

Proposed Thrive Program Framework

The Title VI Conciliation Agreement established a Working Group comprised of individuals representing Metro Arts, Metro Legal, Metro Finance, Metro Human Relations Commission, and an artist representative. This group collaboratively developed this proposal to require Thrive applicants identify a fiscal sponsor if they are not a 501c3 nonprofit organization. This change is required because Tennessee state law requires grants and grant contracts be between Metro Arts and nonprofit organizations. This policy must be approved by the Arts Commission and Council. Once approved, Metro Arts will incorporate these changes into the existing Thrive guidelines to administer the program.

Criteria

Criteria for ranking/scoring would be the same as the prior year. Grading/scoring of applications will be completed by selected panel of arts community.

Funding

- Recommended between \$2,000 and \$20,000.
- Based on ranking and funding availability (some may not get funded).
- Based on Grant Spending Plan (if this information was not provided in the original application, Metro Arts will provide a form that must be submitted with updated application).
- Will result in contracts between Metro Arts and a fiscal agent (if the original applicant is not a 501c3 nonprofit organization).
- Grant ranges and total Thrive Program dollars will be determined by the Commission.

Fiscal Agency Framework

- All applicants must be a 501c3 Arts Orgs **OR** supply a Fiscal Agency Letter with a corresponding letter of agreement.
 - o Applicable 501c3s are defined as follows: *A 501c3 nonprofit charitable or civic organization involved in the study, participation in and appreciation of the visual, performing and literary arts for the Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County area. If the organization or fiscal agent is not an arts organization by its primary mission, then the proposed project must involve the study, participation and appreciation of the arts within the Community or mission areas of the organization.*
- Applicants that are not 501c3 Organizations have the option of connecting with their own eligible Fiscal Agent **OR** select from a pool of 5-7 Fiscal Agents.
 - o Arts will be directed to identify organizations that agree to serve as the fiscal agent
- Form letters of fiscal agency and agreement will be provided. These will outline the expectations and roles and responsibilities of the applicant and the fiscal agent.
- FY2025 applicants will be notified and Submittable will be opened for a period of time for applicants to submit this new information.
 - o Arts will provide training in concert with the identified fiscal agents on how fiscal agency works and what they need to know. The training will be recorded and accessible on the Arts website.

- Fiscal Agents may charge no more than 10% admin fees, but this should be negotiated by the applicant and the FA. Arts Commission (or staff) may make a recommendation on administrative fees.

Grantee Timeline

In addition to outreach prior to this program being started, Arts anticipates holding a two week training period. It is recommended that grantees will have four weeks total to edit grant proposals, add fiscal agents, upload required documents, and resubmit. The four weeks is inclusive of the training period.

Anticipated updates and changes include:

- Letters of Fiscal Agency and Agreement (templates will be provided by Arts).
- Any updates needed to refresh/modify the projects that were previously submitted (i.e., if project dates have changed due to the timing, etc.).
- Grant Spending Plan, if not already included.

Granting, Reimbursement, and Reporting

- The Fiscal Agents contract includes the exhibits of the Letter of Fiscal Agency and Letter of Agreement.
- As a matter of the contract, Organizations (Fiscal Agents or the direct applicant if it is a 501c3 organization) will receive 90% of the grant up front and the remaining after the final report is submitted. Organizations and applicants may include a negotiated draw schedule (i.e., when the funding is released from the fiscal agent to the applicant) in their Letter of Agreement.
- Applicant/artist is responsible for reporting. Reports should be signed off by Fiscal Agent.

Conflicts and Eligibility

- Serving as a FA **may or may not disqualify** an organization from receiving an Operating Grant. This is a Commission decision to determine if they will implement a policy that disqualifies organizations from receiving both grants.
- The Working Group recommends that serving as a fiscal agent/partner with a Small grant applicant could provide additional points in the first couple years of this program.