



The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage

2026 Capacity Building Grant Guidelines

The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage offers two types of capacity building grants to assist its applicants.

- Research and Travel Grants to help prospective applicants develop and deepen their professional and programmatic capacities and support exploratory phases of projects that may lead to future Center funding. *These grants range from \$2,000–\$4,000.*
- Technical Assistance Grants to assist 2026 applicants with managing and completing the Center’s application process once they have been invited to apply. *Grants of \$500 to \$1,500 are available beginning June 1, after organizations have been invited to submit a full application.*

Please review our Capacity Building grant eligibility criteria and application process on the following pages.

Research and Travel Grants

Grants from \$2,000–\$4,000

Funds for research and travel are offered to help the Center’s prospective applicants research, develop, and deepen their professional and programmatic capacities in contemporary art and public history. Grants will be made to support exploratory phases of curatorial work that may lead to future Center funding, as well as travel to consult with potential collaborators. Organizations applying for funds to strengthen a project proposed for the Center’s 2026 grantmaking cycle will be given priority for funding.

Who is Eligible?

- **All applications should be submitted by organizations that meet the Center’s threshold eligibility criteria to apply for a Creative Project or Evolving Futures grant.** To review these eligibility criteria, visit the Center’s [How to Apply](#) webpage. Fiscally sponsored organizations that meet the Center’s eligibility criteria for a Creative Project grant may apply.
- Official financial reports for the three most recent years available must be uploaded to the Center’s digital application portal prior to any request for research and travel funds. If fiscally sponsored, an applicant must arrange for the fiscal sponsor to submit the sponsored organization’s annual expenses for the last fiscal year.
- The person who will use the grant for travel or research must be a member of their organization’s curatorial or program staff, active in the arts and/or cultural heritage sector and have a minimum of 5 years of work experience in the field. Support will be given for a maximum of two staff members. Organizations exploring projects with outside collaborators may apply on their behalf.

Research and Travel Grants

How to Apply

Please complete the 2026 Research & Travel Funds Request Form [here](#).
Complete the brief form and upload documents as instructed.

1 Brief Project Proposal & Budget

In 1 page, describe your request. Please make sure to address the following:

- Tell us about your plans and specific area of research.
- What are the pressing issues that you would like to explore?
- Why is this dedicated funding critical, and how would it benefit your organization?
- What is your projected timeline?
- Is anyone else involved in this work/research and if so, why?

Ineligible projects and expenses include—

- Creative/artist projects (e.g., producing exhibitions, performances)
- Attending annual conferences (e.g., American Alliance of Museums)
- Travel within 100 miles of the applicant organization
- Other travel not directly related to program ideation and development
- Honoraria for salaried employees of the applicant organization
- Costs for salary replacement

Include a budget breakdown reflecting the real costs of the research to be undertaken.
(Please note: budgets cannot include salary replacement costs or honoraria for staff.)

Examples of qualifying expenses include but are not limited to—

- Travel expenses: transportation, accommodation, per diem
- Costs associated with bringing colleagues together for private or public meetings, including honoraria for participation (for external collaborators only)
- Recording, transcription, and translation costs
- Acquisition of relevant publications, subscriptions, and media

Research and Travel Grants

How to Apply (continued)

2 Letter of Support

Leaders of organizations may apply without a letter of support. Full-time curatorial or program staff should submit a letter from the applying organization's director or department head that shows support for the application.

3 Resume or Bio

If the person who will use the grant for travel or research is not the organization's leader, please provide a current resume or brief biography for them.

Review Process

All applications will be reviewed and approved by the Center's Executive Director in consultation with Center program staff. Funds are limited and will be awarded on a rolling basis for use before September 2026.

Questions about applying?

Contact us at apply@pewcenterarts.org.

Technical Assistance Grants

Grants up to \$1,500

Funds for technical assistance are offered beginning June 1, 2026 to assist organizations applying for Creative Project grants with managing and completing the Center's full application process.

Who is Eligible?

- **Independent and fiscally sponsored organizations that have been invited to submit a full application for a Creative Project grant.** *Invitations to submit a full application will be sent in late May 2026, after the completion of the Letter of Intent to Apply (LOI).*
- Priority for technical assistance funds will be given to applicants with operating budgets under \$500,000, to those with no dedicated development staff, and to first-time applicants.

Ineligible projects and expenses include—

- Honoraria for lead artists, collaborators, and/or thinking partners for the purpose of conceptual development of the project
- Compensation to full-time or part-time staff members of the organization for completion of the application
- Travel within 100 miles of the applicant organization
- Other travel not directly related to program ideation and development
- Honoraria for salaried employees of the applicant organization
- Costs for salary replacement

Technical Assistance Grants

How to Apply

A link will be distributed to applicants whose LOIs advance to the Full Application phase. Complete form as directed.

1 Description of how the funds will be used

In 1 page, describe your plans for the funds. Please make sure to address the following questions:

- What kind of assistance do you need to complete the full application?
- Why is this dedicated funding critical? How will it help your application?
- What is your projected timeline?
- Whom do you expect to engage in this work?

2 Budget breakdown

Submit a breakdown of your budget reflecting the real costs of the application-related work to be undertaken.

Examples of qualifying expenses include but are not limited to—

- Grantwriting assistance,
- Recording, transcription, and translation.
- Additional need-based expenditures will also be considered.

Review Process

All applications will be reviewed and approved by the Center’s Executive Director in consultation with Center program staff. Funds are limited and will be awarded on a rolling basis for use before July 2026.

Questions about other costs that might qualify for a Technical Assistance Grant?

Contact us at apply@pewcenterarts.org.