



2025 Arts DuPage Grant Guidelines

Through the *Arts DuPage* grant program, DuPage Foundation supports programs and projects that offer broad access, outreach and/or unique opportunities to enrich arts and cultural experiences for DuPage County residents.

Applications must be submitted online by **5:00 p.m. on Friday, September 5, 2025**. Applications received after that time will not be considered.

Grant Opportunities

Seed Grants – \$5,000

Organizations that have had their 501(c)(3) designation for less than three years are eligible to apply for a 1:1 matching grant. These grants are intended to help new organizations raise funds from individual donors and through hosting fundraising events. If awarded a grant, funding will be distributed when proof that the matching dollar amount has been secured. Matching funds must be raised during the grant period.

Sustain Grants – up to \$25,000

Organizations that have had their 501(c)(3) designation for more than three years are eligible to apply for funding to support programs.

- Applicants requesting \$5,000 or less will complete a streamlined version of the application.
- Applicants requesting more than \$5,000 will be required to provide additional financial information and will need to respond to questions about sustainability, collaboration, and specific program outcomes.

Grant Priorities

- Primarily supports programs and projects that offer broad access, outreach, and/or unique opportunities to enrich arts and cultural experiences for DuPage County residents.
- Organization is a member of *Arts DuPage*.
- Organization regularly posts events and programs on artsdupage.org.

Eligibility

Applications for an *Arts DuPage* grant will be accepted from not-for-profit charitable organizations that:

- Are public charities classified as exempt from federal income taxes under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- Primarily serve DuPage County residents (50% or more of total clients); or
 - Provide services in facilities physically located in DuPage County; or
 - Have a demonstrated presence such as an existing track record of programming with specific DuPage-focused outcomes, a DuPage-specific budget and board members located in DuPage.

Restrictions

Applications will not be accepted from:

- Individuals
- Organizations for religious activities (secular activities provided by religious organizations may be eligible for grant funding)

- Organizations that have received grants from unrestricted or field-of-interest funds through the *Community Impact* and/or the *Arts DuPage* grant programs for the past three consecutive years
- Disease-specific organizations
- Private foundations and private operating foundations
- Hospitals, including supporting foundations
- Governmental agencies, including supporting foundations
- Public, parochial, private, or charter schools (pre-k through 12th grade), including supporting foundations

Additionally, the Foundation does not award grants through the *Arts DuPage* grant program for:

- Endowments
- Historical society and their related foundations for projects that do not have a broad reach beyond a specific community

Funding Guidelines

When applying for a grant, please note the following:

- Only one application per organization may be submitted within any calendar year through the *Arts DuPage* grant program or the *Community Impact* grant program.
- Applications may be submitted for existing or new projects, programs, or operating purposes.
- Grants are awarded for a one-year period.
- Event-related programs occurring before January 2026 will not be considered.
- Applications that do not contain all the requested information in the specified format may be denied.
- DuPage Foundation strives to fully fund grant requests received from its applicants. At the same time, the Foundation receives requests far in excess of the dollars actually available. *As a result, it is strongly advised that the amount of a grant request be thoughtfully considered and accompanied by budgetary rationale to ensure that the amount requested represents the needs of the organization.*

Online Grant Application Process

Organizations may submit one application for the *Arts DuPage* or the *Community Impact* grant program per calendar year. Applications must be submitted online by **5:00 p.m. on Friday, September 5, 2025**.

Proposals must be submitted via the online grant application process.

To begin the online grant application process, applicants will need to create an account by providing basic information (email address, password, name, organization, EIN#, address, etc.). Once you have initially created your account, you will be able to access current and past grant applications.

The following is a tutorial that has been provided by our vendor, Foundant, to help you create an account and begin completing your application: [Applicant Tutorial](#)

Application Review Process

Members of the Foundation's Grant Committee and the *Arts DuPage* Advisory Committee will evaluate applications and make funding recommendations to the full Board of Trustees for approval. All applicants will be notified via email whether or not a grant has been awarded. Notification will be sent in mid-November.

Application Questions

Please contact Debbie Venezia, Director of Arts DuPage, at 630.598.5299 or debbie@dupagefoundation.org, with questions concerning the *Arts DuPage* grant program and the application process.

Funds

Grants are made from the earnings of permanent endowment funds established by corporations, foundations, individuals and organizations wishing to make a lasting contribution to the people of DuPage County. *Arts DuPage* grants will be funded from earnings on the following funds:

Unrestricted Funds

Conrad and Doris Brassine Charitable Fund
Cleve E. Carney Fund
Lois L. and Edwin F. Deicke Fund
DuPage Forever Fund
Elizabeth D. Eben Memorial Fund

Alan D. and Jane M. Hoffmann Fund
Joseph and Bess Kindlon Fund
Jack and Virginia Knuepfer Fund
John W. Squire Fund

Field-of-Interest Fund

Arts Fund

Founding donor: WPWR-TV Channel 50 Foundation (1994)

For artistic endeavors including, but not limited to, performing and visual arts, art exhibits, and arts education.

Additional Funding

Regional Arts Partner

As a designated Regional Arts Partner (RAP) of the Illinois Arts Council, Arts DuPage receives regranting funds to support projects that foster the cultural development of underserved populations in DuPage County.