



FOUNDATION FOR METROWEST

Arts & Culture Grant Program: 2023 Guidelines

Foundation for MetroWest (FFMW) envisions a region where artistic and cultural initiatives are centered as a key component to cultivating vibrant communities and a sense of belonging for all residents. Our mission for the 2023 Arts & Culture Grant Program is to invest in local nonprofit organizations whose primary mission is to provide access to arts and cultural initiatives in the region.

This year, the Foundation for MetroWest seeks to award **one-time general operating grants of up to \$10,000*** to support arts & culture nonprofits in MetroWest. Grant decisions and amounts will be determined based on a variety of factors, including:

- Organization size – understanding the impact of a grant of this size for your organization
- Location(s) of impact – demonstrating commitment to MetroWest and role in the region’s cultural ecosystem
- Organization impact and reach – including population served, type(s) of programming offered, etc.
- Alignment with the Foundation’s priorities outlined below

*Maximum grant size will be 10% of the organization’s annual operating budget or \$10,000, whichever is less.

In 2023, the Foundation will be prioritizing organizations that are demonstrating a commitment to one or more of the following:

- Proactively providing equitable access to arts education, visual arts, or performing arts initiatives for marginalized and under resourced residents
- Celebrating and/or preserving the region’s vast history and cultural heritage
- Encouraging and increasing opportunities for culturally diverse voices and communities to create and participate in arts & cultural activities
- Promoting arts & culture as an engine of social and economic vitality in the region
- Fostering innovation and community collaboration

As our MetroWest communities continue to change and evolve, we recognize the importance of arts & culture to help us learn, connect, thrive, and celebrate one another. We look forward to hearing how we can consider supporting nonprofit partners in need of additional funding to sustain their efforts or transform their work to benefit MetroWest.

GRANT PROCESS

The 2023 grant cycle is an online process and will operate based on the following timeline:

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| • August 14 th , 9:00 AM | Applications open online: www.bit.ly/ffmw_foundant |
| • September 15 th , 5:00 PM | Deadline for proposals |
| • October 16 th to November 3 rd | Site visits / follow-up conversations** |
| • Week of December 4 th | Applicants notified of decision |

**Please note that we are unable to visit every applicant due to limited capacity. If you are not chosen to receive a site visit, this in no way serves as a reflection of your organization or your likelihood of receiving funding.

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must:

- Have 501(c)(3) tax status as a registered nonprofit organization OR have an eligible fiscal sponsor
- Not discriminate in the hiring of staff or the provision of services on the basis of race, religion, gender or gender identity, sexual orientation, age, national origin, or disability
- Serve one or more of the following MetroWest cities/towns: Acton, Ashland, Boxborough, Carlisle, Concord, Dedham, Dover, Framingham, Harvard, Holliston, Hopkinton, Hudson, Lexington, Lincoln, Marlborough, Maynard, Medfield, Medway, Millis, Natick, Needham, Sherborn, Southborough, Stow, Sudbury, Walpole, Waltham, Wayland, Wellesley, Westborough, Weston, Westwood

Ineligible organizations or requests include:

- City/town agencies, including libraries
- Individuals
- Schools – private, public, pre-K, charter, or Chapter 766
- Human service organizations providing arts-based programs to their clients

SELECTION CRITERIA

When reviewing proposals, Foundation staff and Distribution Committee members will prioritize organizations who:

- have a strong and existing commitment to serving MetroWest
- demonstrate strong leadership and financial stability or a commitment to achieving financial stability
- have a clear and meaningful impact on the community as a whole or their intended beneficiaries
- clearly articulate how funding from the Foundation will be meaningful for the organization

HOW TO APPLY

1. Beginning August 14th applicants will have access to the application form online.
2. If your organization is new to FFMW, please create an account.
 - a. www.bit.ly/ffmw_foundant
 - b. See <https://bit.ly/applicanttutorialffmw> for a short video tutorial.
3. If your organization has applied to FFMW in the past, please log into your existing account.
 - a. www.bit.ly/ffmw_foundant
4. Once you are logged into your account, click on the Apply icon from the top menu bar.
5. Select **2023 Arts & Culture Grant Program**.

GRANT DECISIONS

Awards will be determined the week of December 4th. All applicants will be notified by email of decisions.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: September 15, 2023 AT 5:00 PM

If you have questions regarding the eligibility or suitability of your organization or proposal, please email grants@foundationformetrowest.org as early as possible.