

**NYSCA GUIDELINES
INFORMATION SESSION**

Museum Program



**Council on
the Arts
FY2021**



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Program Goals

Museums allow us to experience great art, to discover stories about objects, and to explore worlds both new and familiar. Within museums, arts and cultural activities may be very diverse. But, at their heart is an emphasis on the exhibition and interpretation of art, objects or an historic space. The Museum Program advances museums and related professional service organizations by offering support for arts and cultural activities, and encourages creative thinking to better engage the public.

Program Prerequisites

- Museums must have been open to the public for a minimum of one year prior to the application deadline.
- Museums should provide significant ongoing services to the public. The strongest applicants provide programming for a minimum of 120 days per year by the deadline. Organizations open to the public by appointment only do not meet this requirement.



Key Dates & Deadlines

Guidelines
Released
January 14, 2020

Application
Period Begins
January 28, 2020

Deadline:
March 12,
2020 4PM

Award(s)
Announced By
EST December 15,
2020

Previous Year Statistics

- \$3.7 million awarded
- 132 grants to organizations
- Grants across 39 counties and all 10 REDC regions

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Project Support

General Operating Support

Regrants and Partnerships
(By Invitation)



Tips

- **Read** the Guidelines carefully. There are updates every year.
- **Ask** questions! Program staff are here to respond.
- **Use** the formatting tools in the NYSCA-CFA to make your application easier to read.
- **Submit early.** Don't wait until the last day to apply – there are no extensions.
- **Follow up.** Whether your request is funded or not, follow up with Program staff after you receive notice to schedule time to hear feedback.

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Q. Can my museum apply for GOS and Project Support in the Museum Program?

A. No. Museums/museum service organizations may submit only one request to the Museum Program. But your organization may submit a second request to another program if appropriate.

Q. I'm uncertain whether to apply for GOS or Project Support. How do I decide?

A. Read the guidelines and be very self-critical. GOS is not a capacity building grant – is your organization strong in every area? Still unsure? Schedule a call with Program staff to ask further questions.

Q. My organization is a science museum (or wants support for STEM programming). Do you fund science?

A. NYSCA supports arts and cultural programming. Science museums may apply for programming soundly connected to arts/culture.



Tips

- **Be Prepared.** Make sure you review ALL the steps to apply on the NYSCA website: www.arts.ny.gov/application-guide.
- **Choose Characters Wisely.** The character counts are the maximum (and include spaces). Tell your story with detail, but don't repeat just to fill up the space.
- **Not enough space?** Feel like you don't have enough room within the designated characters? 1) re-read the question, 2) ditch passive voice, 3) ask someone else to suggest edits.
- **Use your Options.** Budget notes are really important – don't skip them!
- **Upload Support Materials.** Each category has different requirements. IF your category requires support materials, upload the required PDF(s).
- **Beat the Deadline. Yes this tip is here twice!** There are no exceptions to the CFA application deadline. Aim to submit *before* March 12 for less stress.

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Kristin Herron

Program Director

Kristin.Herron@arts.ny.gov

(212) 459-8825

Fabiana Chiu-Rinaldi

Program Officer

Fabiana.Chiu@arts.ny.gov

(212) 459-8828

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THANK YOU!

