



2026-2027 Community Partnership Grants

Jazz & Heritage In-School Educational Programs In Music, Arts, and Cultural Traditions

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Community Partnership Grants | Education In-School

Guidelines

The New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Foundation

Education In School | Grant Guidelines

For projects taking place September 1, 2026 – August 31, 2027

Application Deadline: Wednesday, July 8th at 11:00 p.m.

General Information and Questions

Please read these Guidelines carefully before starting the application. Staff members of the Jazz & Heritage Foundation will be happy to answer questions or explain the process before the deadline.

Questions should be directed to Programs, Marketing, & Communications by:

- e-mail at grants@jazzandheritage.org
- telephone at (504) 302-1804
- Only applications submitted through our online application portal will be considered. Please visit the [Community Partnership Grants page](#) of our website to access the application form on the Jazz & Heritage grants portal.

New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Foundation's Mission Statement:

The New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival and Foundation, Inc. promotes, preserves, perpetuates, and encourages the music, culture, and heritage of communities in Louisiana through festivals, programs, and other cultural, educational, civic, and economic activities.

Important Dates*

- Application due: Wednesday, July 8th at 11 p.m. (CDT)
- Recipient Notification: August*

**All dates subject to change; notification will be made by e-mail*

At A Glance:

- What does the grant cover?
 - Music and art education programs of Louisiana K- 12 schools that take place during the school day as part of the curriculum or that take place during after school hours or the summer on the applying school's premises.
- Who may apply?
 - Louisiana K-12 public, private, and parochial schools. NOTE: Only one application per school will be considered. Applications must be accompanied by a letter (on the school's letterhead) signed by the school's principal, chief administrative officer, or board chair, approving this grant application. Music and art teachers should check with their colleagues and principals before submitting an application to make sure that no one else in the school is submitting one.

- Where must the funded activity take place?
 - In Louisiana.
- How much are the grants?
 - Up to \$7,500.
- Activity period: Instructional programs funded by this grant must occur between Sept. 1, 2026, and Aug. 31, 2027.
- Deadline: Application deadline is Wednesday, July 8, 2026.
 - Apply through our online application portal, linked at jazzandheritage.org.

Purpose: Supporting Music and Arts in the Schools

The purpose of this grant category is to support Louisiana K-12 schools that offer music and art education programs on school premises during regular school hours, after-school during the summer.

- Music
- Media Arts/ Film
- Visual Arts/ Photography
- Theatre
- Spoken Word / Literature/ Creative Writing
- Culinary Arts
- Cultural Traditions/ Folk Life
- Dance
- Multidisciplinary

Only Louisiana K-12 schools may apply. This grant is open to Public, Private, Catholic, or Parochial schools. Nonprofit organizations other than Louisiana K-12 schools are not eligible; instead, they should see the guidelines for our grant category “Jazz & Heritage After-School and Summer Education Programs in Music, Arts and Cultural Traditions.”

Eligibility Requirements - Instruction During the School Day or After School

Only applications from Louisiana K-12 schools that support music or art instruction during the regular school day, in the after school hours, or during the summer at the applying school’s premises will be considered. Nonprofits other than Louisiana K-12 schools, individuals, and commercial organizations are not eligible.

For the purposes of this grant, after-school or summer band or other arts instruction programs may be considered to be “in-school” music instruction, provided the instruction takes place on the applying school’s premises.

Only One Application Per School

Schools may submit only one application. Applications must be accompanied by a letter (on the school’s letterhead) signed by the school’s principal, chief administrative officer, or board chair, approving the application. Music and art teachers should check with their colleagues and principals before submitting an application to make sure that no one else in the school is submitting one.

Activity Period and Location

The proposed activity must occur between September 1, 2026, and August 31, 2027.

All activities funded by this grant must occur in Louisiana.

All activities funded by this grant must occur in Louisiana K-12 schools, during regular school hours or after school on the school’s premises.

Funding Amounts

The maximum amount of a grant request is \$7,500. Grant awards may be – and frequently are – for less than the amount requested.

Only money spent specifically on music or art education programs during the school day or in the after school hours on the school's premises may be considered as matching funds.

This Grant May Fund:

- The grant is to pay for instruments, instrument repair, supplies (such as sheet music, visual art supplies or other materials), and other items necessary for music and arts instruction.
- The grant may be used to pay for the fees of visiting teaching artists or clinicians for programs on school premises.
- Grant funds may be used to pay for bus transportation for students to participate in the applying school's arts programs.
- The grant may be used to pay for after- school or summer instruction for programs that take place on the school's premises.

This Grant Will Not Fund:

- Individuals
- Salaries of music or art teachers on the school's staff.
- Administrative or support personnel, technical services, rentals, facilities, or other services not specifically approved in these grant guidelines.
- Performances such as festivals, concerts, or cultural events.
- Commercial organizations.
- Events or projects that have already taken place.
- Events or projects that do not take place within the defined time (September 1, 2026 – August 31, 2027).
- Fees or expenditures other than approved equipment or service purchases or visiting instructor fees.
- Activities that take place outside the school's premises.
- Activities outside the state of Louisiana.
- Grants by the applicant to other organizations for programming activities ("re-granting").
- Activities intended primarily for fundraising purposes.
- Accumulated deficits or debt retirement.
- Contingency funds.
- Projects used for academic degrees.
- Tuition for academic study.
- Payment of administrative staff other than instructors.
- Operational costs.
- Food or beverages for hospitality or entertainment functions.
- Fines, penalties, interest on loans or costs of litigation.
- Lobbying expenses.
- Fundraising events.

The proposed activity funded by this grant must occur between Sept. 1, 2026, and August 31, 2027.

Outstanding Final Reports: Due No Later Than Sept. 1

Those applicants who received grants in past grant cycles but have not yet submitted final reports may submit an application for the 2026-2027 grant cycle. Any outstanding final reports from 2025-2026 or previous grant cycles must be submitted no later than Sept. 1, 2026. Otherwise, applicants risk forfeiting new grants that may be awarded. The New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Foundation reserves the right to cancel 2026-2027 grants – even those that are approved for funding – if final reports from previous grant cycles are not submitted by Sept. 1, 2026. **No new grants will be distributed until all outstanding final reports are received and approved by the Jazz & Heritage Foundation.**

Conflict of Interest Policy

Applications will not be accepted from employees of the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Foundation, or Board and Advisory members. Applications will not be accepted from employees of Festival Productions, Inc. – New Orleans. Applications that involve such persons must disclose as much in the application narrative.

Information Requirements

- Federal Tax ID/Employer Identification (EIN) number of the applying organization. You will need this number for the profile section of the application.
- Organizations must upload proof of nonprofit status by providing an IRS 501(c)(3) Letter of Determination.
- Applications must be accompanied by a letter (on the school's letterhead) signed by the school's principal, chief administrative officer, or board chair, approving this grant application.

Panel Evaluation and Scoring Criteria

All applications are reviewed and evaluated by a panel of reviewers. The Foundation adheres to a strict Conflict of Interest policy. Panelists will recuse themselves from reviewing proposals for projects with which they or a relative are associated as board members, paid staff, volunteers, or participants. Panelists review applications solely based upon the merits of the application and eligibility requirements including:

- Alignment with the Jazz & Heritage Foundation's mission – up to 10 points
- Artistic, educational, or historic merit – up to 40 points
- Community need and impact – up to 40 points
- Feasibility – up to 10 points

Disbursement of Grant Funds

Notification of grant awards will be sent by e-mail. Grant awardees will be required to complete an award contract with the Jazz & Heritage Foundation detailing the terms and conditions of the grant. Upon receipt of the contract and a completed W-9 form, the Jazz & Heritage Foundation will disburse the grant funding either by company check or ACH and hold a public grantee event-the time and date of which will be specified in the grant contract.

- School will be required to submit a signed contract/Letter of Agreement and W9 form with their nonprofit's information (EIN).

Credits and Media Availability

Grant awardees will be required to recognize the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Foundation as a sponsor of or contributor to the project by including the Foundation's name or logo in all advertisements, programs, web sites, and other promotional information.

Grant awardees may be asked to attend ceremonies or to provide media interviews or other testimonials regarding their participation in the Community Partnership Grants program.

Final Report

Upon completion of the funded activity, grantees must submit a final report with the required supplemental materials that prove the project was completed within the terms and conditions of the grant contract.

We encourage all awardees to submit the final report as soon as possible after the completion of the event. Final reports will be accepted no later than September 1, 2027.

Grant awardees who do not submit final reports by that date will not be eligible to receive funding for Community Partnership Grants in the future. Final reports must be completed on the form supplied by the Jazz & Heritage Foundation, and must also include:

- Copies of receipts with how funds were used from this grant
- Photographs or links of the program, showing students and instructors
- Copies of materials crediting the Jazz & Heritage Foundation as a sponsor or contributor (if applicable)

Complete final reports must be submitted to the Jazz & Heritage Foundation by September 1, 2027, in order to be considered for final approval. Awardees who do not submit a final report by the deadline will not be eligible to receive funding for Community Partnership Grants in the future.