



Southwest Virginia & Northeast Tennessee Cultural Caretakers Grant

OVERVIEW

The Southwest Virginia & Northeast Tennessee Cultural Caretakers Grant is an initiative of the Greater Bristol Folk Arts & Culture Team, with support from Mid Atlantic Arts' Central Appalachia Living Traditions (CALT) Anchor Community Initiative.

The Greater Bristol Folk Arts & Culture Team promotes and supports folk arts and culture in the greater Bristol community by providing targeted resources and support to area organizations, artists, and artist collectives with the goal of dramatically impacting the sustainability and awareness of traditional practice, cultural knowledge, and improving economic development and regional vitality.

The Southwest Virginia & Northeast Tennessee Cultural Caretakers Grant will provide support for organizations and longstanding cultural sites that maintain and promote folk and traditional arts and culture in the Greater Bristol area (see list of eligible cities and counties below). It is focused particularly on small-scale, under-capacitated, and largely volunteer-run organizations that have difficulty accessing other funding. Funds must be used for projects that enhance the applicant's sustainability as an organization or cultural heritage site (including general operations costs), its ability to serve folk and traditional artists, and/or introduce folk and traditional arts to new audiences.

The program plans to support three–five (3–5) organizations with a \$5,000 maximum award. Applications will be accepted by invitation only.

ELIGIBILITY

Organizations and longstanding cultural sites in the following areas of Southwest Virginia and Northeast Tennessee are eligible:

- Southwest Virginia cities & counties – Bland, Bristol, Buchanan, Carroll, Dickenson, Galax, Grayson, Lee, Norton, Russell, Scott, Smyth, Tazewell, Washington, Wise, Wythe
- Northeast Tennessee counties – Sullivan, Washington, Carter, Johnson, Hawkins, Unicoi

As noted above, the grant is primarily focused on small-scale, under-resourced, and largely volunteer-run organizations that have difficulty accessing other funding. The majority of grantees will be selected from Virginia.

FUNDING

Organizations can request up to \$5,000. Examples of eligible projects/expenses include but are not limited to:

- Support for sustainability of general operations
- Funding an artist-focused event or workshop
- Equipment needs for organization
- Small-scale capital projects; (renovation, equipment, building project, etc.)
- Succession planning
- Contractor/volunteer/employee fees
- Marketing and promotional materials

Please email BristolAnchorCommunity@gmail.com if you have any questions about the type of projects or expenses we can support.

Grant funds will be paid out in two installments: 90% of the grant funds will be paid up front and the remaining 10% will be sent upon the grantees' completion of the final report at the end of the grant period.

No matching funds are required, but organizations may use this grant as matching funds for other grant applications.

REQUIREMENTS

A simple final report, along with photo and/or video documentation, will be required by March 15, 2024. The report will be no more than two pages long and will include the following elements, as relevant:

- How the funds were used
- How the goals of the project were met
- How this funding supported the sustainability of folk and traditional arts and culture in the organization's community
- Number of artists/practitioners involved
- Number of people reached during project

- Impact on community during project
- The expected impact of the project on folk and traditional arts and culture going forward

Photos and videos will become part of the Central Appalachia Living Traditions (CALT) archive and may be used on the webpage and social media of CALT and other partner organizations. The grantee may also be invited to write a blog entry about the project for use on the CALT website. Project personnel may be invited to participate in a wrap-up celebration event and showcase at the Birthplace of Country Music Museum.

GRANT TIMELINE AND REVIEW CRITERIA

- **March 10:** Organizations invited, application provided.
- **April 14:** Grant applications due.
- **May 15, 2023:** Awardees announced.
- **May 15, 2023–March 15, 2024:** Grant period.
- **March 15, 2024:** Grant final report due. Grants will be considered complete once the receiving organization has submitted the final report, including any photographs and/or recordings.

Applications for Southwest Virginia & Northeast Tennessee Cultural Caretakers will be reviewed by a core group of panelists who are serving on the Bristol Folk Arts & Culture Team.

Applications will be scored on:

- Potential for Success and Sustainability: 60%
- Community Impact: 20%
- Promotion of Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, and Inclusion (DEAI): 20%

For questions about the process, please email BristolAnchorCommunity@gmail.com.

Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, and Inclusion (DEAI)

This funding opportunity has been designed to serve supporting organizations in a targeted region that includes rural residents, high-poverty areas, and historically underserved or marginalized communities. While historical and emerging cultural traditions are rich, the cash resources and institutional networks are limited. As a focus of this program, applications are designed with equity, diversity, access, and inclusion top of mind. We encourage diversity not only in social, cultural, or economic background, but also in creative practice itself. Application materials are available in Spanish upon request.

DETAILS OF REIMBURSEMENT

Grant funds will be paid out in two installments: 90% of the grant funds will be paid up front and the remaining 10% will be sent upon the grantees' completion of the final report at the end of the grant period.

QUESTIONS?

Please email BristolAnchorCommunity@gmail.com if you have any questions about eligibility, requirements, award activities, or the application process.