

ARTSCONNECT 2026 TOPARTS GRANT PROGRAM GUIDELINES

The TopArts Grant program has been in existence since 2016 and is made possible with funds allocated by the City of Topeka. You will find the application by clicking here. [Applications must be submitted online and are due no later than February 15, 2026, at 11:59p CST.](#)

ArtsConnect is proud to have been chosen by the city as the organization responsible for administering the allocation of these funds.

The [TopArts Grant Program](#) is Topeka's only grant program that supports art programs in all disciplines across Topeka. All funding decisions will be based on the criteria found in these guidelines and will be guided by the recommendations presented in the [Topeka Arts & Culture Master Plan](#).

PURPOSE: The purpose of the TopArts Grant Program is to support art programs and projects that seek to achieve one or more of the following goals:

1. Expand access to meaningful art experiences,
2. Connect artists to their audiences,
3. Support the development of public art projects, and/or
4. Align with the recommendations and strategic goals outlined in the [Topeka Arts & Culture Master Plan](#).

DEADLINE: Submit your application [online](#) by 11:59p CST on February 15, 2026.

We are not able to accept applications that are late, incomplete, or not submitted electronically using this form. **Changes to your application will not be accepted after the deadline.**

GRANT AMOUNTS: ArtsConnect anticipates awarding grants in amounts that range from \$500–\$5,000. Last year, the average grant amount was \$1,500. We do not award grants in any amount less than \$500. While matching funds are not required, matching funds are viewed favorably and seen as a demonstration of project viability.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS: Any organization or individual based in Topeka is eligible to apply. This program has funded programs that are based outside of Topeka, but the funds from this grant must be expended for the benefit of Topeka residents. Projects that represent ALL artistic disciplines are encouraged to apply.

INELIGIBLE APPLICANTS: Prior recipients of TopArts Grant Program funding must have [submitted their final report](#) to be considered for funding in subsequent years. Activities funded by this grant must primarily serve or physically take place in Topeka.

SELECTION CRITERIA OVERVIEW: The TopArts Grant Program awards funding in **three categories**. You will find detailed scoring criteria for each category on our website. We are especially interested in funding projects/programs that address the following **themes listed below**. While eligible projects/programs can take place anywhere in Topeka, we will focus some of this grant funding in support of the **cultural districts & corridors** listed below.

Applicants can find additional information about the themes and cultural districts/corridors in the [Topeka Arts & Culture Master Plan](#).

GRANT FUNDING CATEGORIES

Category 1: Increase Access to Arts Programs in Topeka. Successful applications will do some/all of the following:

- Reduce or eliminate fees to participate in the project/program.
- Pay artist fees.

- Support cultural events, concerts and other performing arts opportunities.
- Offer scholarships for students to participate in courses or events.

Note: This program does not offer funding for event sponsorship when the event is a fundraiser for other programs.

Category 2: New Works of Public Art. Successful applications will do some/all of the following:

- Beautify and enhance our community with thoughtful works of public art.
- Install public artwork in areas experiencing vandalism and property crime.
- Engage concerned citizens of all ages in the creation of new public art.

Note: Requests for funding related to works of public art will be given priority if the applicant has secured site permission before applying.

Category 3: Maintain/Expand Existing Works of Public Art. Successful applications will do some/all of the following:

- Expand existing works of public art.
- Repair existing works of public art.

Note: Requests for funding related to the maintenance and/or expansion of works of public art will only be considered if the applicant has secured permission from the original artist.

THEMES

1. **Crossroads to Freedom:** Recognize, engage, and understand the role that Topeka has had in the fight for civil rights.
2. **Cultural Fabric:** Embrace, nurture and highlight the tapestry of rich cultural heritage in Topeka.
3. **Separate & Not Equal:** Address issues of inequity in areas such as housing, healthcare and transportation.

4. **More Places, Fewer Spaces:** Activation of underused/vacant/dilapidated spaces.

CULTURAL DISTRICTS & CORRIDORS

1. NOTO Arts & Entertainment District
2. East Topeka
3. South Topeka Boulevard
4. Downtown Topeka
5. Golden Mile*
6. Oakland

**The "Golden Mile" is defined as the area along 6th Avenue between Branner/Adams & Golden Ave.*

ELIGIBLE EXPENSES: As a part of the application form, you will be asked to upload a budget worksheet. Expenses of any kind can be included in the budget worksheet as a part of the total project budget, but applicants are strongly encouraged to utilize this funding to pay for artist fees, non-consumable items, art supplies and other expenses specifically related to the creative process and/or support of individuals who are engaged in the work of the creative industries. If you have questions about eligible expenses, please attend one of our two grant workshops and/or refer to the scoring criteria provided for the grant category to which you are applying.

For the 2026 program, expenses should be incurred between Jan 1, 2026 – March 31, 2027. Other parts of the project may continue before and after these dates, but expenses paid for by the TopArts Grant funding should be incurred during this time period.

QUESTIONS & CONTACT INFORMATION: If you have additional questions, we encourage you to attend one of the two scheduled grant workshops. If you need immediate assistance, please email Sarah at sarah@artstopeka.org.