and \$350,000 for the large grant and between \$15,000 and \$50,000 for the small grant(s).
- Project/performance should commence in 2027. Small grant project/performances should conclude no later than December 31, 2028; large grant project/performances should conclude no later than December 31, 2029.



- No one organization may receive a grant from the Herriman Fund for more than two years in succession.
- Special consideration shall be given to enhancing performances through support for bringing in nationally recognized performance artists, directors, choreographers, authors, musicians, etc.
- Grants for education of youth, specifically for the performing arts, are also encouraged.
- Grants for performing new works are encouraged.

Application Process

Organizations seeking to apply must submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) by August 17, 2026. Upon review, a select number of organizations will be invited to submit full proposals. The full proposal deadline is October 1, 2026.

Respond to this RFP via [GCF's online grantmaking system](#) by selecting the "David C. Herriman Fund of GCF."

After logging in to an existing account or creating a new account, complete all required fields and submit by the deadline(s) listed in this RFP.

If invited to submit a full proposal, you will be asked to provide the following four documents in the final section of the full proposal:

- Project budget
- Income statement & balance sheet (last 2 fiscal years, current year agency budget, year to date)
- Most recent audit or 990
- Board list with demographics



RFP Timeline

Key Steps	Date
RFP Released	June 26, 2026
Letter of Intent Deadline	August 17, 2026
Notification of Invitation to Apply	September 4, 2026
Proposal Deadline	October 1, 2026
Decision Communicated	December 2026
Funding Received	December 2026

Questions

Please direct any questions that you may have to Jade Sams, Senior Program Officer, Private Foundation Services, at 513-768-6113 or jade.sams@gcfdn.org. Thank you for considering partnership with Greater Cincinnati Foundation and we look forward to learning from your submission.

GCF Mission

We connect generous donors with trusted nonprofits to create a vibrant Greater Cincinnati where every person has an opportunity to thrive.