



# Equitable Access

## Arts & Culture 2024-2026

### Funding Opportunity

**Online Application Deadline: Monday, October 21, 2024, 4:00pm HST**

#### **OVERVIEW**

##### **Equitable Access**

Americans for the Arts recognizes that “many existing systems of power grant privilege and access unequally, and that equity is crucial to the long-term viability of both the arts and culture sector and communities-at-large.”<sup>1</sup> While local organization data provides insight into access issues for specific communities, there are few data indicators to understand equitable access<sup>2</sup> to arts and culture throughout Hawai'i, including the best solutions and leverage points to achieve equitable access.

By investing in and strengthening the data capacities of Arts & Culture nonprofits, while providing opportunities for networking, we will have better shared information and understanding to address equitable access to Arts & Culture in Hawai'i.

Through this Funding Opportunity, Hawai'i Community Foundation (HCF) will award 2-year general operating support grants up to **\$60,000 (\$30,000 per year)** to Arts & Culture nonprofit organizations that currently utilize data and other information to understand access barriers and opportunities, have existing strategies and programs targeted to addressing equitable access to opportunities to practice and participate in Arts & Culture, and utilize evaluation to assess the organization's impact in addressing equitable access. For an example of an approach to this process, see Appendix A.

Grantees of this Funding Opportunity will be part of a “community of support” network. Through shared learning, the network will define the problem of equitable access for specific communities, islands, and across the state; generate ideas and solutions; and refine strategies to advance equitable access. The network's shared learning will be a resource to the Arts & Culture sector and support more equitable access to opportunities to practice and participate in Arts & Culture.

##### **Key Characteristics - To be eligible for this Funding Opportunity, applicants must align with at least 1 of these characteristics:**

- Arts organization on Kaua'i
- Community Arts Center on Neighbor Islands<sup>3</sup>
- Organization perpetuating Native Hawaiian knowledge and supporting the development of cultural practitioners

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://americansforthearts.org/about-americans-for-the-arts/cultural-equity>

<sup>2</sup> Equitable access is defined as the opportunity to practice and participate in arts and culture regardless of individuals' race, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, socio-economic status, residency, and other protected characteristics.

<sup>3</sup> A Community Arts Center is defined as a physical place/center that brings together community to provide a diverse range of arts education classes and experiences reflecting the values, concerns, and meaning of living in that community.

- Professional orchestra or opera focused on classical music in Hawai'i, or non-professional orchestra performing symphonic music on O'ahu
- Public art focused on uplifting local people and places<sup>4</sup>
- Theater Arts on O'ahu including drama education

Funding will be awarded from a compilation of field of interest funds at HCF with a focus on Arts & Culture. To learn more about the focus of the funds, see Appendix B. To learn about the CHANGE Framework and the Arts & Culture sector's vision, see Appendix C.

### **ELIGIBILITY & REQUIREMENTS**

- Applicant must be a nonprofit organization with 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status and must provide services in Hawai'i. Schools are not eligible to apply.
- A nonprofit may submit only one application for its organization.
- Organizations with any past due HCF final reports are not eligible to apply.
- Grant funds may not be used for: re-granting (i.e., redistribution of these funds to other organizations or individuals); endowments; for the benefit of specific individuals; major capital improvements including capital campaigns, construction or renovations (minor capital improvements required to implement programs are allowable); or activities that promote religious beliefs.

### **GRANT INFORMATION**

- **Funding:** Two-year general operating support grants up to \$60,000 (\$30,000 per year). Up to \$1.4 million in total will be awarded for the 2-year period.
- **Grant Term:** Applicants will be notified of funding decisions in early December 2024. The grant period will be 12/15/2024 – 12/14/2026.
- **Reporting:** Grantees will be required to submit a progress and final report (narrative and financial) to HCF.
- **Requirements:** Grantees must participate in 2 "community of support" gatherings per year. If held in-person, HCF will provide a stipend for travel costs for participants traveling between islands.

### **EVALUATION CRITERIA**

A community advisory committee will review and recommend funding for this Funding Opportunity. The strongest applicants will be those that meet the following criteria:

- Demonstrates experience and capacity to provide programs in alignment with its mission.
- Utilizes data and other information to understand access barriers and opportunities.
- Leverages this information to implement existing strategies focused on equitable access to Arts & Culture which address the greatest disparities in our communities.
- Partners with other organizations to address equitable access to Arts & Culture.
- Gathers data that tracks impact and progress toward its goals. Utilizes data to improve its programs and collaborative efforts.

---

<sup>4</sup> Public art is defined as art that is created for the general public and is visible in a public space. It can include a variety of forms, scales, and sizes. The focus of this area is on public art that connects with local community to interpret the history/experience of local people and places.

## **APPLICATION PROCESS**

For this application, applicants should share about their organization and existing programs, instead of applying for one specific program or project. A program budget is not required since the grant funding will generally be unrestricted.

### **Online Application**

Applications must be submitted online through HCF's **Grants Portal** available here:

[https://hawaiicf.smartsimple.com/s\\_Login.jsp](https://hawaiicf.smartsimple.com/s_Login.jsp). New users must register for an account. Registered users may login to their account to submit an application. Please give yourself adequate time before the submission deadline to access the system and familiarize yourself with the application process and requirements.

### **Instructions**

- Only complete and timely applications will be accepted.
- The online application has fillable boxes with character limits. The character counts in MS Word may not match the character counts in the application. If you cut and paste your work into the application, please be sure your text fits the space provided.
- The online application accepts diacritical markings in written 'Ōlelo Hawai'i (Hawaiian language).

## **ORGANIZATION PROFILE**

As part of the online application your organization profile must be certified prior to the submission of grant applications and must be certified every 6 months. Information needed to complete your organization's profile includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- IRS 501(c)(3) determination letter (not required if previously applied to the Foundation)
- Number of full-time, part-time, or regular volunteer staff
- Organization Mission
- Service Location(s)
- Types of services provided – including age, gender, and target populations served
- Financials – including income statement (or profit/loss statement) and balance sheet for the most recently completed fiscal year, and annual operating budget for the current year. Audited financial statements are preferred but not required. Local units of national organizations must submit local unit financial information. **Your organization's updated financial documents must be submitted in the Organization Profile prior to submitting the application. If the financial documents are not up to date, the application will be administratively denied.**
- Board of Directors List

## **APPLICATION**

The application consists of 4 sections. Information needed to complete your application includes, but is not limited to the following:

### **1. Program Overview**

- Provide general information and characteristics about the program including program title, duration, area of interest, program location(s), ages and genders served, and the CHANGE sector(s) your program most closely aligns with.
- For more information about the CHANGE Framework, please visit our website <https://www.hawaiicommunityfoundation.org/change>.

**2. Program Information**

- **Key Characteristics:** Select the characteristic your organization most closely aligns with (see page 1). Note, if your organization does not align with at least one of the characteristics, your organization is not eligible to apply to this Funding Opportunity.
- **Organization Description:** Describe the mission, vision, and key strategic goals of your organization. Describe your organization’s history and experience conducting your programs. Share how your organization aligns with the key characteristic. *(Maximum 2,500 characters with spaces = ½ page)*
- **Problem or Opportunity:** Provide local data and other information your organization utilizes to assess equitable access to opportunities to practice and participate in Arts and Culture in your community. Share about your target population. *(Maximum 3,000 characters with spaces = ¾ page)*
- **Strategies:** Describe your strategies and programs focused on equitable access to address the greatest disparities in your community. Describe how your organization partners with other organizations to address equitable access. *(Maximum 3,500 characters with spaces = ¾ page)*
- **Expected Results:** Describe the data and other information that your organization collects to track impact and progress toward your goals. Provide recent outputs and outcomes achieved to measure progress towards equitable access. Share how data is utilized to improve programs and collaborative efforts. *(Maximum 3,500 characters with spaces = ¾ page)*

**3. Supporting Documents & Certification** – Upload the following *optional* resource:

- **Video or Audio Recording:** Share a 5 minute or less video or audio recording telling the story of how your organization addresses equitable access to opportunities to practice and participate in Arts & Culture. This recording could be of a staff member explaining a specific program and recording it on a video conference platform like Zoom, or a participant creating art recorded on your phone. We are not expecting edited, polished videos. The videos will not be shared externally except with the community advisory committee. Acceptable formats are .wav, .mp4, .mov, .mp3, .wav, etc. Maximum file size is 2 GB per file. A PDF file with a link to a video or audio file can also be submitted.
- **Certify:** Complete the certification.

To support HCF’s validation and verification process, organizations less than one year old and/or first-time applicants to HCF, may be requested to submit references during the evaluation process.

**KEY DATES**

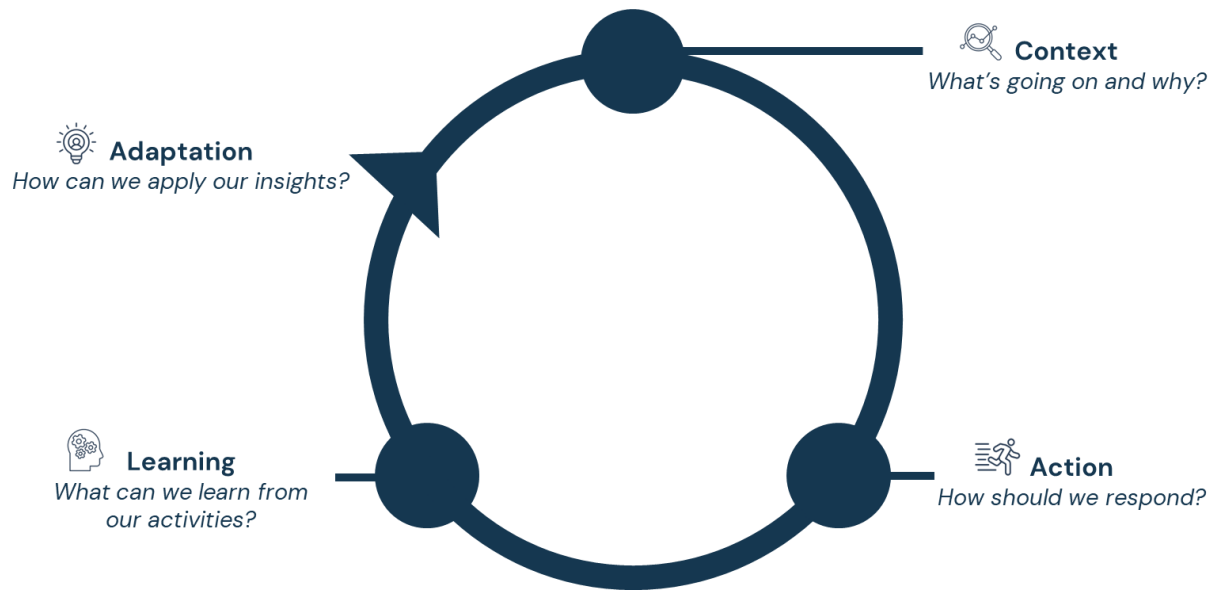
Description	Date
Application Release	9/9/2024
Virtual Coffee Hour Information Session <i>Please register to attend the Coffee Hour event. You are not required to attend this event.</i>	9/16/2024 11:00am – 12:00pm: Register <a href="#">here</a> . 9/26/2024 2:00pm – 3:00pm: Register <a href="#">here</a> .
<b>Application Deadline</b>	<b>10/21/2024 by 4:00pm HST</b>
Grant Period	12/15/2024 – 12/14/2026

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

If you have questions about this Funding Opportunity, please contact Elise von Dohlen of the Hawai’i Community Foundation at [evondohlen@hcf-hawaii.org](mailto:evondohlen@hcf-hawaii.org) or 808-566-5585.

For technical assistance with the online application process, please submit a support ticket at <https://www.hawaiicommunityfoundation.org/web/support-tickets>.

**APPENDIX A – Data Strategy Visualization from [Hawai'i Data Collaborative](#)**



**APPENDIX B - Arts & Culture Field of Interest Fund List**

Fund Name	Focus Area
GuavaGar Westfall Kaua'i Charitable Fund	To support arts and sciences on Kauai.
June Olson Fund	To be used for the support of the performance of symphonic music within the City & County of Honolulu.
Kamp Fund	To support organizations promoting cultural or artistic awareness and development, NPO groups located in or working with people living in disadvantages areas, assisting or providing services to the elderly.
Michael Fund Roeder Fund	To support forms of professional classical music performances in Hawaii with priority to local orchestras and to local opera.
Paka Fund	To perpetuate Hawaiian heritage, in particular to provide grants to eligible orgs who can offer apprenticeships w/individual kahunas to preserve all things Hawaiian, including but not limited to history and legends, culture, customs, language, arts and crafts, chants and hula, along with other ways of life and traditions.
Richard Aadland Fund	To support theater on Oahu.
Ritchie M. Gregory Fund	To provide grants-in-aid to educational institutions for the development or improvement of art curricula, provide or improve facilities, purchase instruments or materials or to provide teachers of art.
The William Gemmer Foundation Fund	To support the arts in Hawaii, as well as art education.

Funding will also be awarded from HCF funds with broader purposes including the Arts & Culture Fund.

**APPENDIX C – Background of CHANGE Framework and Arts & Culture Sector Vision**

We believe that change can happen when we understand the challenges in front of us and work together to find and implement equitable solutions to those challenges. Established by HCF, the [CHANGE Framework](#) identifies six essential sectors, or areas, that affect the overall well-being of these islands and people. We believe that the Arts & Culture sector is essential to the well-being of our people

and places. This Funding Opportunity for the Arts & Culture sector builds on the previous Funding Opportunity called the CHANGE Grants Program (2021-2022), which provided general operating support over 18-months to nonprofit organizations substantially contributing to making impact in alignment with the CHANGE Framework.

As part of the CHANGE Framework, HCF has focused efforts on community convening around each sector of CHANGE. HCF's Arts & Culture team engaged and gathered feedback from people across the state through in-person convenings, virtual events, surveys, and talk story opportunities in community to collect feedback and define a collective vision for the Arts & Culture sector in Hawai'i to guide HCF's grantmaking and support:

We envision a Hawai'i where opportunities to practice and participate in arts and culture are inclusive and accessible to everyone, from keiki to kūpuna. The perpetuation of Hawai'i's diverse cultures, including indigenous knowledge and practices, strengthens connections between people and place. Arts and culture experiences are recognized as essential to community well-being, advancing social change, and fostering a healthier community in Hawai'i.