

Mayor's Council on the Arts Grant Process *Revised: August 14, 2026*

1. Advertise Available Grant Funding

Advertise available grant funding to MCA members through the following:

- MCA member communications
- City and/or MCA websites
- Social media platforms

2. Grant Application Period

The grant application period will remain open for approximately **4–6 weeks**.

3. Grant Application Requests

When a grant application is requested, the City Clerk's Office will provide the following:

- **2026–2027 LMCA Grant Guidelines** (PDF)
- **2026–2027 Grant Application** (fillable PDF)

4. Grant Subcommittee Review

After the application period has closed and all applications have been received, schedule a meeting of the MCA Grant Subcommittee for approximately **one week after the application deadline**.

The following materials will be provided to each Grant Subcommittee member for review:

A. Grant Applications

All submitted grant applications, including the required supporting documentation:

- 501(c)(3) Letter of Determination
- Most recent financial statements
- Current operating budget

B. 2026–2027 Organization Scorecard – Grants Subcommittee (Excel)

This scorecard includes the detailed **Grant Scoring Matrix** to be used in evaluating each application.

Subcommittee Member Responsibility:

Grant Subcommittee members shall review all assigned application materials and complete their individual scorecards prior to attending the scheduled Grant Subcommittee meeting.

5. LMCA Grant Subcommittee Meeting

The Grant Subcommittee meeting shall be **publicly noticed** through the City Clerk's Office.

A City Clerk's Office representative will attend the meeting to record the meeting minutes.

During the meeting, the City Clerk's Office will compile the scores from the Grant Subcommittee members' completed scorecards, with assistance from the Subcommittee members, using the following documents:

- **2026–2027 Organization Scores** (Excel) – one score sheet for each organization
- **2026–2027 Grant Allocation** (Excel)
- **Award List** (Excel) – to be submitted to the Finance Department

2026-2027 LMCA Grant Application

Please make sure you have thoroughly reviewed the Grant Guidelines paperwork before completing the application.

Organization Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Grant Contact Name _____

Grant Contact Email Address _____ Phone Number _____

Name of Executive Director/CEO (If different from Grant Contact) _____

Website _____

Total Operating Expenses for Most
Recently Completed Fiscal Year

Grant Amount Requested

Answer the following based on the Grant Guidelines.

Organizational History (500 Character Limit)

Core Programming Description (500 Character Limit)

Proposed Programming Description (1,000 Character Limit)

Financial Health (500 Character Limit)

Evaluation (500 Character Limit)

Required Attachments to be submitted with application:

- 501(c)3 Letter of Determination
- Most recently completed fiscal year financials
- Current operating budget

I, the undersigned, attest that the information provided on this application is true and accurate, and if this application for grant funding is approved, that the funding will be utilized in accordance with the project programming as outlined.

Signature (a typed signature is acceptable)

Printed Name

Date



LkldArts.org

Lakeland Mayor's Council on The Arts Scoring Matrix

	Organizations were asked these questions:	Think about these questions when scoring:			
Organizational History	1. Brief summary of organization including year it was founded and major accomplishments. Total Points Value: 5	How has this organization contributed to the Lakeland Creative industries and arts community within the last three years?	How has this organization fostered collaboration with other members of the Lakeland creative industries and arts community?	How does the organization work to attract and impact new audiences?	
Core Programming	1. Organizations were asked to summarize their core programming. 2. Where does the core programming take place? 3. How many participants does the organization serve annually? 4. What percentage of your attendance are City of Lakeland residents and how do you track that? Total Points Value: 5	Is the organization part of the creative industries or the arts community?	Does the organization benefit the community through their mission?	Does the organization further the LMCA goal of growing and enriching the arts community in Lakeland?	Does the organization help establish Lakeland's reputation as a destination for the creative industries and the arts?
Proposed Programming	1. Organizations were asked to summarize any and all special programming for which this grant application is intended. 2. How does the proposed programming strengthen Lakeland's arts and culture community? 3. How is this program innovative? Is there any programming of its kind in Lakeland currently? 3. How many Lakeland residents do you anticipate reaching? Total Points Value: 10	Is the purpose of the event, series, or initiative a contribution to the creative industries/or the arts community in Lakeland?	Does this event, series or initiative benefit the community through its purpose?	Does this event, series, or initiative further the LMCA goal of growing and enriching the arts community of Lakeland?	Does the event, series, or initiative help establish Lakeland's reputation as a destination for the creative industries and the arts?
Financial Health	1. Organizations were asked about the financial stability of their organizations. 2. In the past three years, has the organization been unable to complete a program due to lack of funding? If yes, please describe. Total Points Value: 5	Has the organization been unable to complete a program due to lack of funding? Why?	How has the financial status of the organization changed over the last three years?		
Evaluation	1. Organization was asked to describe and provide examples of the metrics used to evaluate the success of their events, series, or initiative. 2. What is your plan to evaluate the program? 3. What metrics are you tracking? Total Points Value: 5	Examples do not address or inadequately address success metrics.	Examples minimally address success metrics.	Examples adequately address success metrics	Examples are thorough and fully describe metrics as they relate to the LMCA application.

2026-2027 Lakeland Mayor's Council on the Arts Grant Scorecard

Instructions to LMCA Grant Committee Members:

1. Review the Grant Scoring Matrix on the second tab of this document. Reference the Matrix when scoring the organizations on Organization History, Core Programming, Proposed Programming, Financial Health, and Evaluation.
2. Review the Grant application for each organization, which includes the organizations IRS 501(c)3 Letter of Determination, Most Recently completed Fiscal Year Financials, and Current Operating Budget.
2. Carefully evaluate and score each section of each organization with a fair, accurate and unbiased opinion.
4. Be aware that Proposed Programming is allowed a maximum of 10 points, while Organization History, Core Programming, Financial Health, and Evaluation are all allowed a maximum of 5 points.
5. This form will automatically calculate the Total Points and Percentage. Be advised some cells may be locked to maintain the integrity of the formulas and information.

Keep in mind, each organization must meet the following eligibility requirements:

*Must be a Lakeland-based art-centric 501(c)3 non-profit organization

*Must have three years of valid operating experience.

SAMPLE

Organization Name (in alphabetical order)	Prior Year Operating Expenses	Grant Amount Requested	Eligible Amount up to:	Organization History (Max Points 5)	Core Programming (Max Points 5)	Proposed Programming (Max Points 10)	Financial Health (Max Points 5)	Evaluation (Max Points 5)	Total Points	Percentage
The Ashley Gibson Barnett Museum of Art (The AGB)	\$ 2,092,426.00	\$ 70,000.00	\$ 75,000.00	4	5	9	5	4	27	90%
Bonnet Springs Park	\$ 11,097,000.00	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 75,000.00	5	5	10	5	4	29	97%
Florida Children's Museum	\$ 3,700,000.00	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 75,000.00	4	5	8	4	5	26	87%
Harrison School for the Arts Parents' Association	\$ 190,859.76	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	4	5	10	5	5	29	97%
The Lakeland Art Guild, DBA The Lakeland Arts Association	\$ 114,546.00	\$ 11,454.00	\$ 11,454.60	4	5	8	5	5	27	90%
Lakeland Community Theatre	\$ 656,683.00	\$ 65,668.00	\$ 65,668.30	5	5	10	5	5	30	100%
Lakeland Symphony Orchestra	\$ 547,500.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 54,750.00	4	5	10	4	5	28	93%
Platform Art, Inc.	\$ 113,842.00	\$ 11,384.00	\$ 11,384.20	5	4	10	5	5	29	97%
Polk Theatre, Inc.	\$ 849,037.00	\$ 42,452.00	\$ 75,000.00	5	5	9	5	5	29	97%

The Ashley Gibson Barnett (The AGB) Museum

Dr. Daryl Ward
800 E. Palmetto Street
Lakeland, FL 33801
<https://www.agbmuseum.org>

Contact Information:
Lesley Chambers
863-688-4473
lchambers@flsouthern.edu

Total Operating Expenses for Prior Year	\$2,092,426.00
Grant Amount Requested:	\$70,000.00
Eligible Amount:	\$75,000.00

SAMPLE

	Score 1	Score 2	Score 3	Score 4	Score 5	TOTAL	AVERAGE
Section 1. Organization History * 500 Character Limit * Total Points Value: 5	4	3	4	5	5	21	4
Section 2. Core Programming Description * 500 Character Limit * Total Points Value: 5	5	4	5	5	5	24	5
Section 3. Proposed Programming Description * 1000 Character Limit * Total Points Value: 10	9	10	10	10	10	49	10
Section 4. Financial Health * 500 Character Limit * Total Points Value: 5	5	4	5	5	5	24	5
Section 5. Evaluation * 500 Character Limit * Total Points Value: 5	4	4	5	5	4	22	4

Minimum Points Required
for Funding: 21

Minimum required: 70%
(Total divided by 30)

Total Points	28
Percentage	93%

Grant Amount Awarded	65,333.33
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2026-2027 Mayor's Council on the Arts Grant Award List

Submitted 11/00/2026

Organization Name (in alphabetical order)	Award Based on Scoring and Eligible Funds	Executive Director	Address	City	State	Zip	Email
The Ashley Gibson Barnett Museum of Art (The AGB)		Dr. Daryl Ward	800 E. Palmetto Street	Lakeland	Florida	33801	lchambers@flsouthern.edu
Bonnet Springs Park		Josh Henderson	400 Bonnet Springs Blvd	Lakeland	Florida	33815	khein@bonnetspringspark.com
Florida Children's Museum		Kerry Falwell	600 Bonnet Springs Blvd	Lakeland	Florida	33815	kfalwell@explorefcm.org
Harrison School for the Arts Parents' Association		Barbara Erickson	750 Hollingsworth Rd	Lakeland	Florida	33801	barbaraerickson@aol.com
The Lakeland Art Guild DBA The Lakeland Arts Association		Sherry Ross	356 E. Parker	Lakeland	Florida	33801	Presidentlkldartsassoc@gmailcom
Lakeland Community Theatre		Alan S. Reynolds	121 South Lake Ave	Lakeland	Florida	33801	boxofficeclct@gmail.com
Lakeland Symphony Orchestra		Ashley Miller	PO Box 2623	Lakeland	Florida	33806	amiller@lkldsymphony.org
Platform Art, Inc.		Cynthia Haffey	829 E. Palmetto St.	Lakeland	Florida	33801	Cynthia@PlatformArt.org
Polk Theatre, Inc.		Leslie Sikora	139 South Florida Avenue	Lakeland	Florida	33801	lesliesikora@me.com

2026-2027 Mayor's Council on the Arts Grant Allocation

											Decrease Percentage	95.0%
Organization Name (in alphabetical order)	Prior Year Operating Expenses	Grant Amount Requested	Eligible Amount up to:	Organizational History	Core Programming	Proposed Programming	Financial Health	Evaluation	Total Points	Percentage	Award Based on Score %	Award Based on Eligible Funds
The Ashley Gibson Barnett Museum of Art (The AGB)	\$ 2,092,426.00	\$ 70,000.00	\$ 75,000.00	4.00	5.00	10.00	5.00	4.00	28.00	93%	\$ 65,333.33	\$ 62,066.67
Bonnet Springs Park	\$ 11,097,000.00	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 75,000.00						-	0%	\$ -	\$ -
Florida Children's Museum	\$ 3,700,000.00	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 75,000.00						-	0%	\$ -	\$ -
Harrison School for the Arts Parents' Association	\$ 190,859.76	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00						-	0%	\$ -	\$ -
The Lakeland Art Guild, DBA The Lakeland Arts Association	\$ 114,546.00	\$ 11,454.00	\$ 11,454.60						-	0%	\$ -	\$ -
Lakeland Community Theatre	\$ 656,683.00	\$ 65,668.00	\$ 65,668.30						-	0%	\$ -	\$ -
Lakeland Symphony Orchestra	\$ 547,500.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 54,750.00						-	0%	\$ -	\$ -
Platform Art, Inc.	\$ 113,842.00	\$ 11,384.00	\$ 11,384.20						-	0%	\$ -	\$ -
Polk Theatre, Inc.	\$ 849,037.00	\$ 42,452.00	\$ 75,000.00						-	0%	\$ -	\$ -

SAMPLE