

Grant FAQs

> **Do I need to be a non-profit to apply?**

Specifics vary from application to application.

Non-profit status is not required to apply for Community Projects Grants, Arts Education Grants, or Rental Assistance Grants. Non-profit status is required to apply for General Operating Support Grants.

> **Must an organization be headquartered in Boulder to be eligible?**

No, it is not necessary that the applicant organization be headquartered in Boulder. However, the applicant must be able to demonstrate that they conduct a substantial amount of their programming in Boulder. Also, though anyone may apply, preference is given through the panel process to organizations that are based in, or focused on, the Boulder community.

> **How much detail is required for the organizational details such as board members and budget documents?**

The required documents and information in the organizational information section of the application is used to give the commissioners an understanding of your organization: what you do, how you do it, and who is involved. These should be basic details to convey that information. Make sure your details are complete, but not protracted. Example budget documents can be found through [this link](#).

> **Who is on the panel?**

The panel consists of the five City Council-appointed [Boulder Arts Commissioners](#) and four members of the community. The panel was selected by the Boulder Arts Commission to aid them in their decision-making.

> **How does the panel come to their decision?**

Specifics vary from application to application.

For General Operating Support and project grants, the commission and panel will read through your background information to understand your organization or project; they will then provide scores in two sections:

First, the panel members provide scores on the information you provide in the “Panel Questions” section. Panel members provide a score of 1 to 8 for each panel question.

Second, the panel members may be asked to provide additional points on three focus areas:

- 1) for Boulder-based organizations,
- 2) on issues of cultural equity, and
- 3) for organizations that have not received funding in the grant cycle.

A maximum of 4 additional points is available to the panel members for each question. See the rubrics on the Scoring System document for details. For more information on cultural equity please reference our [Statement of Cultural Equity](#).

The scores for each panel member are added together to establish a preliminary score for the application. All questions are weighted equally. Those preliminary scores are averaged across all the panel members to establish a preliminary score. This score is used to rank your application for consideration. For each grant category, the Arts Commission will establish a threshold score (equal to a whole number that is approximately 75% of the maximum possible score) over which an application is considered eligible for an award. Please note that meeting the threshold score does not automatically approve an application for funding.

In addition to providing a score, the commissioners will include questions or comments for each applicant. We will provide these comments to you before the review meeting. During the meeting, you will have the opportunity to offer a three-minute statement answering the questions raised, or further informing the panel about your application.

Then, the panel will discuss each application. Individual panel members may decide to change specific scores based on new information you provide during your presentation. Once this rescore is complete, the applications are re-ranked. The members of the Boulder Arts Commission then then deliberate to decide final approval of the applications which will receive a grant. The Arts Commission may a) accept the top scores in the ranking, b) choose to adjust the ranking, or c) ask the panel to reconsider specific scores.

[The complete scoring system and rubric can be found here.](#)

- > **If I am awarded a grant, may I apply for other opportunities?**
Yes, there are no restrictions for applying for multiple grants.

- > **Does the Boulder Arts Commission have an appeals process?**
Yes. The appeals process can be found [here](#).