

SHERMAN COUNTY CULTURAL COALITION GRANT GUIDELINES 2024

Grant Application Process

The Sherman County Cultural Coalition will award grants on a competitive basis to proposals that:

- Fulfill one or more of the priorities established in the Sherman County Cultural Plan.
 - Protect and strengthen investment in Sherman County's existing cultural resources.
 - Engage youth in the arts, heritage and humanities.
 - Promote cultural programs that stimulate cultural opportunities and economic growth and encourage that there are accessible, suitable and affordable spaces for cultural activities in Sherman County.
 - Promote publication and dissemination of cultural information related to the arts and culture within Sherman County
 - Encourage comprehensive arts-focused planning efforts in Sherman County through the integration of cultural development strategies with economic development policies
- Result in a demonstrable benefit to County residents and visitors.

Both individuals and groups may seek Coalition grants. Groups need not be ongoing organizations and applicants need not be legally recognized nonprofits. But all applications must be based on the priorities described in the Sherman County Cultural Plan.

Grant funds will be limited. The Coalition receives its funds from the Oregon Cultural Trust. The amount of funding the Coalition may award depends upon the total funds businesses and individuals donated to the Oregon Cultural Trust in previous fiscal year and upon the amount of carry-over funding, if any, maintained by the Coalition. The Coalition cannot guarantee that it will have any funds or any particular level of funds to distribute in any given year.

The Coalition's grant year begins July 1, when the Oregon Cultural Trust begins to distribute funds to County and Tribal coalitions. The Coalition may establish and announce one or more application and grant cycles each year.

Grant applicants should generally consider Coalition funds to be supplemental and not the sole source of funding for their projects. The Coalition encourages matching funds whenever possible.

The Application Process

Applicants will submit an application to the Coalition for review by the required deadline. Applications will be evaluated based on how well the proposed project addresses the priorities of the Sherman County Cultural Plan. Projects must address at least one or more of the priorities listed. The Coalition will issue notices of

consideration to applicants whose projects it will consider funding. Applicants whose applications are questionable will be notified and may seek the Coalition's advice and assistance in preparing their proposals for resubmission within the current or subsequent grant cycle.

Application: Within the application form, the applicant will identify the person or contact responsible for the project components, a detailed budget and a description which will identify the Coalition priorities the project will address.

Grant Admission Guidelines

- Applicants must be individuals or organizations providing a service/project relating to culture in Sherman County for the residents of Sherman County primarily.
- Projects should fulfill one of these goals:
 - a) Protect and/or strengthen investments in existing cultural resources, or
 - b) Engage the community in the arts, heritage or humanities
- Grants will be awarded based on community need and/or positive impact on Sherman County and its residents.
- Grant applications must be submitted by the postmarked deadline.
- Grant funds will be available 30 days after the Cultural Coalition meeting for the review of grant proposals. It is possible the coalition may contact applicants during this time for clarification or possible suggestions regarding grant applications.
- The coalition is seeking a broad exposure to culture through these grants and therefore encourages innovation and creativity. Grants that have other potential funding sources are encouraged to apply; however, since our goal is to reach a wide variety of cultural experiences, these grants may be viewed more critically.
- It is not the purpose of the Cultural Coalition to fund ongoing programs or favor specific organizations with annual awards. With this in view, **it is possible that first time or less frequent applicants may get favorable notice.** Previous grantees are encouraged to offer new and creative proposals/projects. **When two grant cycles are offered during the year, priority for funding will be given to projects/organizations that have not received funding during the current calendar year.**
- None of the above statements are meant to discourage any organization or individual from applying. The cultural coalition seeks a broad spectrum of quality cultural opportunities for the residents of Sherman County and encourages all to apply.

In making awards, the Coalition will be alert to fairness and accountability issues. Fairness will include assurance that, over time, grants are fairly distributed to individuals and organizations bringing cultural experience to all parts of Sherman County. Accountability will include measures to indicate when the promised project has been completed.

The coalition will have the power to impose appropriate safeguards on awards to protect public funds. These safeguards may include on-going communications, including structured progress reports, between the applicant and either the Coalition or another organization serving as fiscal agent or overseer for the project.

Projects undertaken by a single individual will be subject to oversight criteria to ensure that the project goes forward if appropriate, in the event the individual applicant is unable or unwilling to follow through as promised. Funds may be dispensed in installments, with subsequent installments dependent upon receipt of satisfactory interim or final reports.

In general, the following are not eligible for Coalition grants:

- Scholarships
- Operating costs, except as part of a viable crisis recovery plan
- Projects whose primary focus is advocacy of a particular political or religious viewpoint, or which primarily benefit a political, religious, labor, fraternal or athletic group.
- Fund-raising efforts, except those in which fund-raising is incidental to a project that meets Cultural Plan priorities.
- Organizations and/or individuals who did not submit their “Final Report” for any past grant awards. Eligibility may be reinstated once the required reporting has been completed and submitted.