



Fine Arts Fund Grant Guidelines

Through the Fine Arts Fund, The Community Foundation of Kankakee River Valley will provide grants to non-profit community organizations in the Greater Kankakee River Valley Area. The Fine Arts Grants Committee select grants for funding in response to applications submitted through the Community Foundation's online grant application portal. The committee will submit their recommendations for final approval to the Community Foundation Board of Directors.

Grantmaking Priorities

The Fine Arts Fund will award grants in the following areas:

- Painting (ex. Murals, artwork that bring people together)
- Music (ex. Supporting music programs in schools as well as local symphonies, orchestras, bands, and choirs)
- Literature (ex. Sponsoring authors to speak at local libraries)
- Architecture (ex. Supporting programs for children to learn about the field of architecture and local architectural history)
- Sculpture (ex. Commissioning sculptures for shared community spaces)
- Performing Arts (ex. Support to produce local theatre and musicals)
- Film (ex. Support the making of documentaries highlighting local people and history)

Projects Generally Not Funded

While the Fine Arts Fund attempts to remain flexible to community needs, in general, grants are not intended to support:

- Religious purposes (However, grants may be given to religious organizations for programs or projects that are consistent with the Fine Arts Fund grant priorities)
- Purchase of advertising
- Capital or operation debt reduction; however, capital items needed for training purposes will be considered
- Political campaigns or to support attempts to influence legislative issues of any governmental body
- Multiple proposals from one organization

Are There Expense Categories Discouraged by the Community Foundation which could jeopardize selection?

- **Expenses for technology with shorter-term life/use.**
- **Administrative costs (particularly salary, fringe benefits, space, general office expenses such as utilities, office equipment, supplies, etc.)**

The Community Foundation of Kankakee River Valley operates without discrimination as to race, religion, sex, and national origin in considering grant requests from agencies and organizations.

Community Foundation Grant Making

In its first Grant Cycle, grants will be awarded up to \$2,500 to one or more organization. The Community Foundation will consider only one request from a single (organization) entity.

Proposals are reviewed, evaluated, and recommended by the Fine Arts Grants Committee with the Community Foundation Board of Directors approving the final award recommendations. Because the Foundation cannot fund all the requests it receives, the Committee and the Board of Directors rely on the following general policies and considerations for award selections.

- Grant applications are to adhere strictly to the grant application instructions.
- Grant awards are to be made only to those nonprofit organizations and programs operating within the Greater Kankakee River Valley Area.
- Awards through the Fine Arts Fund are made only to organizations currently holding charitable 501(c)(3) classifications as designated by the Internal Revenue Service, or to quasi-governmental agencies, e.g., school districts, libraries, park districts, etc.
- Awards are intended to be made for one year at a time. Multiple-year awards may be considered if circumstances justify; however, potential for sustainability after the grant award period may receive favored judging. Please articulate commitments for sustaining your program.
- The evaluation process may include an on-site visit by Foundation representatives.
- Awardees may reapply in subsequent years by re-submitting full applications in subsequent funding cycles.

How Does an Organization Apply?

Carefully read and adhere to the grant application instructions. It is important that all requested information is provided. If you have questions, you may contact the Community Foundation Office at 815-939-1611 or by email at mia@cfkrv.org. The link to the online application is available at: www.cfkrv.org.

How Are Grant Applications Evaluated?

After initial review and screening by the Community Foundation Administration, the Fine Arts Grants Committee review and recommend applications for awards primarily based on the following criteria:

- The visibility and impact of the project.
- The project should be currently actionable
- The need for and the significance of the project should be obvious and relatively simple to communicate to the community.
- Successful outcomes and the impact of the project should be readily identifiable, measurable, and reported to the community via the media.
- The receiving organization needs to demonstrate that it has the necessary experience and capacity to successfully implement and execute the project.
- The proposed project should demonstrate how it is creative and how it has the potential to stimulate the interest of the public and media.

Grant Follow-up

All recipients of a Fine Arts Fund grant must select a reporting option to report on their project/program. All follow up forms will be available for viewing and submission in the grant application portal.