

OPERATING GRANT PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Bravo Greater Des Moines provides general operating support funding to eligible arts, culture and heritage organizations in the Greater Des Moines region. The 2023 grant period (GC23) runs January 1 – December 31, 2023.

BASIC APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

Eligible GC23 Operating Grant applicants must meet all of the following criteria:

- Be a 501(c) organization exempt from tax under the Internal Revenue Code with at least 6 months of programming history OR be an agency, division or department of the State of Iowa which operates a facility open to the public.
- Demonstrate a primary organizational purpose of arts, culture and/or heritage meaning that mission, budget, strategic plan, operating plan and most programs and outcomes are primarily (at least 51%) in pursuit of advancing arts, culture and/or heritage in Greater Des Moines.
- Have headquarters in and conduct most of its activities within one of [Bravo's partner local government](#) communities.

Eligibility does not guarantee funding. Specific eligibility requirements may be waived at Bravo's discretion.

Ineligible applicants include but are not limited to:

- Fiscally sponsored organizations;
- Political, religious or academic organizations;
- Public libraries;
- Those formed with the express purpose of fundraising on behalf of, supporting and/or promoting applicants that are not otherwise eligible for funding (e.g. friends societies, etc. for libraries, political, religious or academic organizations)

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS & OPTIONS

Applications and requirements are designed to acknowledge the breadth of organizations Bravo serves. All eligible applicants will apply for general operating support through [SurveyMonkey Apply](#) using the most appropriate application for their organization:

- **Organizations with Budgets \$1,000 - \$30,000** may complete a streamlined application designed for new applicants and returning cultural partners with annual operating expense budgets of at least \$1,000 and at least a 6-month history of programming. New organizations must meet with Bravo staff to verify eligibility at least one week prior to the application deadline.
- **Organizations with \$30,000 - \$200,000 Operating Budgets** must have received Bravo funding in at least one previous grant year.
- **Organizations with \$200,000 - \$2,000,000 Operating Budgets** must have at least one year-round, full-time employee or equivalent; a completed, current SMU DataArts Funder Report; AND at least three years of consecutive Bravo funding.
- **Organizations with \$2,000,000+ Operating Budgets** must have at least 5 full-time employees; a completed, current SMU DataArts Funder Report; AND at least five years of consecutive Bravo funding.

Organizations may select to complete the application that aligns with their budget OR an application for a lower budget level to better fit an organization's capacity to meet requirements. Depending on the application your organization completes, you may be asked to provide some or all of the following documents: Current fiscal year budget; upcoming fiscal year budget; August 2022 balance sheet; Current [SMU DataArts Financial Overview Trend Report](#); strategic plan/goals; and up to 3 visual support materials (images, annual report, audio/video clips, etc).

IMPORTANT DATES FOR GC23

August 29, 2022

Application available at 10:00 a.m.

December 16, 2022

Signed grant agreements due by 3:00 p.m.

September 23, 2022

Deadline for new applicants to meet with staff

January 1, 2023

Funding term starts

September 30, 2022

Applications due by 3:00 p.m.

Week of January 2, 2023

First grant payment sent

December 1, 2022

Award notification sent

December 31, 2023

Grant term ends

GRANT AWARDS

Organizations will not be asked to request a specific grant amount. Final grant awards are based on the merit of an organization's application and available funds, and they will generally fall within the following target ranges:

ANNUAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$2 million and above	\$200,000 – \$2,000,000	\$30,000 - \$200,000	\$1,000 - \$75,000
TARGET FUNDING RANGE	1% - 7%	3% - 15%	5% - 20%	5% - 25%
MAXIMUM ANNUAL AWARD	\$500,000	\$125,000	\$30,000	\$5,000

Organizations should **not expect** to receive the maximum award amount and should conservatively budget contributions from Bravo.

APPLICATION REVIEW AND AWARD PROCESS

Bravo is committed to a transparent, fair and consistent grantmaking process. All GC23 applications will be reviewed by a panel prior to recommendation of awards. Feedback from the panel will be shared with applicants and will be included with award notifications. Review meetings are closed to the public, and the Bravo Board of Directors will make final funding decisions. Applicants should not directly contact Bravo Board or panel members to discuss applications or funding amounts. There is no appeal of final funding decisions made by Bravo.

For awards greater than \$5,000, quarterly payments will be sent in January, April, July and October 2023 to support operating expenses incurred between January 1 – December 31, 2023. For awards \$5,000 and smaller, a single payment will be made the first week of January 2023 to support operating expenses incurred between January 1 – December 31, 2023. All funding is dependent on receipt of funds from Bravo's local government partners.

Questions? Please contact us at grants@bravogreaterdesmoines.org or call 515-243-0388.