



2026-2027 Community Partnership Grants

Jazz & Heritage Presenting: Festivals and Concerts in Music and Performing Arts

The New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Foundation

Jazz & Heritage: Presenting | 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: July 8th at 11:00 p.m. (CDT)
- Recipient Notification: August*

**All dates subject to change; notification of grant awards will be sent by email.*

At A Glance:

What does the grant cover? Performance fees for Louisiana-based performing artists at cultural events that take place in Louisiana.

Who may apply? 501(c)(3) organizations and Louisiana registered nonprofits. LLCs or other for-profit or commercial business designations will not be funded.

Where must the funded activity take place? In Louisiana.

How much are the grants? Up to \$7,500.

Purpose of Presenting Grants

Purpose: Performers' fees only.

The purpose of this grant category is to support *Louisiana-based arts nonprofit organizations* that create employment opportunities – such as festivals, concerts, and other cultural events – for Louisiana-based musicians and other performing artists at events that take place in Louisiana.

- This grant can *only* be applied to live public performance fees paid to musicians, dancers, actors, and other onstage performers.
- The grant may *not* be applied to fees paid to nonperforming artists, such as composers, choreographers, directors, or other artistic contributors.
- The grant may *not* be used for staff, technical or other support personnel, equipment, rentals, facilities, or other services.

Eligibility Requirements

- This grant category is open to 501(c)(3) organizations or registered Louisiana nonprofits who may use a 501(c)(3) nonprofit as a fiscal agent.
- Individuals and commercial organizations are not eligible.
- Only applications to fund programs and activities that align with the mission of the Jazz & Heritage Foundation will be considered. Mission: *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.*

Restrictions

- Applicants may submit no more than one CPG application – and in only one of our five grant categories – per grant cycle.
- Applicants who have received grant awards in past grant cycles, but have not yet submitted CPG Final Report, may submit an application for the 2026-2027 grant cycle. Any outstanding CPG Final Reports from 2025-2026 or previous grant cycles must be submitted no later than Sept. 1, 2026, to be eligible for CPG awards in the current grant cycle. Applicants with outstanding CPG Final Reports risk forfeiting GPG awards in the future.

The New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Foundation reserves the right to cancel 2026-2027 grants – even those that are approved for funding – if CPG Final Reports from previous grant cycles are not submitted by Sept. 1, 2026. CPG grant awards will NOT be distributed until all outstanding CPG Final Reports are received and approved by the Jazz & Heritage Foundation.

Activity period:

Events funded by this grant must occur between Sept. 1, 2026, and Aug. 31, 2027.

Funding

- The maximum amount grant amount is \$7,500. Grant awards may be – and frequently are – for less than the amount requested.
- All Jazz & Heritage grant funds must be spent in Louisiana.

We will NOT fund:

- Individuals (please see guidelines for the Louisiana Cultural Equity Arts and Creation category)
- Commercial Organizations
- Non-profit organizations that are not based in Louisiana

- Events that do not take place in Louisiana
- Performance fees for artists that are not Louisiana residents
- 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 artist performance fees, as outlined in these guidelines
- Grants by the applicant to other organizations for programming activities (“re-granting”)
- Accumulated deficits or debt retirement
- Contingency funds
- Projects used for academic degrees
- Tuition for academic study
- Payment of administrative staff for any school or school system
- Operational costs
- Food or beverages for hospitality or entertainment functions
- Fines, penalties, interest on loans or costs of litigation
- Lobbying expenses
- Fundraising events (see details in next section)

No Fundraising Events

These grants are intended to support non-profit arts organizations that present cultural events for the public. They are not to support events whose primary purpose is to raise funds (e.g., galas or fundraising dinners), whether for the presenting organization or for another entity. If the primary focus of the event is fundraising for a cause rather than the cultural presentation, then it would be considered a fundraising event and would not be eligible for grant funding in this category.

Conflict of Interest Policy

Applications will not be accepted from New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Foundation employees, Board of Directors, or Advisory Council members.

Applications that involve such persons must disclose as much in the application narrative.

Information Requirements

Organizations must upload proof of nonprofit status by providing one of the following:

- An IRS 501(c)(3) Letter of Determination
- OR
- A current Louisiana Nonprofit filing. Filings can be searched here: [Louisiana Secretary of State Business Search](#)

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 and approval of the contract and a completed W9 Form, the Jazz & Heritage Foundation will disburse 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.

- 501 (c)(3) Nonprofit Awardees: will be required to submit a signed contract/Letter of Agreement and W9 Form with their nonprofit's information (EIN).
- Louisiana nonprofits or *Non* 501 (c)(3) nonprofit awardees with Fiscal Sponsors: will be required to submit a signed contract/Letter of Agreement and W9 Form with their fiscal sponsor's information (EIN). The top authorizing official of the fiscal sponsor will need to also sign the Letter of Agreement and may be required to fill out additional paperwork.

Fiscal Sponsors

Nonprofits that are incorporated in Louisiana but do not yet have their 501(c)(3) status may use a fiscal sponsor to manage the awarded grant funds. Your fiscal sponsor must be a Louisiana-based non-profit organization. [More about Fiscal Sponsors HERE](#)

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 funded program by including the Foundation's name or logo in all advertisements, programs, web sites, and other promotional information.

Grant awardees will be asked to attend ceremonies or provide media interviews or other testimonials regarding their participation in the Community Partnership Grant 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, 2026. Grant awardees who do not submit final reports by that date will not be eligible to receive any future grant awards until the final report has been submitted.

Final reports must be completed on the form supplied by the Jazz & Heritage Foundation, and must also include:

- A completed budget showing actual revenues and expenses
- Copies of signed receipts for payment for all expenses paid with funds from this grant
- For exhibitions, photographs or links documenting the event
- For other projects, photographs, links, or other documentation showing the project was completed according to the grant guidelines
- Copies of materials crediting the Jazz & Heritage Foundation as a sponsor or contributor

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