

2026-2027 ARTS SEASON
FUNDING ARTS NETWORK
ANNUAL GRANTS

**APPLICATION INSTRUCTION
BOOKLET**





FUNDING ARTS NETWORK GRANT APPLICATION INSTRUCTION BOOKLET

Dear Applicant and Member of the Miami-Dade Arts Community,

FUNDING ARTS NETWORK (FAN) is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the cultural enrichment of Miami Dade County residents. FAN provides funds through grant support for programs to performing and visual arts organizations.

- This Grant Application Instruction Booklet contains criteria for eligibility and funding of FAN's annual grants, a description of the screening and selection process, instructions for completing the STEP 1 and STEP 2 applications, and answers to frequently asked questions.
- Funding Arts Network accepts applications through SmarterSelect.com, an online application platform. Each applicant will establish an account and can then proceed to the application. This account will be available throughout the grant cycle for which you are applying.
- **You must submit the applications by the deadline posted on the FAN website and stated here.**

FAN looks forward to receiving your application.

Sincerely,

Monica Cronin, Terry Kaplan, and Tish Richardson

Vice Presidents - Grants

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APPLICATION PROCESS

The FAN annual grant application is a two-step process.

Applicants must submit a STEP 1 Application online via SmarterSelect.com, which is accessible via a link on the [FAN website](#).

Each organization may submit only one proposal.

In early November, FAN will invite eligible organizations to submit STEP 2 Applications.

- STEP 1 Applications are due **Wednesday, October 22, 2025**, at **5 PM**.
- FAN will email invitations to submit a STEP 2 Application to eligible applicants in early **November 2025**.
- STEP 2 Applications are due **Thursday, January 15, 2026**, at **5 PM**.
- Notification of Grants and Community Impact Awards: **April 2026**.
- Grant Awards Event: **April 2026**.

FAN GRANTS ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Grant Eligibility

Organizations must:

- Be a performing or visual arts organization or a division or unit that is PRIMARILY engaged in the presentation of performing or visual arts programs to the public and that maintains its principal office in Miami-Dade County.
- Be an active, not-for-profit, Florida corporation in good standing or be a division or unit of a not-for-profit Florida Corporation in good standing, public entity, college or university in which that division or unit is administratively and programmatically distinct with its own mission, staff and budget.
- Be tax-exempt under §501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code for at least 36 months prior to the submission of the application and have completed at least 36 months of operations presenting visual or performing arts programs to the public in Miami-Dade County.
- Be currently registered with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to solicit contributions, unless the exempt organization falls under the categories listed in §496.403 of the Florida Statutes (e.g., educational institution).
- Request funding for a program that reflects your PRIMARY mission and will take place in Miami-Dade County during the FAN funding cycle, between July 1, 2026, and June 30, 2027.

Organizations and Proposed Programs may not:

- Be a student visual or performing arts organization below the graduate level.
- Consist primarily of non-professional artists or performers.
- Illegally limit participation in the proposed project/program, or any other of its programs or activities, on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, veteran status, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or gender identification.

Special Considerations:

- The term “professional” means “a person who earns a living through expression of a particular art form or forms and who will be performing or presenting that art or those specific art form(s) in the funded program.” The professional does not need to be paid for performing in the applied-for program.
- If the applicant is an identifiable component of an umbrella organization (e.g., university, cultural organization), the umbrella organization may NOT also be an applicant in this grant cycle.
- If the program is a collaborative effort among two or more organizations, the lead organization must submit the application, meet the eligibility requirements, and be the funding recipient.

FUNDING CRITERIA FOR PERFORMING AND VISUAL ARTS GRANTS

FUNDING ARTS NETWORK is dedicated to the cultural enrichment of Miami-Dade County by supporting the PROGRAMS of performing and visual arts organizations. FAN's goal is to fund creative and innovative performances, productions, and exhibitions that will stimulate the minds and capture the imaginations of our community's diverse audiences. FAN encourages the development of new projects and programs that engage and strengthen our community and heightens its appreciation of the arts.

FUNDING ARTS NETWORK provides program support to small, mid-sized, and large professional visual and performing arts organizations with diverse audiences serving all areas of Miami-Dade County. Each applicant organization may submit only one application for a single proposal.

For the annual grant, **FUNDING ARTS NETWORK** will NOT fund:

- Interest on loans
- operating deficits
- pass-through funding
- capital expansion
- fundraising activities
- entire seasons
- conferences, lectures or seminars
- conventions
- workshops
- training
- master classes
- living expenses
- performance or exhibits that take place in schools or camps
- student recitals, performances or exhibitions below the graduate level
- travel, hotel or food expenses
- scholarships
- competitions
- street fair events
- expenses not directly attributable to the proposed program

FAN will not fund any production/exhibit that has been presented by the applicant organization in Miami-Dade County within 5 years prior to the current FAN funding cycle unless the program is substantially different from prior presentations.

If the proposed program begins before or extends beyond FAN's funding period, FAN will only fund that portion that occurs during the funding period.

STEP 1 PRELIMINARY APPLICATION

Deadline 5 PM, Wednesday, October 22, 2025

The first step in submitting a funding request is to complete the STEP 1 preliminary application on SmarterSelect. You will provide a brief description of the proposed program, the applicant organization's mission statement *as it appears on its website*, and some background information. You can access the application via a link on the [FAN website](#) or directly at [SmarterSelect](#).

FAN will begin accepting STEP 1 applications on October 1, 2025.

This year we are asking for the letter from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) as part of the STEP 1 application. (A sample of this document appears at the end of this booklet.) This registration expires annually, and it must be in effect both when you file STEP 1 and STEP 2 applications.

Please follow the directions found on the SmarterSelect portal for completing the STEP 1 preliminary application. We recommend that you **print or download a copy of your completed STEP 1 application for your records**. You can print easily from the "Print as Applicant" pdf.

SmarterSelect will send you confirmation receipt of your application once completed. Please notify vpgrants@fundingartsnetwork.org if you do not get confirmation of your application submission.

FAN will notify all STEP 1 applicants whether or not they may proceed to STEP 2, the full grant application, in early November. Applicants eligible to move on to STEP 2 will receive a link to the SmarterSelect STEP 2 application.

APPLICATION TIPS

Review this Grant Application Instruction Booklet to confirm your organization's eligibility to apply.

READ ENTIRE APPLICATION CAREFULLY.

All requested information and documents are required for timely submission.

Late submissions and incomplete applications will not be accepted.

**YOU CAN SAVE YOUR APPLICATION WHILE IT IS IN PROGRESS BY
CLICKING ON THE SAVE BUTTON AT THE BOTTOM OF THE APPLICATION.**

FAN is not obligated to fund any proposal. Materials submitted in the proposal process become the property of Funding Arts Network and will not be returned.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING STEP 2 APPLICATION

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

Use **only** the [FAN STEP 1 Application form found on the SmarterSelect portal](#). If your organization qualifies, it will receive the SmarterSelect link to the STEP 2 application from FAN.

The applicant will establish a free account and can then proceed to the application. This account will be available throughout the grant cycle.

Applicants should keep a copy of the completed application for their records as you will not have access to the application after the deadline.

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS:

Submit an online application (including support materials) via SmarterSelect, using the link sent to you by FAN.

STEP 2 APPLICATION DEADLINE

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2026

5 PM EST

Applications must be received online
by this deadline in order to be considered.

**FAN will not consider late or incomplete grant applications
or those which do not follow these guidelines.**

FURTHER INFORMATION:

To ask questions regarding eligibility or the preparation of your application, please contact vpgrants@fundingartsnetwork.org.

ANNUAL GRANTS CHECKLIST

Organizations must make sure the following documents are included in their STEP 2 applications on SmarterSelect:

- Applicant's logo in .jpg format
- Image related to program in .jpg format
- Current Florida Corporate Annual Report. (A sample of this document appears at the end of this booklet.) This may be downloaded from the Florida Division of Corporations at <https://dos.myflorida.com/sunbiz/search/>.
- IRS §501(c)(3) Determination Letter
- Key staff and artist biographies/resumes
- Board of Directors List and amount of total board contributions to applicant
- Financial information (forms are available through SmarterSelect)
- Links to attach recent reviews and/or video clips (if available).

If your organization is eligible to file a Small Charitable Organizations/Sponsors Application with FDACS, you may submit the postcard received from FDACS as proof of registration. If applicable, applicant may submit instead a statement that it is part of a local public college or university or government agency.

GRANT APPLICATION FORMAT

The Grant Application consists of requested information concerning the **Program Proposal** as well as the **Required Documents**.

Program Proposal:

Applicant Information asks for general information about the organization and the proposed project. The Board President or Executive Director must give final approval. The name of the Proposal Contact Person is required. The latter may be asked for clarification, and therefore should be the person with IMMEDIATE RESPONSIBILITY for the project (**not** the grant writer.)

Mission Statement requires the Mission Statement of the organization AS IT APPEARS ON THE ORGANIZATION'S WEBSITE.

Project/Program Information requires specific information and brief descriptions of the project proposal.

Organizational Budget requires completing **your own budget forms** for your organization's general operating budget, **including program income and expenses**, showing actual income and expenses for its current fiscal year and projections for the fiscal year in which your program will commence. These can be provided in excel, pdf, or word formats.

Program Budget requires projected revenues and expenses for the program for which funding is requested - *not* the organization.

Instructions and Definitions for Completing Proposed Budget:

The expense items for which an applicant is requesting a FAN grant must be listed in an appropriately descriptive row/column. If we cannot tell from your description whether an item is an eligible or ineligible expense, we will assume it is an ineligible one.

Only show "cash" and "in-kind" categories as applicable.

SCREENING AND SELECTION PROCESS

The application process is competitive. STEP 2 Applicants are reviewed and evaluated by FAN Screening Teams under the direction of the Vice Presidents - Grants. Members of the FAN Screening Committee are subject to a rigorous conflict of interest policy to protect the neutrality of the process and are trained by FAN in evaluation procedures and criteria.

The Screeners act as factfinders for the Screening Committee, reviewing applications and evaluating the proposals for program quality, artistic merit, outreach to target audiences, innovation, and budget feasibility. The teams also review the organization for administrative strength, fiscal responsibility, and board support.

Screening Teams contact eligible applicants to arrange interviews. Interviews and site visits are critical to the review process. Screening Teams make funding recommendations based on a rigorous review of the grant applications and personal interviews. It is to the applicant's advantage to include in the interview the person(s) most knowledgeable about the program for which funding is being requested.

GRANT AWARDS LUNCHEON

Funding Arts Network recognizes the Grant and Community Impact Award Recipients at its annual meeting in April.

All applicants must print-sign-scan-and-return the contract by email before the Awards Luncheon.

A representative of each grantee is required to attend this event.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- Where does Funding Arts Network acquire its funds for grants?

The funding pool is created by member contributions.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Our program will begin in the winter of FAN's funding cycle and finish in the fall of the next funding cycle. May we apply?

Yes, but FAN will only consider funding that portion presented during the FAN funding cycle (July 1 – June 30). When preparing the Financial Information, you should request funds only for the portion to be presented during the eligible grant period.

- What do you consider a visual or performing arts organization?

An organization whose mission is to offer programs in one of the following disciplines for which FAN accepts applications: Dance, Music, Theater, and Visual Arts (including film).

- Our performances are really multi-disciplinary. We present musical theater works, but we also have a major dance component and use the visual arts as an integral part of our work. What should we do?

Select the ONE discipline that you consider to be the most important focus of the program for which you request funding.

- May we request funding in an arts area that is not part of our mission, for example, a visual arts organization applying for a concert series, or a music presenter applying for a visual arts exhibition?

No. Your grant request must be in the area of your mission. However, funding is available for programs which are multi-disciplinary provided that one of the disciplines within the program for which funding is being sought is within the discipline stated in your mission statement.

- We are a not-for-profit organization. Although our primary mission is not presenting programs in the performing or visual arts, we have decided to present such a program next year. Would we be eligible for a grant?

No. FAN will NOT fund organizations whose primary mission is NOT the presentation of visual or performing arts. However, you might suggest to the performing or visual arts group that it apply to us for a grant, if eligibility requirements are met.

GRANTS ADMINISTRATION

- What happens if we are awarded a grant?
 - Funding Arts Network will enter into a contract with your organization to provide funds, up to the awarded amount, for specific items in your proposal.
 - You will receive 100% of the award upon certified completion of the program and submission of final reports. HOWEVER, you may apply for a pre-payment of up to \$2,500 upon showing evidence of substantial progress toward implementation of the program.
- May we substitute performers, change the program, or the dates or location of the event?
 - FAN has the discretion to approve certain changes to the program as described in the application. A change, even if approved, may result in a reduction of the grant. Any deviation from the approved project requires **the prior written consent** of the Grants Manager at grantsmanager@fundingartsnetwork.org.
- How do we recognize FAN's grant award to our organization?
 - The Grant Contract between FAN and each Grantee requires that recipients of FAN grants accord recognition to FAN as a funding source in all media at the same level as recognition is accorded to equivalent grantor or donor organizations: The FAN logo should only be displayed during the year in which a grant is awarded.
- How much are the grant awards?
 - FAN will award grants of equal value. Each grant award will be \$10,000.
 - FAN membership may also grant additional monetary awards at its discretion.

**Detailed instructions on how to receive grant funds
and deal with changes will be provided in the grant contract packet.**

HELPFUL DEFINITIONS:

Administrative Personnel: That portion of the remuneration of employees on the applicant's payroll (executive and supervisory, program directors, managing directors, business managers, clerical staff, ushers, security, box office, etc.) directly attributable to the project.

Admissions/Ticket Sales: Revenue earned from public attendance at exhibitions or performances.

Annual Fund Donations: That portion of annual fundraising efforts that will be applied to the proposed program.

Applicant Cash: Funds from applicant's present or anticipated cash resources (e.g., loans, endowment funds, cash surpluses, etc.) which will be applied to the proposed project.

Artistic Staff: That portion of the remuneration of employees on applicant's payroll (artistic directors, directors, conductors, curators, dance masters, composers, choreographers, designers, actors, dancers, singers, musicians, etc.) directly attributable to the proposed project.

Equipment Purchase or Rental: Do not include equipment rental that is included as part of the rental agreement for the performance venue.

Fundraising Events: Revenues from fundraising events specifically held for the proposed project.

In-Kind Contributions: All non-cash contributions provided for the proposed project. The basis for valuation of these contributions must be the fair market value and be documented.

Office: That portion of the applicant's office rental expense directly related to the proposed project.

Other Earned Revenue: Revenues derived from fees earned through the sale of services to individuals or other organizations (e.g., workshop presentations, class tuitions, performances where remuneration is not direct ticket sales, etc.).

Outside Artistic and Technical Fees: That portion of the remuneration provided to individuals in the categories described above who are not normally on the payroll of the applicant.

Performance Fees: Revenues derived from fees earned through the sales of services to other organizations, e.g., workshop presentations, performances where remuneration is not from direct sales, etc.

Professional: A professional artist or performer is a person who earns a living through expression of a particular art form and who will be performing or presenting that specific art form in the funded program. The professional does not need to be remunerated for their performance or presentation in the funded program.

Program Materials: Items to be purchased for use during the proposed project that cost less than \$500 and have a useful life of less than one year (e.g., office supplies, sheet music, sets, props, exhibition materials, costumes, etc.).

Program-Related Sales: Income generated from non-ticket sales (e.g., program sales, advertising, parking, t-shirts, posters, etc.).

Public Relations/Marketing: All expenses for publicity and promotion, such as newspaper advertising, printing, social media directly attributable to the proposed program.

Technical/Production Staff: That portion of the remuneration of employees on the applicant's payroll (e.g., technical directors, wardrobe, lighting and sound crew, stage managers, stagehands, exhibit preparers and installers, etc.) directly attributable to the proposed program.

Trucking and Hauling: This includes trucking, shipping, or hauling items or equipment for use in the program.

Venue Rent: The payments for use of theaters, auditoriums, etc., directly related to the proposed program.

2021 FLORIDA NOT FOR PROFIT CORPORATION ANNUAL REPORT

DOCUMENT# N95000005985

Entity Name: FIFTY OVER FIFTY, INC.

Current Principal Place of Business:

11015 GIRASOL AVE
CORAL GABLES, FL 33156

Current Mailing Address:

POB 331864
MIAMI, FL 33233-1864 US

FEI Number: [REDACTED]

Certificate of Status Desired: No

Name and Address of Current Registered Agent:

SUAREZ, YOLANDA M.
10601 SW 69 AVE
MIAMI, FL 33156 US

The above named entity submits this statement for the purpose of changing its registered office or registered agent, or both, in the State of Florida.

SIGNATURE: YOLANDA M. SUAREZ

01/27/2021

Electronic Signature of Registered Agent

Date

Officer/Director Detail :

Title

Name

Address

City-State-Zip:

Title

Name

Address

City-State-Zip:

Title

Name

Address

City-State-Zip:

Title

Name

Address

City-State-Zip:

Title

Name

Address

City-State-Zip:

Title

Name

Address

City-State-Zip:

Title

Name

Address

City-State-Zip:

Title

Name

Address

City-State-Zip:

I hereby certify that the information indicated on this report or supplemental report is true and accurate and that my electronic signature shall have the same legal effect as if made under oath; that I am an officer or director of the corporation or the receiver or trustee empowered to execute this report as required by Chapter 617, Florida Statutes; and that my name appears above, or on an attachment with all other like empowered.

SIGNATURE: PAULA FINKLE

PRESIDENT

01/27/2021

Electronic Signature of Signing Officer/Director Detail

Date

DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES
(850) 410-3800



THE RHODES BUILDING
2005 APALACHEE PARKWAY
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-6500

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES
COMMISSIONER NICOLE "NIKKI" FRIED

October 12, 2020

Refer To: _____

RE: _____
REGISTRATION#: _____
EXPIRATION DATE: November 16, 2021

Dear Sir or Madam:

The above-named organization/sponsor has complied with the registration requirements of Chapter 496, Florida Statutes, the Solicitation of Contributions Act. A COPY OF THIS LETTER SHOULD BE RETAINED FOR YOUR RECORDS.

Every charitable organization or sponsor which is required to register under s. 496.405 must conspicuously display the registration number issued by the Department and in capital letters the following statement on every printed solicitation, written confirmation, receipt, or reminder of a contribution:

"A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE (800-435-7352) WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE."

The Solicitation of Contributions Act requires an annual renewal statement to be filed on or before the date of expiration of the previous registration. The Department will send a renewal package approximately 30 days prior to the date of expiration as shown above.

Thank you for your cooperation. If we may be of further assistance, please contact the Solicitation of Contributions section.

Sincerely,

Deborah Mallon
Regulatory Consultant
850-410-3707
Fax: 850-410-3804
E-mail: deborah.mallon@fdacs.gov