

Funding Restrictions

The OAC cannot fund the following activities, organizations and expenditures:

Activities - General

1. Applications to eliminate or reduce existing deficits.
2. Interest expenses paid on loans or debts.
3. Hospitality expenses (e.g., food and beverages for openings, receptions or benefits).
4. Fundraising efforts (e.g., social events, benefits and entrepreneurial activities).
5. United Fund drives or joint arts funding campaigns.
6. Applications for projects that primarily present political, denominational, religious or sectarian ideas or projects that enhance the property of religious institutions.
7. Arts activities that are essentially recreational or therapeutic, except when the focus of the activities is on art-making led by [professional artists](#) and includes a public component, when appropriate.
8. Applications for arts activities that have already begun or have already occurred.
9. Applications that use as a match funds from other OAC [programs](#) or funds from re-grant programs supported by the OAC.
10. Applications for out-of-state travel, except for professional development, conferences or workshops.
11. Requests for artists' fees when information about the artists and samples of the artists' work have not been included in the [support materials](#).

Academic Activities

1. Scholarship assistance for academic credit.
2. Programs of public and private schools, including school districts, affiliates, colleges and universities that are not designed to involve the general public; this restriction does not affect the [Arts Partnership](#) program.
3. Applications to support salaries and overhead of public and private schools, college, university and government agency staff and faculty and operations.
4. Projects that are primarily for academic credit.

Organizations - Specific Situations

1. Applications from organizations not incorporated in Ohio and/or not located in Ohio.
2. Applications from organizations whose membership and participation policies do not comply with nondiscrimination laws.
3. Applications from organizations that are requesting or receiving funds from other OAC programs to operate the same or a similar [program](#) in the same fiscal year.
4. Applications from organizations that did not submit final reports within the time required for the preceding fiscal year.
5. Applications from organizations acting as [fiscal agents](#) for individual artists.
6. Applications from organizations where programming and facilities do not meet or exceed federal ADA requirements.

7. Applications for operating support from arts organizations that are receiving support from the legislature through a line in the state's operating budget during the same fiscal year in which legislative support is available.

Equipment and Capital Expenses

1. [Brick and mortar](#) activities and [capital improvements](#), except in the [Individual Excellence Awards](#).
2. Equipment purchases exceeding \$500, except in the Individual Excellence Awards.

Applications from Colleges, Universities and Government Agencies

All applications from colleges, universities and government agencies must:

1. Show how the applicant will involve the community outside the college, university or agency in planning or scheduling committees and in implementing the project.
2. Show how the project will be marketed to the general community beyond college or university students, faculty and staff or the agency.
3. Demonstrate a broad financial base of support and contain a cash match from other outside sources; that is, a match beyond staff time and overhead provided by the college, university or agency.

If the college, university, agency development office, or research foundation prohibits departments or programs from raising outside funds, the applicant must submit a statement of that policy signed by the development office along with the application. However, the OAC will continue to recommend that all applicants build a broad financial base for their projects and [programs](#). [Indirect costs](#) may not be used to match OAC funds if a grant is awarded; they should not be shown in the cash section of the application. Indirect costs, if listed, should be shown only in the in-kind section of the application.

Multiple Projects

Only one Sustainability application per funding cycle will be accepted from any applicant; when seeking Sustainability funding, combine all programming and projects into one application. If you wish to apply for Sustainability but also are planning a one-time [special project](#), you may submit an additional application for that activity to the appropriate [program](#); however, you must first contact OAC staff. The OAC reserves the right to determine whether an application is for a [special project](#) or for ongoing, annual operations.

No organization with a budget of less than \$1.5 million may receive more than \$40,000 in a fiscal year through any combination of grants from the [Sustainability](#) and [Project Support](#) programs. This cap excludes additional funding from all other programs. Direct any questions to the OAC staff before you submit an application. If you submit more than one application, you may be required to submit a budget spreadsheet if the OAC staff has questions about the way income and expenses are divided among your various requests. If a spreadsheet is required, the OAC will contact you.

Fiscal Agent Projects

Unincorporated nonprofit groups and incorporated nonprofit organizations that lack administrative or fiscal capability should submit grant applications to the OAC through a [fiscal agent](#). A fiscal agent is an incorporated, nonprofit, tax-exempt organization that provides administrative and financial services. Individual artists may not apply through a fiscal agent. Choose an organization with a proven record of financial and administrative stability. Consult the OAC staff about your fiscal agent before submitting your application. You may not submit a proposal through a fiscal agent that employs the project's coordinators or producers or includes them on its board.

The OAC reserves the authority to determine if an application qualifies as a fiscal agent project and if the representative organization qualifies as a fiscal agent. Based on the *Guidelines* that follow, the OAC staff will examine the application and [support materials](#) to verify that there is a legitimate fiscal agent relationship. The project coordinator and the fiscal agent organization must sign a letter of agreement or a contract that clearly details the legal responsibilities and obligations of each party. A copy of the signed agreement is required for any fiscal agent application and must be submitted by the application deadline for the appropriate [program](#). You may want to consult an attorney when drawing up this agreement.

It is common practice for fiscal agent organizations to charge a fee, often a percentage of the anticipated income of the project. The fiscal agent fee should be included as an expense item in the project budget on the application. You may request OAC funds for all or part of the fiscal agent fee.

If a [fiscal agent](#) project is awarded an OAC grant, the grant agreement is made between the OAC and the fiscal agent, not the project coordinator. The fiscal agent is responsible for all OAC paperwork and reporting, including revised budgets, missing information letters, grant agreements, [partial payment](#) requests and final reports. If documents are prepared by the project coordinator, they must be reviewed and signed by the authorized official of the fiscal agent organization.

Any correspondence regarding a fiscal agent-sponsored application or grant must be submitted either by the fiscal agent or jointly by the fiscal agent and the project producer or coordinator. The OAC strongly recommends that the fiscal agent maintain separate financial accounts for all projects it represents. The OAC will not act as an arbiter for disputes between the project coordinator and the fiscal agent organization. Project coordinators and organizations that are exploring a fiscal agent relationship may obtain information about the process from the OAC Office of Grants Administration & Operations.

PLEASE REFER TO APPENDICES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.