VISION ARTS 8

Vision Arts emphasizes the artistic and cultural industry within Tulsa and solidifies its role as a driver of economic growth and development. The specific purpose of the *Vision Arts* is to strategically engage the City's arts and cultural organizations in boosting the local economy.

The Tulsa Arts Commission (the Commission) serves as a continuing source of respected opinion on creative and cultural activity within the **City of Tulsa (the City).** The Commission is responsible, with support from City staff, for the application and funding process of artistic and cultural proposals through the ***Vision Arts*** Program. The City awards funding for projects identified through a competitive application and review process.

This guide contains essential information that serves as an aid to any qualified organization interested in applying for funding.

Vision Arts supports organizations and activities that provide quality arts and cultural programming to the citizens of Tulsa while simultaneously promoting and encouraging tourism and economic development throughout the City.

All applicants are required to read the guidelines and application instructions provided within this packet. Information on program eligibility, requirements, and evaluation criteria is provided to streamline the application process.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

How to Apply 3
How To Get Help 3
Important Dates 3
Points of Contact 4
Media Credit and Display of Logos 4
Background 4
Vision, Mission, Objectives 4
City of Tulsa Mission 4
Tulsa Arts Commission Purpose 4
VISION Arts Purpose 5
Roles & Responsibilities 5
Mayor of Tulsa 5
Tulsa City Council 5
Tulsa Arts Commission 5
Tulsa Planning Office 5
Review Panel 6
Arts and Cultural Non-Profits 6
Individual Artists 7
Eligibility 7
Eligibility Requirements 7
Ineligible Organizations and Activities 7
Information Sessions and Workshops 8
Process Information 8
Application Process 8
Review Process 8
Reporting and Award Process 8
Application Questions & Scoring Guidance 9
Organizational Information 9
Organizational Capacity 9
Artistic Merit & Vision Arts Alignment 10
Economic Impact 11
Maximizing Value 11
End-Of-Cycle Report 13

HOW TO APPLY

Applications are hosted on Submittable™. You may find the application here:

HOW TO GET HELP

Tulsa Arts Commission and the Tulsa Planning Office staff will present several virtual informational workshops during the application open window. All applicants are **REQUIRED** to attend an information workshop to learn more about ***Vision Arts*** and the application process.

Other suggested workshops on grant writing, marketing for the arts, and budget creation will also be offered during the open grant window. However, these are not mandatory and serve only to help organizations as they formulate their grants.

To maintain impartiality, Arts Commissioners and ***Vision Arts*** review panelists will not assist individual applicants outside of the application workshops.

IMPORTANT DATES

APPLICATION OPENS: November 6, 2026, 8:00 A.M. CST

APPLICATION CLOSES: February 1, 2027, 11:59 P.M. CST

Applicants must attend one mandatory virtual informational session, registration is required. These sessions focus on the grant application process and the scoring breakdown for each section of the application. All sessions present the same material. A Q&A session will follow.

Date	Webinar Title	Registration Link
November 13, 2026, 12-1 PM	Vision Arts 8: Mandatory Information Session — November 13	LINK
November 20, 2026, 12-1 PM	Vision Arts 8: Mandatory Information Session — November 20	LINK
December 4, 2026, 12–1 PM	Vision Arts 8: Mandatory Information Session — December 4	LINK
December 11, 2026, 12–1 PM	Vision Arts 8: Mandatory Information Session — December 11	LINK

Vision Arts 8 grant writing support virtual workshops are optional. Applicants must register to attend.

Date	Webinar Title	Registration Link
December 10, 2026, 12–1 PM	Vision Arts 8: Grantwriting 101	LINK
December 16, 2026, 4–5 PM	Vision Arts 8: Writing Clear Grant Narratives	LINK
January 12, 2027, 4–5 PM	Vision Arts 8: Marketing for Arts & Culture	LINK
January 15, 2027, 11 AM–12 PM	Vision Arts 8: Budgeting for the Grant Process	LINK

GRANTWRITING 101: For all organizations. Workshop will focus on past data and outcomes for both successful grant applications and those that were not funded. It will also briefly cover how to develop project evaluation metrics and collect data for the end-of-cycle report. Q&A session will follow.

WRITING CLEAR GRANT NARRATIVES: For organizations not as familiar with applying for grants. Workshop will focus on how to express your artistic or cultural project idea to a more general funder panel. Clarity of vision and integration with budgets and marketing plans will be discussed. Focus is on the "How" of the project and not the "Why." Q&A session will follow.

MARKETING FOR ARTS & CULTURE
For organizations not as familiar with applying for grants. Workshop will focus on crafting a successful marketing plan specific for Arts and Culture organizations. Topics will include collecting and interpreting audience data, identifying target audience, current trends in arts and culture marketing, overcoming challenges, and writing a clear plan for grant applications. Q&A session will follow.

BUDGETING FOR THE GRANT PROCESS
For organizations not as familiar with applying for grants. Workshop will focus on crafting a realistic budget, integrating it with the artistic or cultural vision of the project, and effectively communicating it to funders. Q&A session will follow.

Note: Organizations should attend one mandatory information session prior to the grant writing workshop. If an organization elects not to attend a non-mandatory workshop, they must sign as affidavit indicating they were aware of the workshops but decline to attend. This will be available on Submittable along with the Info

- Organizations have from July 1, 2027, until June 30, 2028 to use funding for Eligible Expenses.
- The End-of-Cycle Report must be completed within 30 days after the stated program Closing Date.

- The final invoice and supporting itemization of the costs incurred in completing the approved proposal must be submitted by July 31, 2028

POINTS OF CONTACT

For questions or general assistance, please contact: VisionArts@cityoftulsa.org

MEDIA CREDIT AND DISPLAY OF LOGOS

All awarded organizations should credit The City of Tulsa, The Tulsa Arts Commission, and Vision Arts in their media materials. They should display all three logos in said media.

BACKGROUND

VISION, MISSION, OBJECTIVES

CITY OF TULSA MISSION

The mission of the City of Tulsa is to deliver exceptional services and create the foundation for economic prosperity, health, and quality of life for our community.

TULSA ARTS COMMISSION PURPOSE

The Tulsa Arts Commission is charged with assisting the City in public matters concerning public artwork. Its responsibilities include: recommending the purchase and maintenance of new and existing artwork; imparting advice on concerning public matters having aesthetic implications; reviewing public signage (including neighborhood signs); stimulating superior aesthetic quality in all phases of physical development within the community; and assisting in the procurement of additional works of public art.

The Tulsa Arts Commission shall evaluate and make recommendations to the Mayor regarding use of the Vision Tulsa funds for art-related purposes. The Tulsa Arts Commission shall review the use of, and economic impact derived from, the organization's receipt and use of Vision Tulsa funding and present an annual assessment to the Mayor and City Council.

VISION ARTS PURPOSE

In April of 2016, voters approved Vision Tulsa, which included approved funding for a program that supports arts projects which stimulate economic development throughout Tulsa. $2,250,000 was allocated to Tulsa Arts Commission to provide annual arts support over a 15-year cycle, with a total amount of $150,000 awarded every year to eligible organizations.

Recognizing that the arts are a vital component of a vibrant community and a thriving economy, the City of Tulsa seeks to strategically engage the city's arts and cultural organizations in boosting the local economy.

GOALS FOR THE ALLOCATION OF FUNDS

- Promote visibility and awareness of the arts in Tulsa;

- Contribute to increased visitor and tourism activity;
- Promote Tulsa's arts and cultural assets as key components of the city's identity;
- Strengthen future development and economic growth throughout the city.

IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

- Fund events, programs, and festivals that attract a broad audience of visitors and tourists;
- Build and diversify audiences from research and marketing strategies;
- Highlight destinations by encouraging cultural events and creative activity;
- Create engaging content for multimedia that tells Tulsa's arts story to visitors and residents alike;
- Increase access to cultural attractions and events;
- Embrace a collaborative approach to enhance the local community through the arts.

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

MAYOR OF TULSA

The Mayor of Tulsa will, upon receipt of the Tulsa Arts Commission's recommendations, approve funding for selected projects.

TULSA CITY COUNCIL

The Tulsa City Council will annually review and approve the *VISION Arts* program, process, and timeline. Two city councilors will sit on the review panel.

TULSA ARTS COMMISSION

Tulsa Arts Commission is responsible for evaluating the funding recommendations of the *VISION Arts* Independent Review Panel and for the general oversight of the *VISION Arts* Program. Commissioners will acknowledge any conflicts of interest during the evaluation process and, if necessary, will recuse themselves from voting.

TULSA PLANNING OFFICE

Tulsa Planning Office staff will assist with program facilitation, application collection, and updates to the *VISION Arts* website and program materials.

REVIEW PANEL

The review panel is responsible for scoring all eligible applications. Panelists shall not review applications that present a conflict of interest. No one shall be selected for the panel who is an executive or officer of an applying organization, or who aided an applying organization in completing the grant application.

By city ordinance, the review panel is made up of:

- 2 City Councilors approved by the City Council
- 2 at-large arts-engaged community representatives selected by the Arts Commission
- 1 representative of the Tulsa Office of Film, Music, Arts and Culture (FMAC) or similar entity with tourism or marketing experience that is serving and situated within the City of Tulsa
- 1 member selected by the Tulsa Authority for Economic Opportunity (Partner Tulsa)

- 1 Non-voting representative from the Arts Commission to act as facilitator and liaison

ARTS AND CULTURAL NON-PROFITS

Interested arts and cultural nonprofits are required to attend a virtual informational session at one of the times and dates on page 3. They may also attend a non-mandatory Vision Arts 7 workshop focusing on Grant Writing 101, Writing Clear Narratives, Marketing for Arts & Culture, or Budgeting for the Grant Process – please see specific dates and notes on page 3.

INDIVIDUAL ARTISTS

Although individuals are not eligible to apply for funds, interested artists are encouraged to attend an informational workshop to connect with local nonprofits that may serve as applying organizations. Individual artists may apply in partnership with an eligible organization.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

1. Must have all paperwork indicating non-profit tax-exempt 501(c)(3) status as of the date of application, except in the case of fiscal sponsorship by a 501(c)(3) organization which also must be in place with accompanying paperwork at date of application.
2. Only one award will be provided per organization per funding cycle.
3. Applying organizations shall be principally located in the City of Tulsa or residing within the city limits.
4. Organizations must be an Arts Organization as defined by Tulsa Arts Commission.
    - The Tulsa Arts Commission defines an arts organization as a formal group that presents arts, humanities, or cultural programming to the public, such as a museum, gallery, garden, performing arts venue or company, visual art collective, or cultural institution. This broad interpretation includes collectors, presenters, stewards, and interpreters of visual art, theatre, dance, music, world languages, archeology, history, cultural anthropology, folklore, and philosophy.
5. All projects, performances, or installations must occur within the city limits and take place in an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant space.
6. Proposals shall be based upon either:
    - a single event, performance, project and/or work of art; OR
    - a series of events, performances, and/or works of art that are promoted and marketed as a single integrated occurrence; OR
    - Another initiative of an arts organization featuring demonstrable economic impacts or the promotion of cultural tourism.
7. Proposals MUST specify how they will promote tourism or have an economic impact within Tulsa. Proposals without a demonstrated economic impact or promotion of tourism are not eligible to receive funding.
8. Proposals that leverage public funds with matching funds will be given higher consideration.
9. Applying organizations are REQUIRED to attend at least one informational workshop.

INELIGIBLE ORGANIZATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

The City will NOT fund…

1. Events that are primarily fundraising in nature.
2. Artistic or cultural seasons, for example, A collection of presentations, artistic works, or performances that are regularly produced by an organization.
3. Religious organizations or events that promote or encourage a certain religion.
4. Projects or organizations located outside the city limits of Tulsa, Oklahoma.
5. Private events not accessible to the general public.
6. Previously completed activities.
7. Capital expenditures, purchase, repair, or renovation of equipment or real property.
8. Political organizations or events that promote a certain party, candidate, or political issue.

Ineligible Project Costs include, but may not be limited to…

1. Direct project costs incurred before the start of project funding.

2. Purchase of capital infrastructure improvements or equipment.
3. Indirect operating, management, and organizational costs **NOT** associated with the project.
4. Existing organizational deficits and fines.

INFORMATIONAL SESSIONS & WORKSHOPS

The Tulsa Arts Commission will present several virtual informational sessions and workshops during the application open window. ALL applying organizations are **REQUIRED** to attend at least one information session. The session will cover all aspects of the application process, provide opportunities to ask questions about requirements, and offer collaboration amongst the groups present.

For more information about sessions and workshops, including times, dates, and registration, please visit the Vision Arts webpage.

PROCESS INFORMATION

APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Upon receiving approval from the Tulsa City Council for the Vision Arts application process, the application will be available**:**
2. The application can ONLY be submitted online. The City of Tulsa and the Tulsa Arts Commission will share the news and the application link through the media, social media, and various arts and culture partners.
3. The Tulsa Arts Commission will host 4 mandatory information sessions before the application deadline to discuss the process and answer questions from potential applicants.
4. The Tulsa Arts Commission will host several non-mandatory workshops focusing on different aspects of the grant writing process.
5. The application will close after approximately 60 days.

REVIEW PROCESS

1. Office of Public Art and Community Partnerships will reject any applications that are not eligible using the eligibility requirements listed above.
2. The review panel will independently score each application, except for any application that may pose a conflict of interest for that panelist.
3. The review panel will meet to review aggregated scores for each application and to make selection recommendations to the Arts Commission. The review panel will recommend a slate of awardees that represents a broad distribution of arts organizations based on size.
4. The Arts Commission will review the panel's recommendations and make final recommendations for funding to the Mayor of Tulsa.
5. Within 10 days of receiving approval from the Mayor of Tulsa, the Tulsa Planning Office staff and the Arts Commission shall notify applicants of their award status.
6. The Arts Commission will make a public announcement of the projects selected for Vision Arts funding.
7. Following the approval of the funding recommendation, the City will enter into a contract with the applicant organization. The contract will establish procedures and responsibilities for both the City and the funding recipient.

REPORTING AND AWARD PROCESS

1. Awarded applicants shall make project evaluation reports to the Arts Commission on or before the requested dates.
2. The Arts Commission will submit requests for funding to the City of Tulsa Mayor's Office upon receipt of acceptable reports.
3. Payment will be made from the City of Tulsa directly to the approved applicant.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS & SCORING GUIDANCE

ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION

This section asks you to list the following:

1. Organization Information
    a. 501(c)(3) Organization/Fiscal Sponsor Name exactly as listed with the OK Secretary of State
        i. Applicable DBAs
    b. Organization Location
        i. Mailing Address
    c. Proposal Coordinator Contact Information
        i. name, address, email, phone
    d. Registration: City of Tulsa* register organization Complete supplier registration form. **Submit Forms**: Follow the submission instructions provided on the City of Tulsa vendor registration page. Forms can typically be submitted via email to the designated contacts for your business type cityoftulsa.org.
    e.
        i. Organization/Fiscal Sponsor Form W-9 (DBA must match above)
        ii. Supplier Registration Form (DBA must match above)
    f. Signee Contact Information (City will only accept signatures from the 501(c)(3) organization's Board Chair, Vice Chair, or President)
        i. Signee name, address, email, phone
    g. Type of arts-, humanities-, film and media-, or culturally-focused institution
2. Organizational Budget Size- this is based on your last completed fiscal year total donations
    a. Less than $400,000
    b. $400,000 or more

The review panel will not score this section.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

This section asks you to describe your organization. You will be asked the following:

1. Organization Mission Statement
2. Organization Profile and History – you will be allowed 300 words to describe your organization

3. Organization Tax-Exempt Status – you will select your status from a drop-down menu. Note: if you are not a 501(c)(3) organization or fiscally sponsored by a 501(c)(3) organization, your proposal will be disqualified.
4. Proof of Tax-Exempt Status – you will upload your IRS determination letter, proof of your fiscal sponsorship, or another form of proof of tax-exempt status.
5. Organization Form 990 – you will upload your most recent Form 990 in PDF format.
    - **NOTE! If your organization is fiscally sponsored, please do not include your sponsor's information. Please include a list of YOUR organization's donors and donations here.**
6. Organization Budget – You will upload your current organizational budget in either PDF or Excel format. Again, please upload your budget, not your fiscal sponsor's budget if you are being fiscally sponsored.

This section is worth 10 percent of your overall score. The review panel will score this section of your application based on the following questions:

- ***How has the organization performed in the past?***
- ***Does the organization have a dedicated infrastructure of employees and/or volunteers?***
- ***Does the organization prove itself historically responsible?***

ARTISTIC MERIT & VISION ARTS ALIGNMENT

This section asks you to describe your Vision Arts project in detail. You will include the following:

1. Proposal Title
2. Funding Request – you will enter your requested funding amount from $5,000 to $50,000.
3. Proposal Summary – you will summarize your project in 80 words or less.
4. Proposal Narrative – you will explain your proposal in more detail in the narrative section. You may use 500 words or less.
5. Artistic Merit – you will describe the creative leadership, artists and arts organizations involved in your project. You may use 500 words or less.
6. Vision Arts Alignment – you will describe in detail how your project aligns with the following Vision Arts goals and priorities listed on page 4 of this document. You may use 1000 words or less.
    a. NOTE! It is imperative that you provide details on how your project contributes to economic growth and/or tourism.

This section is worth 40 percent of your overall score. The review panel will score this section of your application based on the following questions:

- ***Does the project possess creative and artistic merit?***
- ***Does the organization make thoughtful selections of performers or artists?***
- ***Does the project align with one or more of the Vision Arts goals?***
- ***Does the project align with one or more of the Vision Arts priorities?***

ECONOMIC IMPACT

This section asks you to measure your project's economic impact for the City of Tulsa and the State of Oklahoma. You will be asked to enter values for either attendance-related impact or marketing reach

or both. A calculator will be provided for your attendance-related impact figures. You will be asked the following:

1. Marketing Plan – you will describe the marketing plan for your project, including marketing strategy, websites, social media, and target audiences. You may use 500 words or less.
2. Attendance – you will provide expected attendance for your project
3. You will answer **one or the other or both** of the following sections:
    a. Attendance-Related Impact
        i. Attendance breakdown – you will estimate the percent of attendance that will be from inside Tulsa and the percent of attendance that will be from outside Tulsa. The calculator provides guidance.
        ii. Economic Impact Figures – you will enter the economic impact calculator results for full-time equivalent jobs, resident household income, local government revenue, and state government revenue.
    b. Marketing Reach
        i. Expected Marketing Reach – if your primary economic impact will be marketing-related for your organization and/or the cultural sector in Tulsa as a whole, you will enter your expected reach.
        ii. Reach Measurement - you will describe how you calculated your expected reach and how you plan to measure the marketing reach for your project. You may use 250 words or less.
4. Describe the impact, both economic and artistic, this grant would have on your organization and how this project would impact the City of Tulsa economically? You may use 300 words or less.

This section is worth 30 percent of your overall score. The review panel will score this section of your application based on the following questions:

- ***Does the organization provide a sound marketing plan that will help achieve the program's attendance and programmatic goals?***
- ***Does the project have potential for significant economic impact for the Tulsa community? AND/OR***
- ***Does the project have potential for significant marketing reach, which will build new audiences, drive tourism, and/or reach diverse populations?***
- ***Are the economic impact measures achievable for this project?***
- ***Does the project employ local Tulsans?***

MAXIMIZING VALUE

This section asks you to describe your project in more detail, including the following:

1. Opening Date
2. Closing Date
3. Proposal Venues – you will list any venues involved in the project, including addresses and details.
4. Admission Cost – you will describe any fees associated with attendance to or viewing of the project.
5. Proposal Budget – you will upload an itemized project budget in either PDF or Excel format.
6. Financial Support – you will list any organizations or individuals that are financially committed to supporting your project. You may use 300 words or less. There is the opportunity to upload proof of support documents.

7. Partnerships and Collaborations – you will list any organizations that will be involved in collaborating on the project. You may use 300 words or less.
8. Accessibility – you will describe your strategy for ensuring your project addresses physical, language, economic and social accessibility concerns. You may use 500 words or less.

This section is worth 20 percent of your overall score. The review panel will score this section of your application based on the following questions:

- ***Do the project logistics demonstrate realistic expectations?***
- ***Is the project budget realistic and responsible?***
- ***Is the project budget legible, clear, and accurate?***
- ***Does the project create multimedia content that can be used to market Tulsa's arts and culture treasures?***
- ***Does the project leverage public dollars with matching private funds?***
- ***Does the project involve community collaborators, and does it include opportunities for public involvement?***
- ***Does the program take place in an ADA accessible location?***

END-OF-CYCLE REPORT

Grantees will be required to complete a final report within 30 days of the stated program Closing Date. The report will be submitted online, and a link will be provided to all grantees. You will be required to submit photos, videos, links and/or other documents to show proof of performance of your specific project. Grantees must submit end-of-cycle report before final payment is submitted. The written portion of the report will ask for the following:

1. Final dates of the project or performance
2. Final project statistics including attendance, reach, and impact. Please be prepared to include specific demographic data such as attendance breakdown based on race/ethnicity, age, and zip codes.
3. Review and report on each of the goals stated in the "Economic Impact" section of your application.
4. A final self-rating and narrative on how your project made a measurable impact, maximized the value of the ***Vision Arts*** grant, and created an artistic impact on the community. SUMBIT VISION Arts 8 End-of-Cycle Report here.