



2026

CULTURAL TRUST MINI GRANT PROGRAM GUIDELINES

Awarded annually by the Fairfield Cultural Alliance, the intent of the Cultural Trust Mini Grants are to promote and further develop art and culture within our community by offering financial support to individuals and organizations whose historic or artistic contributions offer to define Fairfield as a significant arts and culture hub in Southeast Iowa.

FCA's vision is to empower creators in Fairfield through connections, mentorship, and skills development.

GRANT DETAILS

Cultural Trust Mini Grants awarded in the amount of \$100-500 to support the public realization of connective, collaborative, and/or experimental projects/programs that fulfill one or more of the following focus areas.

- Projects/Programs that manifest new and inventive models to present/nurture/launch arts and culture in Fairfield or greater Jefferson County.
- Projects/Programs that support under-resourced artists, organizations, and creative communities

Applications will be reviewed on the following criteria:

- Art, culture, civic and educational value for Jefferson County

- Clear intent to develop and/or nurture project design, programming and operation.
- Number of community members that could pose to benefit from the project/program
- The likelihood of the success of the project/program
- Grants from the Cultural Trust will be used for programming and operations
- Preference may be given to events/programs within the state-designated Cultural District.

TIMELINE

Application Deadline: September 30, 2026

Funding Decision Notification: October 14, 2026

Funding Distributed: November 17, 2026, or via post therefore

Final Report Deadline: November 17, 2027, within 1 year of receipt of granted funds.

To include:

- photos, if possible
- Stories of success; number of attendees/participants, tickets sold, press exposure, etc.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Eligible applicants:

Any artist or art organization within Jefferson County, Iowa.

BUDGET REQUIREMENTS

Eligible Grant Requests:

- Access accommodations
- Artist fees
- Costs of items for project / program
- Domestic travel
- Marketing
- Materials
- Professional services
- Rentals
- Supplies

Ineligible Grant Requests:

- Food, beverage, alcohol
- Personnel benefits
- Religious or political activities
- Structural improvements, purchase, or construction

APPLICATION SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

[Submit your application within the link here.](#)

If you would like assistance or mentorship, please reach out

info@fairfieldculturalalliance.org

GRANT SCORING RUBRIC

APPLICANT OVERVIEW: 5 points possible

5	3	1
Applicant clearly defines project / program concept and goals. Applicant demonstrates an active presence in the community with deliberate efforts to make project / program accessible to the public.	Applicant describes concept project / program with some public access identified and some reference to achievable goals.	Project / program unclear or inadequate. Public does not have regular access to project / program.

PUBLIC VALUE: 5 points possible

5	3	1
Target audience for the project/ program is well-defined. Exemplary plans are in place to engage the public. Community members will clearly benefit from project / program.	Target audience for the project / program is identified. Plans are in place to engage the public, Community members will benefit from project/ program activities.	Target audience not clearly identified. Plans to engage the public are unclear or inadequate. Community members may not benefit from project/ program activities.

PROJECT / PROGRAM GOALS: 5 points possible

5	3	1
Goals are clearly defined and achievable within the applicant's stated timeline. The described project / program activities directly support achieving stated goals.	Goals are defined and are likely achievable. Applicant describes some activities included in their project / program that are related to goals.	Goals of project / program are vague or unrealistic given the described scope and timeline. Activities described seem unrelated to the stated goals.

OVERALL ALL ARTISTIC VITALITY: 5 points possible

5	3	1
Project provides an exceptional arts service or experience. Value of the project to the community is clear. The project is relevant to the audience or communities the applicant aims to serve.	Project provides a quality arts service or experience. The project may be of value to the community. The project may be relevant to the audience or communities the applicant aims to serve.	It is unclear if the project will provide a quality arts service or experience. It is unclear if the project will provide a quality arts service or experience.

BUDGET: 5 points possible

5	3	1
Budget and intended use of requested funds are clear, appropriate and will help the applicant to achieve intended project goal. Evidence of direct compensation to artists, makers, art collectives, and/or art workers is clear.	Budget and the intended use of requested funds are identified. It is unclear if they will help the applicant to achieve the intended project goal. Some evidence of direct compensation to artists, makers, art collectives, and/or art workers.	Budget and the intended use of requested funds are unclear or inadequate. Evidence of direct compensation to artists, makers, art collectives, and/or art workers is unclear.

CASE FOR SUPPORT: 5 points possible

5	3	1
Case for support is exemplary and merits investment from the state.	Case for support is average.	Case for support is below average or does not merit FCA investment.

The Fairfield Cultural Trust Fund was established in 2006 by the Fairfield Cultural Alliance in collaboration with The Greater Jefferson County Foundation.

The goals of the Cultural Trust Fund are to assist qualified artists and organizations in providing cultural, civic, and educational programs, encourage individual and corporate involvement through gifts and bequests, and to administer and invest funds for the creation of perpetual opportunities and services.

Policy: Non-discrimination

The policies and practices of the Fairfield Cultural Alliance are to carry out all lawful and permitted functions without discrimination because of race, creed, color, religion, age, sex, national origin, or physical or mental disability, and to treat them equally with respect to opportunities for participation as Foundation officers, directors, employees or agents and as citizens benefiting from or consideration for benefit of the services, grants, programs and activities consistent with the lawful purposes and functions of the Foundation.

Policy: Gender Neutrality

It is the policy of the Fairfield Cultural Alliance all citizens participating in Alliance services, grants, programs and activities, as well as officers, directors, employees and agents have the right to function in an environment free from all forms of harassment or gender based bias or prejudice. The Alliance does not condone, and will not tolerate any harassment or gender based bias or prejudice. The Fairfield Cultural Alliance shall take direct and immediate action to prevent such behavior, and to remedy all reported instances of harassment or gender based bias or prejudice, sexual or otherwise.

Policy: Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA)

No qualified individual with a disability will be excluded from participation in the Fairfield Cultural Alliance services, grants, programs or activities on the basis of a disability. Information concerning this policy may be obtained in accessible formats by qualified persons with a disability by making appropriate arrangements.