Program Description

This grant program was developed in 2020 to support arts activities in Alaska during a time of great change, response to community need, and creativity. In 2021 - 2022, with additional support from American Rescue Plan Act funds dedicated through the National Endowment for the Arts, this program is evolving to offer continued support for organizations and individuals. Because of the COVID-19 Pandemic we saw organizations and individuals:

- adapting practice and growing capacity to respond to the changes in our communities,
- and/or developing innovative ways to operate programs and projects that support the arts in communities.

The Alaska State Council on the Arts, with support from Rasmuson Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts, will continue support for Alaskan organizations and individuals to adapt and innovate practice and operations with reduced risk, as the arts and culture sector recovers. The purpose of this granting strategy is to support efforts to rebuild and advance our work together, provide operational continuity, connect with community, and to positively impact Alaskan lives across the state in and through the arts and cultures of our state.

This funding supports artists, culture bearers and organizations as they sustain their practice, advocate for the arts in their communities, and continue as touchstones for the community members they serve and rely upon in their work. Through participation in arts experiences, Alaskans will feel more creatively connected, respected, seen, and heard, and the arts and culture sector will sustain communities.

Through 2022, this program’s focus will emphasize support for individuals and organizations in the following categories of expenditures:

- Salary support, full or partial.
- Fees and stipends for artists / contractual personnel.
- Facilities - rent and utilities for organizational facilities.
- Health and safety supplies for staff / visitors / audiences.
- Marketing and promotion costs.
- Awards to individuals may support presentations, workshops, research, and/or creation of artwork, with tangible outcomes. This is considered a stipend to the artist for the work undertaken and completed during the grant period.

**Support for Adaptation:** organizations and individuals are encouraged to adapt practice and capacities that allow for Alaskans of all ages to have safe and supportive access to, and engagement with, the arts and artists in our state.

**Support for Innovation:** organizations and individuals are encouraged to try new ways of sharing arts practice, arts engagement, arts education, and/or arts commerce while keeping communities safe and well. This includes innovative projects and programs, innovation in operations, delivery of goods and services, connection with community, and building relationships with audiences.
Grant Guidelines and Eligibility

For each of the following categories of Adaptation and Innovation grants, **deadlines are ongoing on a rolling basis and an application must be submitted and complete no fewer than 45 days prior to the planned activity.**

Organizations and Individuals may apply for and receive a single Adaptation and Innovation Grant award, in alternate fiscal years (July 1 – June 30). At this time, if an individual or organization who received funding through the Adaptation and Innovation grant program last fiscal year (FY 2021 beginning July 1, 2020), is not eligible to receive an award until next fiscal year (FY 2023 beginning July 1, 2022), should the program continue.

**Adaptation and Innovation for Individuals (up to $2,000.00)**
Eligible Applicants: Alaska professional and community-based, individual, artists, culture bearers and teaching artists.
- must be able to document a sustained commitment to artistic career, making work, and/or to generating dialogue with a public audience or community in and through the arts, and must intend to continue in the state for the next 12 months or longer.
- must be 21 years of age or older.
- must be able to provide a W9 and Social Security Number (SSN) or Individual Tax Identification Number (ITIN).

**Adaptation and Innovation for Organizations (up to $2,000.00)**
Eligible Applicants: Alaska nonprofit, tax exempt 501(c)3 arts and cultural organizations, Alaska arts and cultural groups fiscally sponsored by an eligible nonprofit organization, Alaska tribal nonprofits, Alaska community nonprofit organizations with documented history of art practice.
- must be able to provide documentation of eligible nonprofit, tax exempt 501(c)3 status in Alaska, or work with a fiscal sponsor organization which can provide documentation of eligible nonprofit status in Alaska.
- must be able to document at least two years of intentional artistic practice in your community.
- an eligible nonprofit, tax exempt 501(c)3 organization whose mission is not wholly focused on arts and culture in Alaska must provide a plan that includes at least one Alaska nonprofit arts organization, professional or community-based artist, culture bearer and/or teaching artist.

**Adaptation and Innovation for Arts & Culture Organizations (up to $10,000.00)**
Eligible Applicants: Alaska Nonprofit, tax exempt organizations for which all or a significant portion of mission is met through arts practice, arts engagement, arts education, and/or arts commerce.
- must be involved in producing, presenting or undertaking a series of events or ongoing art programs.
- must be able to provide documentation of eligible nonprofit status in Alaska.
- must be guided by an arts and culture mission or purpose, for at least two years in Alaska.
Expenses not eligible for support through Adaptation and Innovation Grants:

- Capital equipment purchases greater than $5,000.00, or new construction building projects are not eligible. (supplies and materials for adaptations to existing spaces in support of safe operation are eligible.)
- Academic scholarships, tuition assistance or expenses related to academic practice for individuals (professional development/training related to the proposal is eligible.)
- Expenses for lobbying or fundraising in relation to political campaigns or other political activity.
- Fundraising expenses, specifically for the award of a prize.
- Offset of prior deficits.
- Alcohol.
- Out of state travel.
- Home Offices. All costs related to home offices are unallowable.
- Retail Worker costs, such as gift shop employees and café workers, are unallowable.

Grant Review Criteria and Process

For each category of Adaptation and Innovation Grant funding, the same review criteria and process will be applied. Each of the grant review criteria will be considered from a perspective of artistic excellence, and artistic merit. Once ASCA receives a complete and eligible application, Program Directors will review each application using the criteria identified below. If there are questions, the reviewer will contact the grant application by phone and/or email for clarification.

Following review, an applicant will be notified of the result of that review. Should grant funding be awarded, ASCA staff will provide an award agreement for signing along with guidance about becoming a payable vendor through the State of Alaska accounting system, as appropriate. Once a signed award agreement is returned to ASCA, it is submitted to the State of Alaska accounting system for payment on the award.

Grant Review Criteria

- How does the project meet the definition of adaptation and innovation?
- Does the applicant’s qualifications/description/mission suggest an established educational, professional or community art practice?
- Is the project/program/proposal feasible?
- For organizations: is there a clear connection to supporting Alaskan artists/culture bearers?
- Is there a clear connection to engaging community through the proposed project, program or activity?

A Note on Grant Reporting

It is critical now to eloquently show and discuss the value that the arts and culture brings to our state, whether economic, educational, in support of community connectedness, or any other value that is inherent in the arts and culture. It is also important to share—across distance and art forms—good ideas and what our colleagues (you) are learning as you work to adapt and innovate in your practice and operations.
Part of the way we will do this, is by sharing stories of your innovation and adaptation; we will ask you to share about your Adaptation and Innovation grant-funded program, project or activity by responding to three questions: 1) what did you do, 2) what was most successful in your adaptation and innovation process, 3) what learning or advice would you share with others in adapting or innovating in their work?

These questions may be answered in a variety of formats including in writing, or in video or audio recorded format, or grantees may make an appointment to interview with ASCA staff by phone. ASCA will then share out your stories and learning through our e-communications, website and social media, and by reporting to Council Trustees and partners.

Beyond your response to these three questions, ASCA will provide you with a simple form to report on how funds were spent, and on demographic and quantifiable data such as the number of Alaskans served by your program, project or activity. This form will be provided upon award of Adaptation and Innovation Grants, and will be due no later than 60 days following the end of your program, project or activity, 60 days after you have completely spent the grant funds.

How to Apply

A complete application consists of the Application Cover with Certification, a Project Narrative, and attachments as defined in the grant application. Submit a complete application at least 30 days prior to the planned activity.

You may either download and complete (typed or legibly handwritten) this paper application form for submission by mail or email, or you may complete an online application form through a platform called Submittable. The link to the online application through Submittable is on the Adaptation and Innovation Grant page on the ASCA website at https://arts.alaska.gov/, as are downloadable application forms. If you choose to submit the online application, you will first create an applicant profile on the Submittable platform.

**Sending Mailed or Emailed Applications**: Download and submit a complete application by at least 45 days prior to the planned activity by mail, in person, or via email to: Alaska State Council on the Arts; Attn: Adaptation and Innovation Grant; 161 Klevin Street, Suite 102; Anchorage, AK 99508. -or- Via email to asca.grants@alaska.gov.

We are unable to accept faxed applications. If you are sending your application via email, please include “Adaptation and Innovation Grant Application” and your name or the name of your organization in the email subject line. Applications may be either typed or hand-filled; please be sure the application text and any digital file of the application (pdf materials are preferred) are legible, and compatible with a Windows-based PC. If sending a digital file, it is best to attach a single file to an email, but multiple attachments will be accepted. If sending multiple email attachments, please label them in such a way that the total number of attachments is apparent. For example: “Adaptation and Innovation Grant Application for XXXX-Attachment 1 of 4”

Email asca.grants@alaska.gov or call (907) 269-6610, with questions, concerns or for technical assistance; in particular, please contact us right away if the application materials and requested submission process present a barrier to access for an eligible applicant.