

Arts Partnership—Frequently Asked Questions

1. Our organization wants to apply to the Arts Partnership program, but we do not have much experience with assessment and evaluation. How can we learn more?

Evaluation is a powerful tool in planning and implementing programs. With an emphasis on improving arts learning and program effectiveness, evaluation must be an ongoing, integrated part of your program development cycle. We have several resources available to support your work in evaluation and assessment. [Visit our Learning Resources for School Leaders and Their Arts Partners](#) and click on Evaluation Studio. Under this tab, you will find a variety of resources for learner assessment and program evaluation.

There are three avenues for assistance, depending on the individual's and the organization's needs and interests:

- A beginning tutorial on evaluation terms and concepts;
- Tip sheets on how to design an evaluation tool based on needs; or
- Examples of effective evaluation tools, plans and reports.

We also recommend you obtain a copy of *Focusing the Light*, a seven-volume series providing those who work in the arts and for nonprofits with strategies, tips and techniques for successful project planning, advocacy and evaluation. Copies may be ordered on the [OAC website](#) for the cost of shipping and handling.

2. What is the match requirement for the Arts Partnership program?

You must provide a 1:1 match. That is, you must match the amount of the grant you are requesting with an equal amount of cash or a combination of cash and in-kind contributions. If you are using a mix of cash and in-kind, up to 50 percent of this match may consist of in-kind contributions. In-kind contributions used for part of a cash match must be documented and submitted with your final report support materials.

In-kind contributions/donations:

Goods or services that are donated and not paid for by the applying organization, including volunteer time by a professional, office space, facilities and equipment rental, may be considered in-kind donations to your project. If in-kind donations are needed to meet a required match, written documentation must be provided. A letter signed by the provider that lists the service provided and its estimated value is adequate.

3. Are there any restrictions on funding?

Yes. There are legal requirements as well as funding restrictions. First, you should review the [Legal Requirements and Ohio Arts Council Rules](#). In addition to those requirements, the Arts Partnership category has these restrictions:

- Transportation for participants is an allowable expense, but cannot be more than 10 percent of the program budget or exceed \$1,000.
- Meals or snacks that are part of programming are permissible expenses. However, hospitality expenses, such as food for exhibition openings, receptions or public performances are not funded by the OAC.

4. How many consecutive years can I be funded for a particular project?

There is no definitive rule regarding how long an organization can seek funding for a particular project or program. The OAC understands that it may take several years for an organization, particularly one applying to the Arts Partnership program, to develop and become fully functional in the fulfillment of its program goals, objectives and outcomes. In order to make this determination, the OAC will be looking for continued evaluation of the project or program, as well as evidence that the organization is evolving and adapting to the needs of its constituents. We encourage you to include this topic in your discussion with the Arts Learning director or Arts Learning program coordinator, prior to completing your application.

Please visit the [Arts Learning page](#) for more FAQs.