

2026 ORGANIZATIONAL PROJECT GRANT GUIDELINES & GENERAL INFORMATION

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Horizons Grants Program is funded by a group of private individuals and businesses that provide grant dollars for the development of the cultural life in our community. The Horizons Organizational Project Grants category was established by the Salina Arts & Humanities in 1985. All Horizons grant programs are administered by Arts & Humanities staff and funded through the Salina Arts & Humanities Foundation. This 501(c)3 board operates separately from the Commission and gives final approval to staff-recommended grant requests. They also determine the annual budget for Horizons based on annual contributions and fund balances.

Expected Program Outcomes:

1. Demonstrate a commitment to artistic excellence and community involvement
2. Support innovative projects that engage patrons and audience members as active participants
3. Encourage the development of strategic partnerships within the community to strengthen the reach of their activities

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Any nonprofit organization or local governmental unit in Saline County may apply. Nonprofit organizations must be incorporated and be recognized as tax-exempt by the Internal Revenue Service. All applicants must agree to abide by federal and state laws regarding civil rights, access for people with disabilities, and other non-discriminatory provisions.

Though applications may only be submitted by nonprofit organizations and local governmental units, SAH encourages unincorporated groups to develop projects for funding. These groups should attempt to locate at least one eligible partner willing to apply on their behalf and serve as a fiscal agent for the grant funds. Groups seeking the services of a suitable fiscal agent are encouraged to notify the SAH department staff for assistance in the process.

APPLICATION CYCLE

Applications open May 1, 2025, and are due November 1, 2025, for projects which take place during the 2026 Grant Cycle (February 1 – November 30).

To be eligible for consideration.

- Intent to apply must be received by Anna Pauscher Morawitz four (4) weeks prior to the deadline for returning applicants (by October 4, 2025) and six (6) weeks before the deadline for first-time applicants (by September 20, 2025).
- Applications must be submitted online by 11:59 pm on November 1, 2025.

PROGRAM GUIDELINES

In order to make appropriate use of limited funds, Salina Arts & Humanities has developed the following guidelines for the Horizons Organizational Project Grants category: **Please note: applicants must schedule an appointment with SAH staff to review the proposed project before writing and submission.**

1. Grants are for projects only and may not be used for general operating support.
2. Up to 20% of the project costs may be allocated for administrative expenses. In cases where a fiscal agent is used by an unincorporated organization, a fee appropriate to services (typically no more than 7-10%) may be allocated from the 20% of administrative costs.
3. Grants are awarded on a one-to-one (1:1) matching basis. Applicant organizations may apply for up to \$6,000. Applications that show diversified matching funds from various community sources will be given preference. SAH encourages applicants to charge reasonable admission fees or identify other sources of earned income where appropriate. Grant dollars are provided for underwriting the applicant's stated purpose and are awarded for a period not to exceed one grant cycle.
4. Projects may be for cultural programming (such as concerts and exhibitions), educational and professional artist visits, commissioning of new work, festival activities, or various other cultural projects that will build community and change lives.

This program will also support applications for organizational, technical assistance, or capacity-building projects designed to strengthen existing organizations, especially when such projects utilize the expertise of recognized professionals. Applicants must describe how these projects will strengthen their programming, further their mission, and benefit the community at large.

5. In general, Horizons Project funds may **NOT** be used for:
 - purchase of capital items such as existing works of art, instruments, office equipment, or real property
 - extensive travel
 - tuition or scholarships to obtain an undergraduate or graduate degree
 - projects which are already completed or will be completed outside the grant cycle
 - elimination of an accumulated deficit
 - fundraisers
6. Organizations may submit up to two grant applications with a maximum total request of \$6,000. However, the Horizons Project grant process will take into account an organization's total annual funding level when determining a fair and equitable distribution of limited funds. In cases where an organization is serving as a fiscal agent for an unincorporated organization, the funding received for the fiscal agent project will not be counted as part of the annual total grant award.
7. The Horizons Project grant strongly encourages applications that are collaborative in nature. This collaboration can be between the applicant and artists, other cultural organizations, social service, and community-based organizations. Details of the collaboration must be clearly explained, and the collaboration must be authentic, with the goals and responsibilities of each contributing partner clearly defined.

GRANT REVIEW CRITERIA

Please carefully review the following scoring criteria and address all of them in your proposal. The reviewing process will use a 100-point scoring system to score applications and will consider the following criteria when reviewing the grant application:

Artistic Merit – 40 pts

- ◆ Quality of the applicant’s current and past artistic activities—Clear and concise proposal narrative that describes sound and artistically strong program activities (up to 15 points)
- ◆ Professionalism and artistic merit of individuals proposed for the project—Succinct biographies of key stakeholders that demonstrate professional experience and artistic ability (up to 15 points)
- ◆ Relationship between the proposed project and the applicant’s mission statement—Clear connection between the project concept and the applicant’s mission (up to 10 points)

Community Involvement – 40 pts

- ◆ Extent to which the project explores and develops partnerships with local and regional organizations—Demonstrates broad community partnership (up to 10 points)
- ◆ Extent to which the project demonstrates broad-based community impact and willingness to collaborate and network within the community—Community impact that is clearly defined and developed (up to 10 points)
- ◆ Applicant’s willingness to use Horizons funds to develop and strengthen current program offerings by using the arts to build community and change lives—Evidence of programming intended to build community and positively impact residents’ lives by utilizing the arts to do so (up to 20 points)

Financial and Organizational Management – 20 pts

- ◆ Administrative competency of the applicant, including evidence of careful planning and quality program management— Clear and concise proposal narrative that describes sound planning (up to 5 points) and strong staff credentials (up to 5 points)
- ◆ Use of appropriate and diverse evaluation and documentation strategies, including, but not limited to: surveys, comment cards, attendance figures, journals, etc.—Well-planned, realistic evaluation strategy with clear, measurable goals (up to 5 points)
- ◆ Appropriate budget and fiscal responsibility of the applicant—Program budget with reasonable and feasible funds for the project and a history of fiscal responsibility as demonstrated by financial statement (up to 5 pts)

HOW TO APPLY

1. Notify Anna Pauscher Morawitz of your intent to apply for funding at least four (4) weeks prior to the deadline for returning applicants (by October 4, 2025) and six (6) weeks prior to the deadline for first-time applicants (by September 20, 2025) in advance of the November 1 deadline. If required, SAH staff will arrange a short, informal meeting to provide the necessary information and assistance in preparing application materials. **Please note: first-time applicants MUST meet with staff before writing a grant.**
2. **APPLICATION.** Complete the online application form. Answer all questions as clearly and concisely as possible. Be sure to keep a copy of the application for your records. The completed application and all requested attachments (see “Support Materials” below) must be submitted to SAH by November 1, 2025.

3. **SUPPORT MATERIALS.** Applicants must submit the following support materials with the application (Electronic/PDF versions are best, we will accept physical copies if necessary):
- Resumes or bios for the applicant and any other key personnel involved in the proposed project.
 - Promotional materials (5 or fewer) from past activities such as brochures, press releases, newspaper articles, exhibition catalogs, concert programs, etc. This shows panelists in concrete ways public profile and how the applicant is presenting themselves to constituents or the public.
 - Letters of support (3). Letters show panelists that there is support for the proposed project. A letter may also show evidence of the applicant having arranged important project collaboration. PLEASE NOTE: refrain from writing a letter of support for another applicant. It creates a conflict of interest.
 - Work Samples. Please submit up to six (6) pieces of documentation materials that are **directly related** to this proposal, which will be beneficial to the evaluator and the panelists in their deliberations. Examples: digital images or audio or video recordings/links, literary writing, musical scores, etc.

FUNDING PROCEDURES

1. The staff of the Salina Arts and Humanities provides assistance and advice to applicants but does not adjudicate the applications.

Applications will be reviewed and scored, according to the criteria, by a panel that includes representatives from various art disciplines and organizations from outside Salina. Panelists are instructed to score on the content of the grant application only, not on any prior knowledge of the applicant. The panel recommendations will be presented to the Salina Arts & Humanities Foundation for final approval, with notification shortly thereafter.

2. Final funding recommendations will be made by formula. Three types of decisions may be made:
- A. Applicant receives funding amount requested;
 - B. Applicant receives less funding than requested; or
 - C. Applicant receives no funding.

If the award is funded in an amount less than requested by the applicant, the organization must submit a revised project plan and revised budget if the funds are not adequate to cover the original project as described in the application. The revised project plan and/or revised budget must be received before grant funds will be dispersed.

3. Applicants will be informed of funding decisions by letter during the last week of January.
4. **Final Reports must be submitted online at www.salinaarts.com.** Final Report requirements include project documentation and evidence of outcomes achieved. Documentation must include photographs for use by SAH; jpeg format, 300 dpi.
5. If funding is awarded, a check for 90% of the grant amount will be sent to the Grantee upon receipt of a signed agreement but no sooner than 30 days before the project starting date. A Final Report form will be due 30 days after the project completion date or no later than December 15, 2026. Upon receipt of an approved Final Report, the balance of the grant dollars will be mailed.

NOTE: if the Final Report has not been received within 30 days of the project completion date, the balance of the grant dollars shall be forfeited.

6. If an applicant believes a funding decision was based on erroneous or inadequate information, a written request for a formal appeal concerning the application in question may be submitted within 30 days from the date of the funding decision letter. Only the applicant may appeal. Upon reviewing the material, the Foundation may
 - A. Deny the request;
 - B. Invite the applicant to a formal hearing; or
 - C. Amend the grant decision.

Fiscal Agent

1. Unincorporated groups not recognized as tax-exempt by the Internal Revenue Service must locate an eligible partnering agency to serve as fiscal agent. This partnering agency must be included in the application. Contact SAH staff with questions or if you need help finding an eligible agency.

Other Grant Opportunities

Applications for Horizons Enrichment Grants of \$500 to \$1,000 may be submitted anytime between February 1 – November 30; however, the application must be postmarked at least four (4) weeks before the starting date of the activity (6 weeks for first-time applicants). These are limited in number and are especially appropriate for first-time organization applicants who have an unexpected opportunity to enrich the organization and the community. There is no required match for these funds. Organizations applying for a Horizons Enrichment Grant may apply for an Organizational Project grant in the same year. However, Enrichment Grant Awardees will skip a year before reapplying for a second enrichment grant. Visit salinaarts.com for separate guidelines and application forms for *Horizons Enrichment Grant*.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Any grant funds received in conjunction with this application shall be expended only for the project as described in the application form. Any changes in this project or budget must be submitted in writing and are subject to the approval of the Salina Arts and Humanities Foundation.

The Horizons Grants Program is funded in part through private donations from the Horizons donors group. During the grant process, artists or key project personnel may be requested to participate in an activity for donors. If necessary, additional artistic costs will be assumed by the Horizons program. Also, requests for special seating, showings, or other appropriate activities may be made, working in cooperation with the Grantee.

Applicant must comply with Title IV of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and, where applicable, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. Title IV, Section 504, and Title IX prohibit discrimination based on race, color, national origin, handicap, or sex.

If funds are awarded, Grantees must maintain financial records relating to this project for a period of three (3) years and are subject to periodic audits by SAH. In addition, SAH reserves the right to monitor the Grantee to ensure that the applicable terms of the grant are being met.

The Grantee shall provide the Salina Arts and Humanities Foundation/City of Salina with a certificate of insurance, indicating general liability coverage of not less than \$500,000.