

Arts Access—Frequently Asked Questions

1. Are all past Arts Access grantees eligible for this program?

No. All organizations must meet current Arts Access eligibility requirements. The purpose of the Arts Access program is to provide general operating support for organizations with annual budgets under \$30,000 to support their ongoing programming. If your organization's annual budget is more than \$30,000 and has had more than two OAC grants in four years, it is not eligible to apply for Arts Access and should instead apply to the Sustainability program.

2. My organization sponsors a local festival, which is our only activity each year. Is this considered a project, or do I qualify for operating support through Arts Access?

Applicants to the Arts Access program must describe the entirety of their planned programming for the grant period in their application. All of those activities may be centered on a single event. However, if the event occurs on an annual basis and the organization has a funding history with the OAC, then the organization should apply for operating support through Arts Access. There are two principal advantages to grantees. First, Arts Access provides two-year funding while Project Support applicants must reapply every year. Second, the Project Support program may be more competitive because it incorporates both General Project and Creative Economy projects. To learn more about the eligibility requirements for Arts Access funding, consult the [Guidelines](#) for this program.

3. How is the Arts Access program different from the Sustainability program?

Both programs fund operating support. Arts Access funds organizations with annual budgets under \$30,000 using a somewhat simpler application process. Sustainability funds organizations with annual budgets over \$30,000 and requires applicants to participate in the Ohio Cultural Data Project. For more information, refer to the review criteria for each program in the [Guidelines](#).

4. My organization applied to the Sustainability program but was turned down; are we eligible for Arts Access support?

No. Only organizations with budgets under \$30,000 are eligible to apply to Arts Access. Your organization would be eligible to apply for the Project Support or Arts Partnership programs during the following fiscal year before returning to request Sustainability support again.

5. How can I tell if my organization's past OAC grant awards will be considered as part of the organization's eligibility for Arts Access or Sustainability?

Every OAC grant awarded through the OnLine Grant Application (OLGA) system is considered part of an organization's grant history with the OAC. Both the Arts Access and Sustainability programs consider grants received by an organization in the last four fiscal years as part of their eligibility requirements (see program guidelines for details). Because the OLGA system was launched in the 2006 fiscal year, all relevant OAC grant awards your organization has received are viewable in your OLGA account (see your

Archives section to review them). Any OAC grant that your organization received that is viewable in OLGA counts toward your eligibility for Arts Access and Sustainability.

6. I missed the deadline for the Arts Access program; is emergency or special assistance available?

No. The OAC no longer has mid-year funding opportunities for organizations that need emergency or special assistance. If your organization does not receive operating support, you may apply in the following year to the programs with annual deadlines, such as Project Support, Artist in Residence or Arts Partnership. You may also want to pursue other funding options. If your organization's mission, programming and staff are culturally diverse, you may wish to review the guidelines for the Building Cultural Diversity program, which has quarterly deadlines and may be appropriate for your programming. Other programs, such as Artist Express, may also meet your needs.

7. What support materials are required as part of my organization's application?

After applying online via OLGA, applicants must mail or hand deliver the first two pages of the printed application (with original signatures) and support materials to the Ohio Arts Council. Different programs require different support materials. [Appendix H](#) of the *Guidelines* details which materials are required of every Arts Access applicant, which are recommended (but optional) to make your application competitive and which are recommended only for specific applications. Many pieces of support materials may now be submitted electronically using the [Online Support Materials Submission](#) form. The signed signature page and support materials packet are due by 5 p.m. seven calendar days following the deadline.

8. What is the cash match required for the Arts Access program?

All Arts Access grants require a 1:1 match.