



CULTURAL ARTS GRANT GUIDELINES & INFORMATION

Visit Eau Claire is a non-stock, not-for-profit, private corporation, established to develop the tourism industry in the Eau Claire Area. Visit Eau Claire's revenue sources include annual appropriations from room tax dollars, a local business partnership program and various revenue generating programs and grants.

Grant Program

The purpose of the Cultural Arts Grant program is to assist organizations in hosting events that will promote a positive image to residents and potential visitors and create a desire to return. First consideration will be given to new and expanding festivals, cultural arts events and special events benefiting the City of Eau Claire. This is a competitive application, based on limited resource dollars. The grants are funded annually by the City of Eau Claire at the direction of the Eau Claire City Council and Wisconsin Arts Board.

Eligibility

- Non-profit organizations, volunteer managed organizations, and individuals may apply
- Organizations that receive money from the City of Eau Claire Community Enhancement Fund may only apply for specific projects and/or programs outside the scope of existing operations.

Application Guidelines

- All grants are encouraged to be matched on a dollar-for-dollar basis - matching funds include cash contributions, in-kind contributions or a combination of both
- In-kind services include complimentary contributions of space, materials, equipment or professional services (calculated on a local wage scale acceptable to Visit Eau Claire)
- Grants are not federally funded; therefore indirect (F&I) costs are not applicable.
- Choose the funding category best suited to your event
- Applications must be legible and signed by applicant – only complete applications will be considered
- Applicants must have a valid organization bank account (non-personal)
- All events must create a positive image of Eau Claire and the Chippewa Valley

Cultural Arts Grants Specifications

- Grant projects do not need to have a room night impact
- Shows nourishment of artistic expression and development
- Provides enhancement of enjoyment and understanding of arts and culture

Application Procedures

- Grant applications are reviewed twice a year – November 15 and April 15
- Late applications will NOT be accepted. On rare occasions, deadlines will be extended
- Indicate within the application the purpose of urgency if the event date occurs more than 6 months after the grant application is submitted
- Visit Eau Claire staff reviews applications and clarifies areas as needed with the applicant
- The Visit Eau Claire Grant Committee reviews and evaluates applications, completing a standard rating form, and makes funding recommendations to the Board of Directors for approval
- After the Board of Directors approval/denial (approximately six weeks after the application deadline) a written notification is forwarded to all applicants
- The Visit Eau Claire Board of Directors reserves the right to accept or reject any or all applications - all decisions made by the Board of Directors are final
- Grant funds are disbursed post-event – AFTER SUBMISSION OF THE REQUIRED FINAL EVALUATION REPORT

Review Criteria

- Completeness of application
- Level of community impact and public benefit
- Uniqueness of project
- Quality of the proposed project
- Evidence of careful financial planning
- Evidence of need and sustainability/growth potential

Ineligible Organizations & Programs

- Organizations that discriminate because of race, color, creed, gender, national origin or limited participation
- Political organizations, candidates for political office, and organizations whose primary purpose is to influence legislation
- Building (brick and mortar) or capital campaigns
- Staffing/administrative costs
- Individuals and organizations which have not fulfilled all previous grant administrative guidelines
- Fraternal organizations, churches of church-related groups with proposals which promote religion or an individual doctrine