

2021 Art & Culture Grant Cycle

The Process

The PCF Board of Directors, its Program Committee, and staff met numerous times in July and August of 2020 to determine how best to approach the 2021 grants and support the arts and culture community to whom we are dedicated. Guiding us was our fundamental mission to provide funds to enhance the cultural life and vitality of the City of Philadelphia and its residents. Recognizing that not all segments of our city's population have equitable access to financial resources, we aimed to put our dollars where they could have the most impact in this stressful time. With such limited funds, some very difficult decisions had to be made. While this situation is far from ideal and the funding woefully inadequate, the board thoughtfully considered how to move ahead with the 2021 grants and have established the following.

Key Decisions

- With such limited funds, PCF will not be able to provide a grant to all 349 organizations that received a grant in 2020.
- We created a streamlined process that will minimize the amount of time and effort for grantees to qualify for funding. PCF decided not to open the application portal and invite new or renewed applications for 2021; no site visits or panel meetings will be conducted. The 2020 grant recipients will be the pool from which 2021 grants will be considered for funding.
- Grants will be given to organizations whose missions are focused on Art and Culture. 2020 Program Grant recipients will not receive a 2021 Art & Culture Grant.
- PCF will focus the 2021 grants on small/mid-sized organizations where the impact of PCF funds could be greatest.
- Grants will be determined by each organization's operating budget size as represented by the last year entered in their DataArts profile.
- Grants will be offered to the 217 organizations whose operating budgets fall within the 65th percentile of our 2020 grantees, meaning 65% of the 2020 grantees will be offered a 2021 grant.
- The 2021 grant amount will be based on the organization's 2020 grant that utilized a funding formula and peer panel scores that are a key element of PCF's participatory grantmaking.
- Organizations that are offered a grant will have an opportunity to Opt-In (at either 50% or 100%) or Opt-Out entirely of receiving the grant. In this moment of such limited funds to distribute throughout the city, we recognize that an organization could consider itself advantaged by having other sources of funding available to them, or have sufficient funds on hand. If an organization decides to forgo the PCF grant, or accept it at 50%, the funds not accepted will be donated back into the grant pool and the community. In this small way, the community itself has a voice in how these limited city funds are invested in the community.
- PCF expects to distribute the grants in Spring 2021, depending on when PCF receives the funds from the City.

Please note that this approach is only for the 2021 grant cycle. We must all continue to advocate to the City for a larger allocation for PCF if Philadelphia is going to flourish when COVID-19 has passed.