Racial Equity and Inclusion Grant

Statement of Purpose

As the Salt Lake Arts Council, we acknowledge that systemic racism and racial inequities have consistently and pervasively plagued our creative industry’s history and is an injustice which continues to be an issue today. This grant program was designed to cultivate greater and more consistent efforts and outputs related to racial equity, justice, inclusion and liberation for nonprofits in our arts and culture sector. This grant program was intended for nonprofit organization applicants with primary headquarters in Salt Lake City who serve Salt Lake City residents and other nonprofit partners as membership organizations.

Background

The Salt Lake Arts Council’s Racial Equity Grant program was proposed by Salt Lake City Mayor Erin Mendenhall and approved through a vote of unanimous consent by the Salt Lake City Council in 2020. Approximately $10,000 has been reserved for 501(c)3 organizations. If you are an artist who is unaffiliated with a nonprofit organization but are interested in receiving funds, please access the Artist Career Empowerment Grant here.

Grant Eligibility

Applications for Salt Lake Art Council’s Racial Equity Grant must be submitted and administered by a nonprofit organizations which meets the following criteria;

1. Organizations must be 501(c)3 entities in good standing with all appropriate state and federal laws and regulations guiding nonprofit operations and activities. All applicants will be verified through GuideStar Charity Check;
2. Nonprofit organizations must have a mission, vision, values, OR a project statement which clearly identifies core functions and language related to arts and culture activities and operations;
3. All funds must provide a clear and direct public benefit to those who live, worship, volunteer, recreate, or otherwise meaningfully engage with Salt Lake City;
4. Funds must be directed towards expenses incurred from March 1, 2021 through August 31, 2021.
Funding Limitations

Funds cannot be expended for the following activities;
1. Expenses incurred outside of the grant timeline;
2. For-profit businesses and business related activities;
3. Debt reduction;
4. Regranting or redistribution of funds to other nonprofit organizations;
5. Fundraising operations or activities;
6. Capital expenditures such as equipment or building maintenance.

Grant Usage and Guidance

The Salt Lake Arts Council envisions that these funds are utilized by nonprofit organizations to build capacity and increase alignment with values related to racial equity, justice, empowerment, and inclusion within their organization, as well as their outward facing efforts related to these values. Potential fund usage can be, but is not limited to, the following projects and programs;

1. Activities acutely focused on the planning or development, and/or implementation of racial inclusion, diversity, equity and accessibility training;
2. Professional development workshops, residencies, or conferences for individuals or organizations;
3. Technical or adaptive assistance contracts with independent consultants or businesses with a proven track record of excellence in racial equity work; *Please note that items 1, 2, and 3 should consider the following:
   a. Planning and implementation of these activities should be in close consultation with individuals and organizations with a proven track record of excellence in this area.
   b. Black, Indigenous, or other Persons of Color should be fairly compensated for their time, energy, and engagement with your efforts.
4. The purchase of related and relevant industry memberships, affiliations, and/or subscriptions;
5. All activities which utilize these funds must adhere to all state and federal guidelines related to safe and healthy operations with regards to the COVID-19 Global Pandemic. As such, applicants are encouraged to engage virtually, distanced, masked, and with proper hygiene and sanitation considerations made throughout the planning and execution of the efforts related to this grant.
6. Additionally, nonprofit organizations are encouraged to utilize existing resources, such as the Americans for the Arts Tools and Templates for Cultural Equity.

All submissions will be carefully reviewed to ensure alignment with grant eligibility, fund usage, and granting priorities and guidelines. Applicants are encouraged to contact Taylor Knuth with any questions or concerns regarding grant usage and guidelines.
Funding Priorities

A grant review committee, made up of representatives from the Salt Lake Arts Council Board of Directors and Staff, will review and evaluate all complete applications received by the application deadline in accordance with the following priorities;

- Funds will be prioritized for organizations with leadership, on both staff and board, who self-identify as Black, Indigenous, or Persons of Color;
- Funds will be prioritized for organizations who meaningfully engage with, and/or authentically serve and represent individuals and communities who self-identify as Black, Indigenous, and/or other Persons of Color;
- Funds will be prioritized for organizations who foster cultural and racial equity and demonstrate a positive social impact;
- Funds will be prioritized for organizations who aim to strengthen organizational health and development, especially as it relates to efforts of racial equity and inclusion;
- Funds will be prioritized for organizations who cultivate and build healthy partnerships in the community, especially with leadership from and/or service to Black, Indigenous, and other Persons of Color;
- Funds will be prioritized for organizations who elevate the arts sector, especially with efforts related to racial equity and inclusion.

Application Process and Key Dates

- Guidelines Released: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 at 8:00am MST
- Application Opens: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 at 5:00pm MST
- Application Closes: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 at 5:00pm MST
- Salt Lake Arts Council Grant Review Committee Process: From February 24, 2021 to March 10th.
- Salt Lake Arts Council Board Meeting: March 17, 2021 at 5:30pm MST. All applicants are encouraged to attend this public meeting.
- Award Notification: All applicants will be notified via email in the following days after the Salt Lake Arts Council Board Meeting, regardless of funding decision.
- Award Acceptance: All award recipients are required to complete a grant acceptance agreement form within five business days of receiving notification of funding awards.
- Checks Mailed: Within two weeks of receiving fully executed grant acceptance agreement.

Contact Us

If you require technical or adaptive assistance for any reason, please contact Salt Lake Arts Council Assistant Director, Taylor Knuth at taylor.knuth@slcgov.com or at 385-977-2027.
Frequently Asked Questions

● Do I need to file a final report if I am awarded these funds?
Yes. A grant report template will be provided with your grant acceptance agreement and must be submitted by the recipient within 30 days of your funds being expended, your project being completed, or by the end of usage period, whichever comes first.

● Is there a limitation on how much I can ask for?
No. However, considering the total amount available for distribution, organizations are encouraged to request no less than $1,000 and no more than $5,000. Applicants wishing to submit for more or less than the recommendations above are encouraged to contact Taylor Knuth for consideration of the proposal.

● How will the Salt Lake Arts Council prioritize the funds?
Good question! In alignment with one of our core values, empowerment, our funding philosophy is to award based on the ability of the funds to empower organizations. As such, awards distributed will likely not exceed the limitations outlined above, but will be awarded in such a way that the grant award amount is meaningful, impactful, and ultimately empowers the organization to achieve their goals outlined in the application. When that is not possible, funding will not be granted. Additionally, organizations are encouraged to thoughtfully review our funding priorities outlined above and submit in careful alignment with those priorities.

● Do I need to provide a budget?
Yes, and a template can be found [here](#).

● If I have never received funding from the Salt Lake Arts Council, should I apply?
Yes! All interested are encouraged to apply if they meet the outline eligibility criteria and limitations.

● I am a current recipient of Salt Lake Arts Council Funding, should I apply?
Yes! All interested are encouraged to apply if they meet the outline eligibility criteria and limitations.

● Why are artists who self-identify as Black, Indigenous, or other Persons of Color (BIPOC) being prioritized with the distribution of these funds?
In alignment with the Salt Lake Arts Council’s strategic plan, and Mayor Erin Mendenhall’s Diversity and Equity initiatives, substantial efforts and investments in these individuals and communities are required to achieve greater racial equity and inclusion in our arts sector and within the city. As such, we aim to invest, amplify, and uplift these artists and organizations whenever possible through a consistent, meaningful, and weighted means.