



Forsyth County
Arts Alliance

Grant Applicant Orientation

- History and Overview of the FCAA
- Elements of the Grant Process
- How the FCAA Makes Grant Decisions
- Key Dates and Deadlines
- Q&A



History and Overview

- Forsyth County Arts Alliance (FCAA) was created by proceeds from the sale of the Sawnee Arts Center in 2005.
- “Donor-Advised Fund” of the North Georgia Community Foundation
- Managed by a Local Board of Directors
- Current Total Endowment Balance: \$1.8 Million
- A Portion of Annual Investment Income is awarded as Grant Funds



History and Overview

Mission Statement

Believing that a vibrant arts culture is vital to a thriving community, FCAA enriches the arts through strategic support and financial stewardship.

Vision Statement

FCAA will be the premier philanthropic arts organization in Forsyth County.



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History and Overview

Objectives:

- To develop a broad and diverse audience base for the arts, including public and special audience education about art form.
- To increase opportunities for Cumming-Forsyth arts-providing organizations to perform, present and exhibit.
- To support programs that are reflective of Cumming-Forsyth County's diverse cultural heritage.
- To increase the artistic, management, marketing and fundraising capacity of local arts organizations.
- To support projects with the potential for self-sufficiency.
- To establish FCAA as an important contributor to the arts community in Cumming-Forsyth County.



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Elements of the Grant Process

Eligibility for Funding:

1. The arts programming, project or event must benefit the citizens of Cumming-Forsyth County and must occur between July 1 of the current year and June 30 of the following year.
2. Only 501(c)(3) nonprofit and governmental entities are permitted to be the direct recipient of the grant funds.

What FCAA Does Not Fund:

1. Debt reduction.
2. Individuals – e.g. scholarships, artistic endeavors by an individual.
3. Presentations that a reasonable person could consider objectionably offensive.
4. Lobbying or electioneering activities.



Elements of the Grant Process

A single grant will not be awarded for more than 50% of the total budget for any given program, project or event.

A single grant *generally* will not exceed \$10,000.



Elements of the Grant Process

Letter of Intent

1. Name of Organization- note if previous grant recipient and amount of grant(s)
2. Tax Exempt Status 501(C) (3), governmental entity or the equivalent verification—exempt letter from IRS not needed—you are only required to state that you have the necessary tax exempt status.
3. Provide brief description of intended arts project and include dates of project/program.
4. Provide a brief summary to address the following:
 - What is the need in the community for this project/program?
 - What are the matching or other sources of funding being pursued or secured?
 - Is this a new project/program, an on-going project/program or a phase of a multi-phase project/program?
5. Provide an estimate of the grant amount request.
6. Complete the letter with a signature and date from Authorized Official of the Organization
7. Submit the Letter of Intent by the deadline provided on the application to:

Mail or Drop off:

Cumming/Forsyth County Chamber of Commerce
212 Kelly Mill Road
Cumming, GA 30040



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Elements of the Grant Process

Grant Application

- Please Provide Original and One Copy
- Typed and Signed Application Form
- Proposal Narrative
 - organizational goals and mission
 - programming, project or event for which you are requesting funds
 - qualifications and background for providing this programming, project or event, including those for collaborating providers
 - timeline for implementation
 - statement of collaborative partnerships, volunteer involvement and/or in-kind contributions
 - how this programming, project or event will benefit the citizens of Cumming-Forsyth County and meet the mission and vision of the FCAA



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Elements of the Grant Process

Grant Application (continued)

- Current budget for organization and/or program, project or event, including list/statement of major contributors (names of individuals not necessary) and amounts given.
- Most recent year-end financial statements.
- List of the Board of Directors for your organization, including names and occupations and/or community affiliations.
- Copy of IRS 501c3 Letter of Determination (or, in the case of government, letter stating that signature is provided by an authorized employee of the applicant organization).
- Letter(s) of commitment from any significant project partner(s).
- Any additional support material that specifically addresses the artistic merit of your proposal.



Board Decision Making

Grant Proposal Review Criteria:

- Artistic and administrative capability of the applicant to complete the project. (20%)
- Artistic merit, significance, impact or educational benefit of the proposal to the community. (30%)
- Appropriateness of budget to proposed programming, project or event. (20%)
- Level of community involvement, including financial and in-kind contributions and volunteer involvement. (20%)
- Promotional opportunity afforded to the FCAA fund as a result of its support. (10%)



Board Decision Making

Grant Review Process:

- Grants are Reviewed by Finance and Grants Committee for Complete Information – Not a Review for Content
- Grants are Distributed to FCAA Board Members with Review Criteria Worksheets
- Review Period for FCAA Board is approximately 4 Weeks
- Board Meeting for Grant Decisions
- FCAA Board President Notifies North Georgia Community Foundation of Grant Award or Declination Decision
- Organizations are Notified of Award Decisions
- Checks Distributed to Award Recipients at the Awards Luncheon

