

Dillsboro Glass Arts Festival

Morgan Kennedy

Submission Date

Oct 27, 2025 1:34 PM

Name of Initiative

Dillsboro Creative Arts Center--aka-Jackson Co Green Energy Park

Contact Person

Morgan Kennedy

Title

Project Manager

Address

100 Green Energy Park rd ,

City

Sylva

State

North Carolina

Zip Code

28779

Primary Phone Number

4143368089

Email

morgankennedy@jacksonnc.org

Organization Type

Government

Time of Year of Initiative

Off Peak (Dec - March) preferred

Describe the timing of the initiative in as much detail as possible (please list key project dates, milestones, timeframes, etc.)

The Dillsboro Glass Arts Festival.
Located in Dillsboro, NC. On the newly acquired lot next to RNR tavern.
To be held Saturday, March 28th

Describe your initiative

A celebration of the glass arts! Increasingly, glass has become synonymous with our region. Many top organizations and glass artists call our region home. The DCAC or Dillsboro Creative Arts Center was founded as the JCGEP- Green Energy Park over 15 years ago as the only glass blowing facility in the world operating off recaptured landfill gas. As the project manager here, I want to create an annual festival/ gathering in our small town that helps to both celebrate and showcase this creative world. The following is a working list of the event

- 6 + Portable glassblowing units that would demonstrate and showcase the diversity and quality of some of our top regional glassblowers. Artists from GA, TN, NC, and beyond would be invited for this first year. I want to showcase top regional glass artists. We would have several demonstration tents where activities would occur.
- Regional Glass arts programs like Penland, NC Glass Center, John C Campbell, and more would be invited to participate.
- Small regional glass studio and regional gallery will also be invited to participate and showcase their organization or studio.
- Boro- Lampworking demonstrations and artists would also be solicited to attend (just no drug pipe makers). Ideally, I would like to have 6 lampworking tents operating at the event.
- Glass vendors would be solicited in the following areas: glassblowing, casting, slump-work, lampworking, and stained glass. —40 + vendors. (We would make the event costs accessible for our vendors vs the typical high \$150+ often charged by regular arts events.
- The material suppliers may also be invited.
- Innovation Brewery will be a partner offering and supplying beer, food trucks, and vendor parking lot space.
- Arts demonstrations, art vendors, beer, food trucks, and music.
- Bring visibility to Dillsboro and Jackson County.
- Ideally, this would be an annual event.

Describe what previous experience applicant has in successful execution of similar endeavors

I have 25 years of experience as a practicing artist, academic, curator, and program organizer. My current position as project manager enables me to organize pop-up shows, events, and markets. We have an extensive community engagement program here at the park- the Dillsboro Markers Market, an annual arts & crafts market, was created through our organization

Website

<https://jcgep.org/>

Social Media Channels - paste URLs below

jcgreenenergypark- instagram. dillsboromakersmarket-instsgram. Jackson County Green Energy Park- facebook

Amount of Funds Requested?

\$5000-6000

Date Funds Needed

Feb 2, 2026

Give a narrative description of how this project will increase tourism and visitation in Jackson County

The Glass Arts Festival would be a unique Arts festival that showcases the organizations, artists, galleries, and vendors of our greater region- GA, NC, TN. We would seek to promote and advertise the event in each of these communities. By including other regional organizations and partners, we hope they can aid in its promotions. The Town and County have offered support and services to help with the event. Hopefully, the uniqueness of the event would attract guests/visitors

If this initiative has occurred before, what is new that differentiates it from prior years?

New event concept with the intention of it being a recurring event.

What is your advertising and marketing plan for your initiative?

Most of the requested funds would be used for advertising. Electronic billboards, printed billboards, print ads, BPR, social media, and traditional flyers would be employed. Our partnering organization, I hope, would also help with social media networking

Do you agree to acknowledge the 'Jackson County TDA' in materials as required? Any releases or ad placements should have a statement that "the event was made possible, in part, by the Jackson County TDA." Print ad placements, where/when possible should include the JCTDA logo.

Yes

Total anticipated cost of initiative

20000-26000

Total funds your organization will provide toward total cost?

20000

Detail funds requested from other sources and note commitments or anticipated receipt of funds from other sources

As the overseeing organization for the NC Grassroots Arts Grants for our county, we get \$18868 to use for arts promotion, Jackson County-based programming. Our organization had additional funding lines for special events and advertising support- this total adds \$5000 to the pool. The county will allow the use of the grounds for free. The town will provide portajons and policing.

Please upload your detailed budget, including event or initiative expenses and revenue. You can attach a spreadsheet (Excel), PDF, or Word Document.



D-glass arts fest- budget.docx
14.82 KB

Anticipated Attendees from Jackson County:

500+

Anticipated Attendees from outside Jackson County:

3000

Anticipated overnight stays generated:

700

How did you determine audience/attendance numbers and where do they come from?

Our Makers market generally gets 500 local attendees. Estimating advertising in Ga, TN, and the Asheville area, we should be able to get 3000, which is comparable with other regional events. Of the 3000 estimated at least 1000 will come from further away and may stay in the region to make a weekend out of it.

How will you measure success of your initiative?

Attendance numbers.
Artist/participant feedback.
Event - flyer, QR scans, and a social media review collecting system to be employed.
Vendor feedback
Town, county, and partner feedback.

Upload any supporting documentation for your application here:

 **DILLSBORO GLASS ARTS FEDTIVAL.docx**
84.08 KB

Is there anything else you'd like to add?

This is a new concept and event. It aims to do a couple of things. Bring energy and tourism to the town of Dillsboro. Help showcase the DCAC- Dillsboro Creative Arts Center(JCGEP), promote the arts, and help support regional organizations, artists, and studios. and to celebrate GLASS.. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Signature:





THE DILLSBORO GLASS ARTS FESTIVAL.

-Sponsored by the Dillsboro Creative Arts Center, located at the JCGEP In Dillsboro, NC.

-Located in Dillsboro, NC. On the newly acquired lot next to RNR tavern.

-To be held Saturday, March 28th -Free to the public.

Free parking and shuttle service to and from Monteith Park town. In-town parking upon availability.

A celebration of the glass arts! Increasingly, glass has become synonymous with our region. Many top organizations and glass artists call our region home. The DCAC or Dillsboro Creative Arts Center was founded as the JCGEP- Green Energy Park over 15 years ago as the only glass blowing facility in the world operating off recaptured landfill gas. As the project manager here, I want to create an annual festival/ gathering in our small town that helps to both celebrate and showcase this creative world. The following is a working list of the event

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- Regional Glass arts programs like Penland, NC Glass Center, John C Campbell, and more would be invited to participate.
- Small regional glass studio and regional gallery will also be invited to participate and showcase their organization or studio.
- Boro- Lampworking demonstrations and artists would also be solicited to attend (just no drug pipe makers). Ideally, I would like to have 6 lampworking tents operating at the event. 6 to 10 demo booths.
- Glass vendors would be solicited in the following areas: glassblowing, casting, slump-work, lampworking, and stained glass. —40 + vendors. (We would make the event costs accessible for

our vendors vs the typical high \$150+ often charged by regular arts events.---thinking to charge \$50 per booth.

- The material suppliers may also be invited.
- Innovation Brewery will be a partner offering and supplying beer, food trucks, and vendor parking lot space.
- Town-based food venues will play a supportive role in feeding guests.
- Arts demonstrations, art vendors, beer, food trucks, and music.
- Bring visibility to Dillsboro and Jackson County.
- Ideally, this would be an annual event.

PROJECTED BUDGET:

- Policing and Porta Jons- Free and covered by the town.
- 6 Glass blowing units @ \$1500 contract per studio/artist===== \$9000
- Gas costs for glassblowing. (2 tanks per unit, \$200 per unit)===== \$1200
- Generator costs- possibly needed expense. ===== \$1000
- Boro lampworking units 6-10 units (\$100 stipend for gas
Costs per booth, artists would get a free booth and be able to sell work.=====\$1000
- Event Tent===== \$3000
- Banners/signage===== \$1200
- Print advertising===== \$1000
- Billboards===== \$4500
- Unforeseen extras===== \$1000

Sub Total. \$22,900

SPONSORS/PARTNERS

TOWN OF DILLSBORO

JACKSON COUNTY MANAGERS' OFFICE

INNOVATION BREWERY

NC GLASS CENTER

BASCOM CENTER FOR VISUAL ARTS

FREEMAN GAS

DESIRED ADDITIONAL PARTNERS:

JAM GLASS GALLERY

LEXINGTON GLASS

SMALL BATCH GLASS BLOWING

HEARTH GLASS GALLERY

PENDLAND SCHOOL OF CRAFT

STAR WORKS

JOHN C CAMPBELL FOLK SCHOOL

DILLSBORO GLASS ARTS FESTIVAL

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