

2022 Art & Culture Grant Cycle

Revised 1/13/2022

Philadelphia Cultural Fund Allocation for 2022

Philadelphia City Council recently allocated an additional \$1 million to the Philadelphia Cultural Fund for FY22 from funds they set aside from the [New Normal Budget Act](#). In FY20, pre-pandemic, the city provided \$3,390,000 to PCF; last year (FY21) PCF received \$1,000,000, a devastating reduction. The city passed its FY22 budget in June 2021 with the allocation for PCF set at \$2,500,000.

The drastic reduction in FY21 had a significant impact on PCF's operations and the grants we were able to provide to Philadelphia's arts and culture community last spring: 205 organizations received approximately \$900,000, while in spring 2020 we awarded 349 organizations roughly \$2.8 million. Next spring, with the \$2.5 million city allocation and the additional \$1 million, **we anticipate awarding approximately \$3,270,000 to approximately 280 organizations.**

The Process for Determining the 2022 Art & Culture Grants

The PCF Board of Directors, its Program Committee and staff met numerous times since the city passed their FY22 budget and awarded PCF \$2.5 million to determine how best to approach the 2022 funding cycle and support the arts and culture community to whom we are dedicated. After receiving notice of the additional \$1 million, we reconvened several times to determine how best to handle this unexpected infusion.

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, that many organizations are literally in peril and all are now in the 2nd year of constantly adapting in order to serve their audiences and communities, we aimed to put our limited FY22 dollars where they might have the most impact. We also recognized that the additional \$1 million came to PCF through special city funds intended to address social ills revealed by COVID-19. So as we did for FY21, we will provide grants in a streamlined manner that will put minimal pressure on organizations so they can focus on their missions and their work during these extraordinary times.

The PCF board thoughtfully considered how to move ahead with the 2022 grants and have established the following.

Key Decisions & Guiding Priorities

- PCF will again, as in 2021, provide grants to a portion of the organizations that received a grant in 2020.
- Grants will be given to organizations whose missions are focused on Arts and Culture (those that received a 2020 general operating grant). 2020 Program Grant recipients will not receive a 2022 Art & Culture Grant.

- PCF will focus the 2022 grants on small/mid-sized organizations where the impact of PCF funds could be greatest: those who most likely have less access to revenue sources such as foundation grants and are most threatened.
- PCF will establish a streamlined process that will minimize the amount of time and effort for organizations to qualify for funding. Organizations continue to be profoundly impacted by COVID-19. Staffs are reduced, programming and budgets are in flux, and funds are greatly needed. The organizations that received funding in 2020 and offered a 2022 grant will not submit an application; site visits and panel meetings will not be conducted. The 2020 grant recipients will be the pool from which 2022 grants will be considered for funding, regardless of where they are in the multi-year cycle or if they are New & Emerging organizations that ordinarily apply annually.
- Grants will be determined by the average operating budget as represented in the PCF Funder Report submitted by all grantees to qualify for their 2020 grant. The time period captured in those Funder Reports reflect operations pre-pandemic, which settled in just as we awarded our grants in March, 2020. We will in essence extend the 2020 grant for a one-year period.
- Initially, with the \$2.5 million allocation, a grant was offered to 250 organizations whose average operating budget from their 2020 application fell below \$800,000. Now, with the infusion of \$1 million, grants will be offered to an additional 35 organizations whose average operating budget falls below \$1.5 million. The average grant amount is expected to increase from 2020.
- By moving forward in this way, the 2022 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.
- In an attempt to resume our normal operations as our capacity allows, and to more fully support the Philadelphia arts sector, this year we accepted new applications which we were unable to do last cycle. This will allow organizations that were not in the 2020 funding cycle for whatever reason to apply for a one-year general operating grant and not be blocked from city support for two consecutive years.

Please note that this approach is only for the 2022 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.