

Bastrop Cultural Arts Commission

Mini Grant Review Criteria



Submissions will be evaluated the Cultural Arts Commission on a first come, first served basis, according to the following criteria: • Artistic Excellence and Artistic Merit - as defined below.

The **artistic excellence** of the project, which is defined as:

- Creativity, originality, reflective of the community's cultural identity (ecology, history, society). Quality of the artists, arts or design professionals, arts organizations, works of art, or services that the project will involve, as appropriate for the community in which the project takes place. Artistic excellence is evaluated based on the material and work samples submitted with the application.

The **artistic merit** of the project, which is defined as:

- Potential to advance local economic, physical, and social outcomes by:
 - Bringing new attention to or elevating key community assets and issues, voices of residents, or local history
 - Injecting new or additional energy, resources, activity, people, or enthusiasm into a place
 - Envisioning new possibilities for a community or place - a new future, a new way of overcoming a challenge, or approaching problem-solving; or
 - Connecting communities, people, places, and economic opportunity via physical spaces or new relationships.
- Potential to support artists, design professionals, and arts organizations by integrating the arts and design into the fabric of civic life.
- Level of community engagement in planning for and participating in the project.
- Strength of the partnership between required local and nonprofit partners, as well as engagement of the private and public sectors.
- Potential to reach underserved populations such as those whose opportunities to experience the arts are limited.
- Ability to carry out the project based on such factors as the appropriateness of the budget, the quality and clarity of the project goals and design, the resources involved, and the qualifications of the project's personnel.
- Appropriateness of the proposed performance measurements and their ability to demonstrate that project activities are advancing local physical, economic, and/or social outcomes. (How will you know if you have accomplished your goals?)

Placemaking Opportunity (30 points maximum)

Extent to which a project or activity builds on the distinctiveness of place using arts or cultural assets and demonstrates a potential to stimulate economic or community growth through the arts.

| Excellent (25-30 points) | Average (21 – 24 points) | Needs Improvement (0-20) points |
|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearly identifies distinctive features of the community or place. • Clearly demonstrates a strengthening of community identity through authentic incorporation of arts and culture into planning and implementation. • Clearly develops or maximizes community assets, liabilities, or local traditions through the arts. • Clearly makes art, artists, or culture integral project components | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Somewhat identifies distinctive features of the community or place. • Builds community identity through some use of arts and culture in planning and implementation. • Moderately develops or maximizes community assets, liabilities, or local traditions through the arts. • Show some evidence that art, artists, or culture is incorporated. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fails to identify distinctive features of the community or place. • Fails to build community identity through the use of arts and culture in planning and implementation. • Shows little or no evidence of developing or maximizing community assets, liabilities, or local traditions through the arts. • Shows little or no evidence that art, artists, or culture is incorporated in the project. |

Community Support (20 points maximum)

Level of community support demonstrated by active participation from community stakeholders or partners in the project.

| Excellent (17-20 points) | Average (12-16 points) | Needs Improvement (0-11) points) |
|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates strong support and endorsement from community leaders and members. • Includes strong support from local arts and cultural leaders. • Clearly involves community members in the planning, execution, and evaluation of the project. • The potential to reach underserved populations. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates moderate support and endorsement from community leaders and members. • Demonstrate moderate support from arts and cultural leaders. • Somewhat involves community members in the planning, execution, and evaluation of the project. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates little or no community support. • Demonstrates little or no support from artistic community or cultural leadership. • Little or no involvement of community members in the planning, execution, and evaluation of the project. |

Outcomes (15 points maximum)

Articulation of clear and measurable outcomes.

| Excellent (13-15 points) | Average (9-12 points) | Needs Improvement (0-8 points) |
|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project goals and objectives are specific, attainable, and measurable and are part of a long-term community strategy.• Applicant has logical and appropriate means for tracking progress toward project goals. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project goals and objectives are moderately clear, attainable, and measurable and somewhat address a long-term community strategy.• Applicant has acceptable means for tracking progress toward project goals. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project goals are unrealistic and/or offer little information about how community members will be engaged.• Applicant has unclear means for tracking progress toward project goals. |

Scoring (50 points minimum)

Calculate the total from the placemaking opportunity, community support, and outcomes criteria to determine the final score.

| Excellent (55-65 points) | Average (50-65 points) | Needs Improvement (0-50 points) |
|--------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|
|--------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|