2027 CITY ARTS INVESTMENT FUND GRANT PROGRAM

I. Application Details

Contact
Rapid City Arts Council
Email: aif@thedahl.org
Phone: 605.394.4101 x2

Important Dates
Application Due Date:
Friday, January 1, 11:59PM MT
Late applications will not be considered.

Award Notification:
Expected by January 29, 2027
(pending City Council approval)

Final Grant Report Due:
November 19, 2027

Guidelines, application form and additional information available at:
rapidcityartscouncil.org/cityartsfund

Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

Meeting the application requirements does not ensure proposals will be funded.

Acceptable Submission Methods
Please direct your application to the Rapid City Arts Council using one of these methods:

1. Email
Submit application materials to aif@thedahl.org, Subject: "2027 AIF Application - Applicant Name"

2. Postal Service
Submit materials postmarked by the application due date addressed to:
Rapid City Arts Council (RCAC)
713 7th St
Rapid City, SD 57701
ENC: AIF Application

3. In Person
Deliver materials in a sealed envelope labeled "RCAC/AIF Application" to RCAC staff at the main desk of the Dahl Arts Center, 713 7th St, Rapid City, SD

Application Instructions:
Complete the application in the outline and format provided in the application form. Only applications that conform to the outline and have required supporting documents attached will be considered.

Submittal Instructions:
To be considered eligible, application forms and the required supporting documents must be submitted to RCAC by 11:59 PM MT on Friday, January 1, 2027, using one of the three acceptable methods listed on first section of the application form.

Questions:
Questions about the grant process or requirements may sent to aif@thedahl.org.

II. Activity Requirements

a. **Grant Alignment**

i. **Purpose:** *Proposed grant activities align with the stated purpose of the Arts Investment Fund:* The City of Rapid City recognizes the arts as "essential to public welfare." This fund was established by statute to support arts organizations and advance the artistic and cultural development of the Rapid City community. Applications should reflect initiatives that contribute meaningfully to this mission.

ii. **Community Development Goals:** Applicants must provide a clear and compelling rationale demonstrating how their proposed activities support the following community development goals:

1. Cultural Enrichment: Contribute to and provide cultural, educational, entertainment, and recreational benefits for the citizens of Rapid City.
2. Arts Engagement: Promote and encourage public programs that foster public awareness, interest, and participation in the arts.

b. **Allowed Activities**

The following activities are eligible under this grant program:

i. **General Operating Support (GOS):** Funding to support the provision or presentation of performing arts, visual arts, or other programming that promotes the unique culture of the region.

ii. **Program Funding:** Funding to support a specific program or series of programs.

c. **Activities NOT Allowed**

Grant funds may not be used for any of the following activities or uses:

- Meeting or workshop fees
- Cash prizes
- Money for contest prizes
- School-based projects/programs produced by or on behalf of governmental agencies
- Brick and mortar and capital improvements
- Activities that have already been completed
- Religious programming and activities
- Fundraisers and social events
- Lobbying activities
- Political contributions
- Legal fees

III. Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must meet at least one of the following criteria to be eligible:

a. **Nonprofit Arts and Culture Organizations**

i. Serve the artistic and cultural needs of **Rapid City residents.**
ii. Propose activities taking place **within the city limits** of Rapid City.
iii. Be a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in good standing (IRS determination letter required).

b. **Projects with Fiscal Sponsorship**
i. Represent a local cause not recognized by the IRS.
ii. Serve the artistic and cultural needs of **Rapid City residents.**
iii. Propose activities taking place **within the city limits** of Rapid City.
iv. Have a fiscal sponsorship agreement with a credible Rapid City-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. The fiscal sponsor must agree in writing to: Lend nonprofit status to the applicant; Retain control and discretion over grant funds; Report on the use of grant funds; A signed agreement detailing fiduciary oversight, fiscal management, grant reporting, and other administrative services must be included with the grant application.

c. **Ineligibility Guidelines**
i. Schools and School-Based Programs: Public or private schools or nonprofit organizations seeking funding for school-based programs produced by government agencies.
ii. Non-Compliant Organizations: Organizations that fail to comply with non-discrimination laws, including federal civil rights protections. Recipients must ensure no discrimination based on race, color, national origin, disability, or age, and programs must be accessible and usable by individuals with disabilities.

IV. Selection Criteria

a. **Grant Review Process:** The Rapid City Arts Council's (RCAC) Grant Committee evaluates applications and recommends AIF grant awards and funding levels to the City Council upon completing the review process.

b. **Grant Committee Composition:**
The committee includes RCAC board members, officers, , and select community leaders. All members are required to agree to a conflict-of-interest restriction.

V. Review Criteria

Applications are scored based on the following expectations:

i. **Merit**
Proposed programming must align with the purpose of the City Arts Investment Fund, demonstrating how activities will enhance public life, provide community benefits, and improve the city.

ii. **Feasibility**
Applicants must demonstrate the ability to effectively use grant funds and successfully execute the proposed programming. This includes presenting an appropriate budget, adequate resources, and skilled personnel. Average grant awards are $7,500.

iii. **Public Benefit**
The proposed programming should:
1. Offer unique opportunities for the public to experience arts and culture or access arts education.
2. Be widely accessible to Rapid City residents.
3. Provide tangible public benefits **within the city limits** of Rapid City.

iv. **Artistic & Cultural Excellence**
Programming should enhance the quality of artistic and cultural experiences available to the community. It should involve key individuals, creative processes, artworks, organizations, educators, or partners that deliver exceptional quality.

v. **Innovation**
Programming must demonstrate an innovative approach to increasing public appreciation of and participation in the arts.

vi. **Cultural Equity**
The proposed activities should expand access to artistic and cultural experiences for historically underserved communities. These include individuals limited by geography, race or ethnicity, economics, or disability.

VI. Award Requirements

Grantees must agree in writing to comply with the following requirements to receive funding:

1. Performance
Grantees are required to complete the project or deliver programming as proposed in the original application. If there are changes to activities or timelines, the grantee must immediately notify RCAC via email at aif@thedahl.org. Continued funding is not guaranteed if changes are made without approval.

2. Anti-Discrimination
Award recipients must comply with conscience protections and federal civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination based on race, color, national origin, disability, and age.

3. Credit Requirement
Grantees must acknowledge support from the City of Rapid City and the Rapid City Arts Council (RCAC) in all promotional materials and programs related to the grant. Acceptable statements include:

- "With support from the City of Rapid City and the Rapid City Arts Council."
- "Funded in part through a grant from the City of Rapid City through the Rapid City Arts Council."
- Alternatively, grantees may display both the City and RCAC logos side-by-side in sponsor recognition sections.

Failure to provide proper credit may jeopardize continued funding and future eligibility.

Grantees are encouraged to attend a Rapid City Common Council meeting to recognize their support for the arts (1st and 3rd Mondays at 6:30 PM, at City Hall).

4. Accounting Requirements
Grantees must:

- Follow acceptable accounting practices to maintain accurate, complete records that identify the source and use of grant funds.
- Provide documentation upon request to the RCAC for audit purposes. Records must be supported by source documents and financial transactions related to the grant.
- Maintain these records for three (3) years. All records will remain confidential unless written permission for distribution is granted by the grantee.

5. Final Reporting
Grantees must submit a grant report by November 19**,** 2027, to receive the final grant payment in December, and be eligible for future funding. Alternate due dates may be arranged in advance for seasonal grant activities.

The report must include:

1. A summary of how funding was used.
2. Outcomes related to the original proposal, including estimated audience size and demographics.
3. Documentation showing fulfillment of the credit requirement, recognizing the City of Rapid City and the RCAC.

VII. Award Administration

1. Confidentiality
Application materials are considered confidential. They are only distributed to essential RCAC staff and award committee members as needed for the purpose of evaluating and determining grant awards.

2. Administrative Contact
The Arts Investment Fund is managed by the **Rapid City Arts Council (RCAC)**, the designated arts agency of the City of Rapid City. The RCAC office is located at:

Dahl Arts Center
713 7th Street,
Rapid City, SD 57701

3. Payment
Grant awards are paid by RCAC in **equal quarterly installments**. Payments are issued by check, mailed to the grantee. The timing of these payments varies based on the city's disbursement schedule, which is not controlled by RCAC.

4. Conflict of Interest
RCAC policies require staff, Board of Directors members, and committee members to avoid any conflicts of interest or actions that may suggest improper conduct in the disbursement of grant funds. All potential conflicts must be reported immediately to ensure transparency and fairness throughout the grant process.

VIII. Application Checklist

1. 2027 AIF Grant Application Form – available for download at: rapidcityartscouncil.org/cityartsfund
2. Application that conforms to outline provided
3. Total budget for the program/project, including income and expense details
4. List of current officers and board members
5. Most recent IRS 990 form or financial statements certified by a certified public accountant
6. IRS 501(c)(3) determination letter (or fiscal sponsorship agreement)
7. Application packet delivered to RCAC by the stated deadline via an approved submittal method as listed on first page of Application Form