



## Pennsylvania Creative Industries

Powered by Pennsylvania Council on the Arts

### 2026–2027 Application Guidelines Pennsylvania Creative Asset Program

**Application Opens:** Monday, February 2, 2026

**Application Closes:** Monday, March 16, 2026

**Performance period:** July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027

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#### Table of Contents

- [About Pennsylvania Creative Industries](#)
- [Creative Industries Defined](#)
- [About this Program](#)
- [Eligibility](#)
- [Funding Restrictions](#)
- [Crediting](#)
- [Narrative, Submission and Review Process](#)
- [Appeals Process](#)

#### About Pennsylvania Creative Industries

Pennsylvania Creative Industries is the new flagship brand of the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency. With this name, the Council aims to elevate the creative sector's visibility, engage broader audiences, foster collaboration across disciplines, and underscore creativity's vital role in innovation, economic growth, and community vitality.

In 2025, our Council adopted a new strategic plan with the **mission** to empower, connect, and amplify creatives and creative industries and their contributions to Pennsylvania's communities, economy, and workforce. Our **vision** is that Pennsylvania becomes the national leader among states for creative communities, talent, and industries.

To maximize impact and align with state community and economic development goals, Pennsylvania Creative Industries invests resources in five key areas:

- **Asset Development** (e.g., creative organizations, entrepreneurial ecosystem, technical assistance, regional networking)
- **Workforce Development** (e.g., creative skills, career awareness, and employment pathways)

- **Community Development** (e.g., creative placemaking, engagement with local governments, and networking for practitioners)
- **Visibility** (e.g., promotion of creative industries, products and services, and of the contributions and opportunities within our commonwealth's creative sector)
- **Policy** (e.g., creation of policies that promote and foster relevancy and opportunity for creative industries, within governmental and non-governmental agencies and businesses)

## Creative Industries Defined

Creative industries encompass individuals, organizations, and businesses that generate goods, services, and intellectual property through creative work. This includes advertising, architecture, performing and visual arts, design, crafts, music, media and film production, publishing, and digital games. Innovation, technology, and creative expression unite these diverse sectors.

In 2023, our commonwealth's creative industries contributed \$30B to Pennsylvania's economy and supported nearly 190K jobs. Learn more [here](#).

## About this Program

The Pennsylvania Creative Asset Program supports small- to mid-sized creative organizations that deliver services, products, and/or programs that align with one or more of Pennsylvania Creative Industries' strategic plan focus areas.

## Program Features:

- Funding to support creative organizations that deliver services, products, and/or programs.
- Collaboration and networking opportunities for grantees. This may include webinars organized by grantee discipline (theatre, orchestra, museum, etc.) and/or PA Creative Industries' focus areas (Asset Development, Workforce Development, Community Development, Visibility, Policy).
- Grants are non-matching.
- One application per organization, per year, may be submitted.
- Anticipated grant amounts will range between \$10,000-\$15,000 per organization.
- This is a reimbursement-based grant program, which means grantees must first incur and pay for eligible expenses, then submit an invoice/final report with required documentation, such as receipts, invoices, and proof of payment to receive funding.
- Grant awards may be subject to the National Endowment for the Arts' (a federal agency) General Terms and Conditions-Appendix A:  
[GTC-PARTNERSHIP-FY25-PLUS-6-25-25-FINAL.pdf](#).

## Eligibility

Applicants must:

- Demonstrate at least two years' average annual revenue between \$100,000 and \$2,000,000 (as demonstrated by IRS Form 990).
- Be a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation whose mission is to create, perform, present, promote or serve the creative (arts) sector (e.g., advertising, architecture, performing and visual arts, design, crafts, music, media and film production, publishing, and digital games, etc.).

- Be located in Pennsylvania and registered as a Pennsylvania Non-profit Corporation with the Pennsylvania Department of State Bureau of Corporations and Charitable Organizations, and in compliance with required annual report filing(s).

#### Ineligible:

- Arts programs of non-arts organizations.
- Colleges or universities and entities directly affiliated with them, such as university foundations, campus-based arts centers or museums, departments or academic units (e.g., theatre departments, music schools, etc.), student organizations, and others.
- Fiscally sponsored entities.
- Creative Sector Flex Fund (CSFF) grantees that received or applied for funding in the 2025-2026 grant cycle (January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2026, grant activity period):
  - The first eligible grant cycle for this program that 2025-2026 CSFF grantees may apply for is the 2027-2028 cycle.
  - If you are an organization that applied for the CSFF grant in 2025-2026 but were not awarded a grant, and you otherwise meet all other eligibility requirements for the Pennsylvania Creative Asset Program, you may apply in the 2026-2027 cycle.
- Pre-K-12 public, private, and parochial schools and programs, including all charter schools and affiliated booster organizations.
- Auxiliary support organization such as “friends of” or “booster” groups that raise funds on behalf of another entity.
- Local governments, including counties and municipalities.
- Libraries, including municipality, county, authority, and non-profit.

#### Funding Restrictions

- Activities that occur outside the performance period.
- Activities that have a religious purpose.
- Payments to lobbyists.
- Cash prizes and awards.
- Benefit activities.
- Hospitality expenses (e.g., receptions).
- Competitions.
- Performances and exhibitions not available to the public.
- Activities for which academic credit is given.

#### Crediting Pennsylvania Creative Industries

Grantees must prominently acknowledge Pennsylvania Creative Industries funding in promotions, flyers, programs, media announcements, press releases, websites, social media that relate to this grant, by utilizing approved logos, branding, and materials. Pennsylvania Creative Industries will provide said materials to the grantee.

#### Narrative, Submission and Review Process

##### Narrative:

1. What is your mission?
2. Describe how your organization aligns with one or more of the Pennsylvania Creative Industries' strategic plan focus areas:

- Asset Development
- Workforce Development
- Community Development
- Visibility
- Policy

### Required attachments:

If any of the following items are not submitted, the application will not be considered for funding:

1. IRS Determination Letter confirming nonprofit 501(c) status.
2. Most recently completed audited financial statement, compilation, or review (including any management letters).
3. Most recently submitted IRS Form 990 tax filing.

### Submission process

1. Read this document thoroughly.
2. Read and comply with the checklist for applicants and grantees:  
[grants management checklist for applicants and grantees as of 7.17.25.pdf](#)
3. Register and apply through Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development's (DCED) Electronic Single Application (ESA):  
<https://grants.pa.gov/Login.aspx>.
  - Note: You must register for a Keystone Login in order to apply through grants.pa.gov:  
<https://keystonelogin.pa.gov/Account/Register>
4. Submit online.
5. Please note that ACH must be established to make grant payments. Please sign up for ACH grant payments if you have not already done so:  
<https://www.pa.gov/agencies/pennvest/programs-and-services/financing/ach-authorization-change-form>
6. **Questions?**
  - For questions, concerns, and issues with Keystone Login call: (877) 328-0995.
  - For technical and login questions, contact the Enterprise eGrants Customer Service Center: (833) 448-0647 or [egrantshelp@pa.gov](mailto:egrantshelp@pa.gov).
  - For questions about grant application content and required attachments, contact one of the following PA Creative Industries staff:
    - Ian Rosario: [irosario@pa.gov](mailto:irosario@pa.gov) or (717) 525-5548
    - Seth Poppy: [spoppy@pa.gov](mailto:spoppy@pa.gov) or (717) 787-1520
    - Amy Gabriele: [agabriele@pa.gov](mailto:agabriele@pa.gov) or (717) 525-5547

### Review process

- PA Creative Industries staff will review all applications to verify eligibility and evaluate the completeness of responses to questions and required attachments.
- PA Creative Industries staff will review financial documents to assess financial stability.
- Funding recommendations will consider the following:
  - Applicant eligibility.
  - Completeness of application responses and required attachments.
  - Financial stability (based on IRS Form 990 and financial statements).
  - Pennsylvania Creative Asset Program's budget and total number of eligible applicants.
  - Each year, the Council reviews funding parameters and may consider factors such as county distribution, etc.
  - Council has final authority in approving award amounts.

- Awards are generally approved at the July Council meeting. Council meeting dates may be found on PA Creative Industries' website:  
<https://www.pa.gov/agencies/coa/about/council-members/meetings>
- Applicants approved to receive awards will be sent email communication outlining the next steps in the grant process, including the reimbursement payment process.
- Reimbursement materials/Final Report are due no later than 30 days after the performance period closes (July 30, 2027).
  - A grant will be cancelled if a grantee fails to submit reimbursement materials by July 30, 2027.
  - In addition, if the reimbursement materials/final report remains incomplete or unacceptable after September 30, 2027, the grantee's award agreement will be terminated.
- Grantees that fail to meet material terms and conditions of a grant award agreement, including but not limited to, submission of a final report and reimbursement materials, may not be eligible for future PA Creative Industries grant awards.

## Appeals Process

The Council recognizes that errors may occur in the application process. The Council is committed to acknowledging any errors and responding to rectify the effects of an error. The appeals process enables applicants to identify these errors and omissions and bring them to the attention of the Council. Appeals may result in a change in the determination of eligibility or the award amount if the applicant can satisfactorily document that an error or omission occurred through no fault of the applicant. Appeals are awarded only if the error or omission had a substantial effect on the evaluation of an application or on the determination of an applicant's eligibility.

Appeals are not intended to provide the applicant with an opportunity to challenge the qualitative assessment of the application. Missing the published application due date or failure to submit required information or documentation are not grounds for appeal.

Applicants considering an appeal should contact the applicable [program director](#) for advice and guidance. The appeal must be made in writing (email or hardcopy) to the Council's [Deputy Executive Director](#) within ten business days of the date of the notification of the award status from the Council. Appeal letters should identify the error or omission and the effect such error had on the Council's application review process. If the appeal is supported, funds will be awarded only if they are available.

Grants under this program are processed under the authority of the act of January 25, 1966 (P.L. 1542 (1965), 71 P.S. Section 1530.1 et seq., as amended, and 58 Pa. Code §301.32.