



# Arts Commission FY24 Proposed Grant Changes

October 12, 2022

October 17, 2022

**METRO ARTS**

NASHVILLE OFFICE OF ARTS + CULTURE

Re-centering our mission to arts and equity.

Metro Nashville Arts Commission or “Metro Arts” is the office of Arts & Culture for the city of Nashville and Davidson County.

We believe that arts drive a more vibrant and equitable community.

We strive to ensure that **all** Nashvillians have access to a creative life through community investments, artist and organizational training, public art, and direct programs that involve residents in all forms of arts and culture.



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## Why Change?

- Years of your feedback, patterns we observed from first-time applicants not returning, and ongoing communications with grantees—WE HEAR YOU!
- The Pandemic has shown that change is possible and needed.
- Trends and best practices have changed from a hierarchical to a more power sharing model in grant making.
- This approach helps us partner with the Mayor and Council on how to invest in arts and equity—following his model on the Participatory Budget process.
- You will be a part of this change. We'll tell you how as we get deeper into the process.



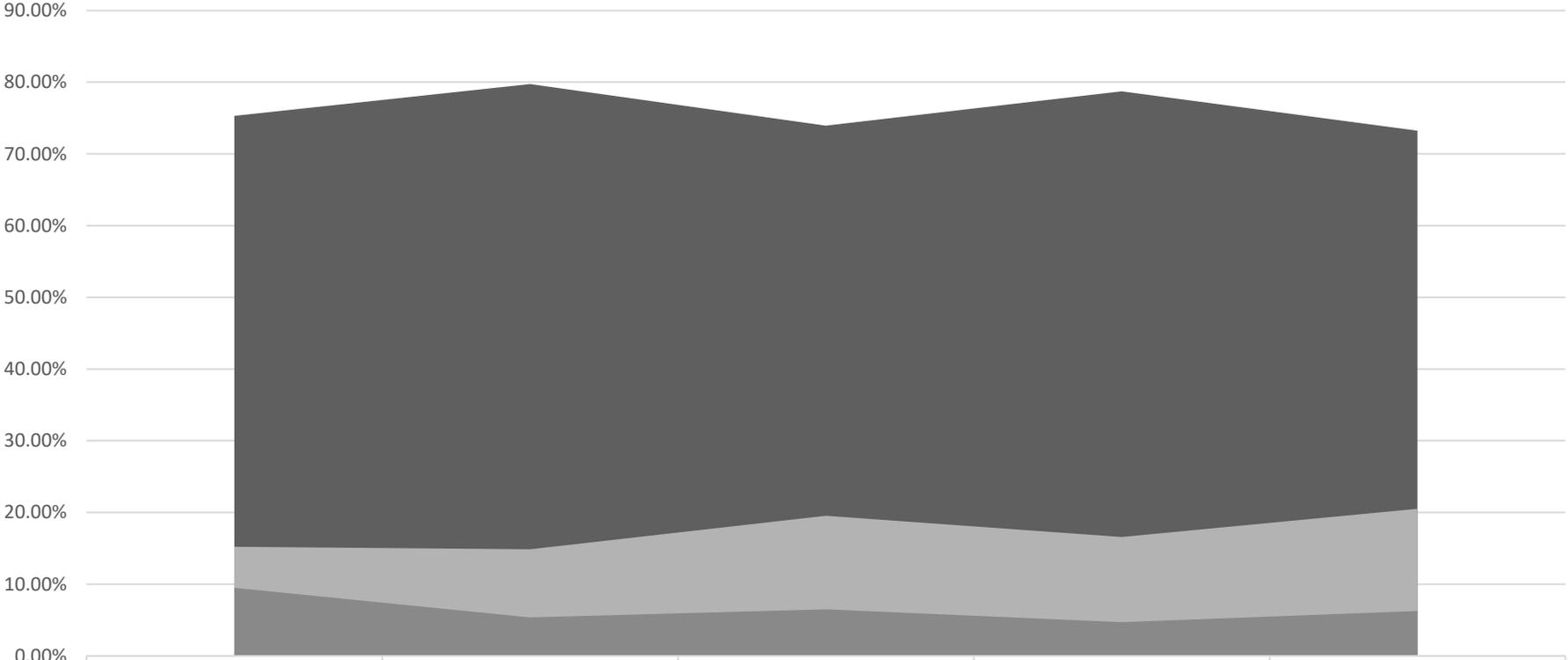
## Historical Trends and Issues

### **Operating Support:**

- Competitive grantmaking causes instability with revenues – awards are distributed based on panel scores; scores may change cycle to cycle
- Applicants compete practicing a variety of different artistic genres that do not allow direct comparison. This creates an apples to oranges comparison
- Competitive grantmaking requires excessive paperwork and processes, and requires grantees to scale down grant proposals (revised budgets)
- Competitive grantmaking does now allow increased support for smaller organizations.
- Process is confusing and unapproachable



# Historical Trends and Issues



	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24
■ Grant awards to organizations with revenues \$500,001 and up	75.31%	79.76%	73.95%	78.74%	73.24%
■ Grant awards to organizations with revenues \$100,001 to \$500,000	15.21%	14.88%	19.55%	16.57%	20.51%
■ Grant awards to organizations with revenues \$1 to \$100,000	9.48%	5.36%	6.51%	4.70%	6.25%

## Proposed FY24 Metro Arts Grant Changes

- **Stop competitive grantmaking**
- **Change to a predictive flat funding model**



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## Proposed FY24 Metro Arts Grant Changes

Names of Basic and Core categories will be changed to the following:

- ***Organizational Small (\$0-\$100,000 annual revenues)***
- ***Organizational Medium (\$100,001 - \$500,000 annual revenues)***
- ***Organizational Large -(\$500,001+ annual revenues)***
- *Based on 990 Forms, audit or financial statement*
- Giving Matters profiles updates are no longer required and are not part of the grant panel review process



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## Proposed FY24 Metro Arts Grant Changes

- Reduced application requirements for Small and Medium Organizations
- Stop requiring revised budgets for operating grants
- Stop requiring matching funds



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## Proposed FY24 Metro Arts Grant Changes

- Grant applications will be simplified
- Panels will review applications on an eligibility basis, and provide organizational feedback
- Currently under review: Ways in which closeout materials and data collection and reporting can be reduced.
- Ask if grantees if they have an equity statement/commitment or will have one in the next 2 years



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## FY24 THRIVE Changes

### **3 THRIVE Categories**

- Murals and Community Public Art Projects
- Community Based Art Projects
- Touring Art Projects

**Awards up to \$10K, recommend using nonprofit partner.**



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## FY24 THRIVE Changes

### **Murals and Community Public Art Projects**

- Excellent tool for community placemaking, and is a way to directly invest in council districts that might not have a traditional space for Public Art (art on public land)
- Utilize Metro Arts Mural Guide as guiding foundation for successful projects
- Utilize Metro Arts connections with government entities



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## FY24 THRIVE Changes

- **Community Based Art Projects**

Will support artist-led, community-based art projects that include collaboration between artists and community partners and organizations.

- This category is open to individual artists and artist teams, and to nonprofit and for-profit organizations.
- Individual artists or artist teams may apply and identify community partner organization(s), or organizations/businesses may apply and identify artists or artist teams to lead the project.



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## FY24 THRIVE Changes

### **Touring Art Projects:**

Outside Tours: Artists touring outside of Nashville and Davidson County to develop new skill and propagate their trade.

Inside Tours: Artist coming to Nashville and Davidson County to provide unique and new arts experiences to the arts community that is not normally accessible. Successful project may also include artists providing training to local artists and organizations.



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## FY24 THRIVE Changes

- **Capacity Building**
- **Disaster Response**

**Individuals may apply awards up to \$2,500.**



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## FY24 Grant Changes

### Capacity Building and Disaster Response (Available till funds are depleted)

- **Capacity Building** is a grant that serves as working capital to be invested in the artist's creative practice. Participants are provided with mini-grants to be used by the artist toward implementing their career plan.
- **Disaster Response** is relief career or practice threatening emergency as a circumstance or a group of circumstances that are unforeseeable and that have an immediate and profound effect on the applicant
- Minimal application requirements, minimal closeout requirements



## FY24 EQUITY commitments

### **Capacity Building Annual Grant for small- or medium-sized organizations**

- Working on a high-level sketch of this right now, please be on the lookout for information if this program is funded by the Mayor and Council.
  - Dedicated funding streams for 2-3 years if we can figure out how to cross fiscal years. Such as hire staff, board development, technical assistance, strategic planning, financial/fund development or technology.

### **Community input on the grant application edits**

### **Finding ways to make applying easier**

- Grant workshops in non-traditional spaces with community leaders.
- Grant clinic where you can come with your materials and we can help fill out the application for you.



## Equity Internship Program

- Enhance Internships Program to include new foci.
  1. DIAL
  2. Advocacy/Fundraising
  3. General Arts Administration
- DIAL to be used as a model of intake. Provides new lifeblood to Nashville nonprofits that will shape the infrastructure of the arts world in years to come.
- Awards to be increased to \$7,500 (per semester?) to account for inflation and Nashville housing market
- Contract directly with host nonprofit organizations – removes logistic issues and liability



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## Journalism Internship Program

- Contract directly with host humanities-based nonprofit organization to manage program.
- DIAL to be used as a model of intake.
- Project components
  - Journalism or Criticism interns from HBCUs or minority serving institutions
  - Contract editor
  - Cost to disseminate



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## Accountability and Measuring Success in Trust Based Grantmaking

- Mutual accountability and power sharing as opposed to top-down approaches.
- Staff will be establishing relationships with our funders and staying in close contact.
- De-coupling solid evaluation and feedback from funding.
- Mutual definition of impact, goals, and success.
- What are lessons we will learn together?
- What outputs (e.g., number of people served) and outcomes (e.g., measurable improvements) can we mutually self-determine?



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## Your role as an advocate is crucial

- Meet Council and Mayor's office
- Invite them to your events
- Tag us in Social Media
- Tell us your success stories



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## Questions/Feedback?

- These changes are based on feedback from previous final reports and industry best practices. Thank you for giving us your feedback—we value your input.
- A further, deeper revision to simplify and remove barriers will be made based on the feedback from two cycles of this new approach and our strategic planning beginning in April 2023



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Thank you!

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