



MICHIGAN **ARTS & CULTURE** COUNCIL

FY26 Experience Support Guidelines

*For Municipalities, Tribal Entities, PreK-12 Schools,
Colleges/Universities, and Non-Arts and Culture Nonprofit Organizations*

Application Deadline: Thursday January 22, 2026, 5:00PM EST

(Grant Period: Projects occurring March 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026.)

Available FY26 Experience Support Funding Opportunities

- Project Support (up to \$20,000)
- Facility Improvement & Equipment (up to \$30,000)
- Professional/Organizational Development (up to \$1,500)
- Field Trips (up to \$1,500)

MACC Mission Statement

The Council guides the distribution of resources to ensure that Michigan communities thrive from the civic, economic, and educational benefits of arts and culture.

MACC Vision Statement

The Council envisions a Michigan where communities celebrate creative expression and every person has access to, or participates in, arts and cultural experiences.

[Michigan Arts and Culture Council](https://michigan.gov/arts) (<https://michigan.gov/arts>)

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Application Assistance:

For questions during the application process, please contact any of MACC’s Program Managers:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------|--|
| • Alex Flannery | 517.331.5925 | flannerya1@michigan.org |
| • Jackie Lillis-Warwick | 517.881.4114 | lillis-warwickj@michigan.org |
| • Chad Swan-Badgero | 517.881.9472 | badgeroc@michigan.org |

Application Deadline:

The deadline to apply to the Experience Support grant program is **Thursday January 22, 2026, 5:00PM EST**. Following completion of the application, the organization’s Authorizing Official must sign off on the application in the Assurances section. This signature must be obtained prior to the deadline, or the application will be considered incomplete and will not be considered for funding.

Confirm Applicant Eligibility & Collect Documentation

Grant Overview

MACC's Experience Support grant program provides arts and culture-related project funding to Michigan organizations for which arts and culture is not the primary focus of the organization's mission. MACC funding may only be allocated towards arts and culture programs/projects/services that are open to the public.

Eligible Michigan applicants for Experience Support:

- PreK-12 Schools (public or private schools, home schools, school districts, young adult special education, regional educational service agencies, and/or accredited Head Start programs)
- Colleges and Universities
- Municipalities and Tribal Entities
- Nonprofit organizations (with non-arts and culture-related missions)

Organizations that exist solely to raise funds on behalf of another organization, such as auxiliary groups or "Friends of" groups, are not eligible.

MACC grant applications are adjudicated on a compliance and eligibility basis. If an applicant does not meet any (one or more) areas of compliance and eligibility listed below, the application is not recommended for funding.

Limit of One Grant Application Per Organization

According to State of Michigan's budget appropriation, MACC "shall administer an arts and cultural grant program that maintains an equitable geographic distribution of funding and utilizes past arts and cultural grant programs as a guideline for administering this program." To achieve this, each applicant organization is permitted to submit only one grant application in the FY26 grant cycle. Organizations with multiple branches, departments, or subunits must collaborate internally to submit a single MACC application. The single application can request funding that benefits multiple branches, departments, or subunits within the organization. Each program/ must be arts and culture related.

Applicants who have historically applied from multiple units are encouraged to seek an outside eligible organization to partner with on joint programming.

Cash Match Requirement

All applicants are required to make a minimum 25% cash match (no in-kind expenses allowed) to the total amount awarded. State funds may not be used as matching funds. For example, if an applicant is awarded a total of \$20,000 from MACC (through any combination of grant programs), it would be required to match the overall grant award with \$5,000 in cash ($\$20,000 \times 0.25 = \$5,000$). This means the total project cost should meet or exceed \$25,000 in this example (\$20,000 MACC funds and \$5,000 organization match). The SmartSimple portal will calculate the required cash match for applicants based on their grant request amount.

Eligibility Requirements

All Experience Support applicants must meet each of the following five requirements below. Additionally, nonprofit applicants specifically have two additional requirements (checkboxes 6, and 7).

Examples of correct information/documentation are referenced throughout this section and will appear in the Appendix. Incorrect documentation will result in the disqualification of the application.

1. The applicant possesses a valid Employer Identification Number (EIN) and is in good standing with the federal government, including being current on all required federal filings. MACC will use an IRS validation tool to verify the applicant's standing with the IRS. Applicants are not required to upload their 990 documents.
 - Information about the EIN, including what it is and how to obtain it, can be found on the [IRS EIN](https://www.irs.gov/businesses/employer-identification-number) webpage (https://www.irs.gov/businesses/employer-identification-number).
2. The applicant possesses a valid Unique Entity ID (UEI) from the federal government, and the UEI is set to “public viewing” on SAM.gov. It is 100% free to obtain and maintain a UEI; organizations do not need to pay any outside party to manage the UEI process.
 - UEIs can only be obtained from [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov/) website (https://sam.gov/). More information can be found on the [UEI Entity Registration](https://sam.gov/entity-registration) webpage (https://sam.gov/entity-registration).
3. The applicant is physically located (headquartered) and provides (or will provide) arts and culture programs/projects/services in the state of Michigan that are open to the public.
4. The applicant’s main mission is NOT arts and culture-related, as recognized by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), but the organization has eligible proposed arts and culture-related programs/projects/services that are open to the public.
5. The applicant has completed a MACC Accessibility Self-Evaluation for Experience Support Applicants document. The self-evaluative document provides an overview of the organization’s staff, programming, and facilities in order to assist an organization’s compliance with the Americans with Disability Act.
 - [MACC Accessibility Self-Evaluation for Experience Support Applicants](https://www.michiganbusiness.org/globalassets/documents/macc/macc-accessibility-self-evaluation-for-exp-support-fy26.pdf) (https://www.michiganbusiness.org/globalassets/documents/macc/macc-accessibility-self-evaluation-for-exp-support-fy26.pdf) is available as a pdf to download.
 - Additional information about MACC and the ADA is available on the [MACC Accessibility](https://www.michiganbusiness.org/industries/macc/accessibility/) webpage (https://www.michiganbusiness.org/industries/macc/accessibility/).

Additionally, nonprofit applicants specifically have two additional requirements below. (Other Experience Support applicant types (i.e. schools, colleges/universities/municipalities/tribal entities) will not complete and can move on to the next section.

6. The applicant is properly registered as an active nonprofit organization with the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) and has completed its required 2025 LARA Annual Report filing. An example of the required 2025 LARA Annual Report is included in the Appendix.

- As of June 2025, all organizations must now file LARA Annual Reports online at the [MiBusiness Registry Portal](https://mibusinessregistry.lara.state.mi.us) (mibusinessregistry.lara.state.mi.us).
- To obtain a free PDF copy of an applicant's 2025 LARA Annual Report, either log in to the organization's MiBusiness Registry Portal account or perform a search at the link [MiBusiness Search](https://mibusinessregistry.lara.state.mi.us/search/business) (https://mibusinessregistry.lara.state.mi.us/search/business).

7. The applicant is properly registered as an active nonprofit organization with the Michigan Department of the Attorney General (AG) Charitable Trust Division and possesses a current Charitable Solicitation Registration to solicit donations in the State of Michigan (or has been exempted from that requirement). An example of the required document is included in the Appendix.

- More information on the AG's Charitable Solicitation Registration requirement is available on the AG's Charitable Trust homepage [Consumer Protection Charitable Organizations](https://www.michigan.gov/consumerprotection/charities/charitable-organizations) (https://www.michigan.gov/consumerprotection/charities/charitable-organizations).
- Organizations must download the organization's public-facing Charitable Trust PDF from the AG's website by conducting a search by visiting [Charitable Entity Search](https://www.ag.state.mi.us/CharitableTrust/frmDisclaimer.aspx) homepage (https://www.ag.state.mi.us/CharitableTrust/frmDisclaimer.aspx)

Available Grant Programs & Allowable Expenses

Available FY25 Experience Support Funding Opportunities

- Project Support (up to \$20,000)
- Facility Improvement & Equipment (up to \$30,000)
- Professional/Organizational Development (up to \$1,500)
- Field Trips (up to \$1,500)

Total potential Maximum Request Amount per organization = \$53,000

- Applicants to the MACC Experience Support program may not also apply in the MACC Mission Support or Partnership grant program.
- Applicants may request and receive funding in any number of the four available funding categories.
- Applicants of any budget size are eligible to request up to the maximum request amount per category.
- All applicants must submit a non-refundable application fee of \$10 to MACC when applying. If the application fee is not submitted, the applicant's application will be considered ineligible for FY26 funding.
- All funding must be spent within the grant period: March 1, 2026, to December 31, 2026.

Facility Improvement & Equipment

Maximum Request Amount: up to \$30,000

Facility Improvement & Equipment funding is designed to assist organizations with both facility improvements and/or the purchase of equipment related to the arts and culture programming, services, and/or activities the organization provides to its audiences and communities. Organizations may request any combination of facility improvement and/or equipment needs up to the maximum request amount. Organizations applying for Facility Improvement & Equipment must have proof of ownership of the building or evidence of a long-term lease.

Facility Improvement & Equipment - Allowable Expenses

- ✓ Expansion, renovation, or construction of applicant-owned cultural facilities
- ✓ Facility structure or system maintenance of applicant-owned cultural facilities
- ✓ Feasibility studies, architectural drawings/fees, and design fees
- ✓ Construction and project management costs
- ✓ Purchase of equipment directly related to the organization's arts/cultural production

Unallowable Facility Improvement & Equipment expenses include but are not limited to:

- ✗ Costs not directly related to the project/equipment request
- ✗ General operating costs, fundraising including cost of handling grant funds
- ✗ Travel
- ✗ Costs occurring before/after the grant period
- ✗ Purchase of land
- ✗ Purchase of a building
- ✗ Purchase of a vehicle
- ✗ Capital improvements to home offices
- ✗ Projects that take place outside of Michigan
- ✗ Paying consultants of the project that are members of the applicant's board or staff
- ✗ Debt retirement
- ✗ Mortgage payments
- ✗ Preservation or restoration of non-arts and cultural related collections
- ✗ Projects that utilize funding from other state programs as matching funds
- ✗ Projects that already received funding from a previous MACC award
- ✗ Any other expenses determined not eligible by MACC

Please contact MACC staff for questions regarding allowable/unallowable expenses.