



**Seminole Cultural Arts Grants Program
APPLICATION PACKET
Instructions & Application
2026-2027**

***DUE BY 11:59pm EST @ May 31, 2026
Electronic Submissions ONLY will be accepted.***

**Seminole Cultural Arts Council
P.O. Box 28, Sanford, FL 32772-0028
Phone: 407-562-2810
Email: info@seminoleculturalarts.org
www.seminoleculturalarts.org**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Guidelines

Grants Program Overview	3
Program Timeline	4
Grant Categories	5
Eligibility	5-6
Grant Funding Levels	6
Program Review and Evaluation Process	6-7

Application

Application Instructions	8
Application Form	9
Program Narrative	10-11
Certification	11

Attachments/Examples

Final Grant Report	12-13
Sample Post-Event Guest Data Survey	14-15

Seminole Cultural Arts Grants Program Overview

The Seminole Cultural Arts Council (SCAC) established the Seminole Cultural Arts Grants Program to promote and advance arts and cultural initiatives across Seminole County. Recognizing the vital role that the arts play in enriching communities, the SCAC created this program to provide essential funding to qualified artists, nonprofit organizations, schools, and cultural institutions. These grants help bring artistic projects to life—projects that foster creativity, preserve cultural heritage, and engage residents of all ages. Funding for the arts is not just about supporting creative expression; it also drives economic development, enhances education, and strengthens community identity. In Seminole County, where diverse cultural voices thrive, grant support ensures that the arts remain accessible and impactful. By investing in local talent and cultural programming, the SCAC affirms its commitment to making Seminole County a vibrant, inclusive, and culturally rich place to live, work, and visit.

Founded in October 1994, the Seminole Cultural Arts Council is headquartered in Sanford, Florida and is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering a thriving arts and culture environment in Seminole County, Florida. SCAC seeks to enrich the cultural fabric of the community through partnerships, education, and advocacy. SCAC is dedicated to preserving and advancing the cultural and artistic heritage of Seminole County. Its mission is to serve as a catalyst for the preservation of local cultural and historic heritage, encompassing the performing, literary, culinary, historical, archaeological, and visual arts and sciences, thereby sustaining, developing, and enhancing the cultural life of the community.

In 1996, the Seminole County Board of Commissioners designated SCAC as the official recipient of the Florida ARTS license plate funds. Through the Division of Cultural Affairs, State of Florida, and Florida's Department of Motor Vehicles, \$20 from each special State of the Arts license tag purchased by Seminole County residents goes toward a grant fund that supports the arts in Seminole County. Since SCAC was formed, more than \$400,000 in grants has been awarded.

2026-2027 Seminole Cultural Arts Grants Program Timeline
Grant Calendar Year - October 1, 2026, through September 30, 2027

- April 30, 2026: Grant Packet (Instructions & Application) is Available; Grant Window Opens
- Tuesday April 14, 2026: Grant Workshop, 7:00pm-8:00pm (Virtual Webinar Via Zoom — This workshop is required for all applicants, even if they have attended a workshop in the past and/or received grant funding. If a representative does not attend one of the two trainings, their application will be disqualified . They must attend either the IN PERSON WORKSHOP **or** the VIRTUAL WEBINAR VIA ZOOM)
- Friday, April 24, 2026: Grant Workshop, 11:00am-12:00pm (In Person Option @ Historic Sanford Welcome Center, 230 East 1st Street, Sanford, FL 32771 – This workshop is required for all applicants, even if they have attended a workshop in the past and/or received grant funding. If a representative does not attend one of the two trainings, their application will be disqualified . They must attend either the IN PERSON WORKSHOP **or** the VIRTUAL WEBINAR VIA ZOOM)
- May 31, 2026: Grant Application is Due; Grant Window Closes at 11:59pm. Applications MUST be submitted electronically with ALL supporting materials. Any incomplete applications will be disqualified.
- June 1-7, 2026: Applications reviewed by SCAC Executive Director
- June 7-19, 2026: SCAC Grants Subcommittee Scores Grant Application
- June 22-28, 2026: SCAC Grants Subcommittee Meets to Determine Application Rankings
- June 30, 2026: Grant Recipients Notified of Award or Denial of Grant Application; Grant Recipients Have Until 7/19 to accept award and sign grant contract.
- July 19, 2026: Grants Awarded at SCAC Annual Meeting – Recipients MUST be present in person to receive funding
- August 31, 2026: All grant checks MUST BE CASHED no later than 8/31/2026. Any checks not cashed by that date will be null and void.
- May 1, 2027 OR within 60 Days of Grant Funded Activity Being Completed, whichever is first: Final Grant Report due to SCAC via Email to info@seminoleculturalarts.org

Seminole Cultural Arts Grants Program Application Categories

CATEGORY I: Artistic or Cultural Event/Programming

Funds are to be used to support, in part or in whole, arts & cultural events that are free and open to the public.

CATEGORY II: Educational Active Learning Activity

Funds are to be used to facilitate active learning activities for children under the age of 18 at a location in Seminole County that promote arts & culture initiatives to a student population and/or youth demographic. The programming must be provided free of charge or at cost to student/youth participants.

CATEGORY III: Community Outreach to Support Arts & Culture in Underserved Populations

Traditionally non-cultural groups sponsoring or producing a cultural/historical project, including Boys & Girls Clubs, Schools, Seniors Programs, YMCA of Seminole County, and Juvenile Justice Programs, that is designed to benefit Underserved Populations. Underserved Populations are defined as . Funds are to be used for cultural programs occurring only at physical locations in Seminole County. Organizations applying under this category need not be arts-affiliated, but the project must be of artistic or cultural significance. Artistic and Cultural Significance are defined as “the importance, meaning, or value that a particular object, practice, or tradition holds within a specific culture or community. This significance can be based on aesthetic, historic, scientific, social, or spiritual values, and it can be embodied in tangible or intangible aspects of a place or culture.”

CATEGORY IV: Art Project/Show/Exhibition

Funds are to be used by an individual for a specific historic heritage, cultural, or arts project occurring in Seminole County, including but not limited to: literary, culinary, historical, archaeological, and visual arts (including architectural, interior design, and digital graphics) fields. The project must result in the creation of a piece of art or artistic experience that will be accessible in some way to the public at no cost.

Seminole Cultural Arts Grants Program Grant Eligibility

Organizations may submit only one Grant Application per year. Unused funds from successfully awarded grant monies cannot be carried over into your next fiscal year and must be returned to SCAC. **All SCAC funds must be spent between October 1, 2026, and September 30, 2027.** Grant funding is not automatically renewed. Organizations must re-apply for funding each fiscal year.

- (1) Applicants must complete and submit the Seminole Cultural Arts Grants Program Application with all required supporting documentation by the grant application due date.
- (2) All applicants must attend either the in person grant workshop OR the virtual grant workshop EVEN IF they have attended the workshop in prior years. Any applicant that does not attend one of the workshops will have their application disqualified.
- (3) Applicants must have completed at least one year of operation within Seminole County.
- (4) Applicants must be registered with the Florida Division of Corporations (Sunbiz.org) and their status must be “active.”
- (5) Applicants must be designated 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization by the IRS.

- (6) Funds must be used for programs or special projects that are artistic/cultural in nature including: historic preservation/restoration; arts in education; music; dance; folk arts; humanities; literature; film/video/media; theater and musical theater; visual arts; the collection or exhibition of historical, archeological, scientific, or ethnic artifacts, handiwork, or objects.
- (7) Funds must be spent on program/project direct costs. Grants may not be used as general operating support or used for any expenses not specifically identified with the grant request. Funds expended in a way that are not consistent with the approved grant application must be returned to SCAC no later than September 30th of the year in which the funding was awarded.
- (8) Programs/projects must take place in Seminole County, Florida.
- (9) Applicants receiving funding from SCAC must include the following statement and the SCAC logo must appear in promotional materials for the funded activity: "Funded in part by the Seminole Cultural Arts Council, Inc. (SCAC)."
- (10) Applicants previously funded through SCAC must comply with the terms of their grant agreement, including submission of the Final Grant Report, or the grant request will not be considered.
- (11) Applicant organizations are to maintain current accurate time records and receipts stating the actual value of in-kind contributions on file and available for audit.
- (12) Applicant must sign a grant contract before funding is awarded.
- (13) Applicants must complete and submit event evaluation data from participants who attended the event or experience that was funded by the grant (EX. Post Event Guest Surveys collected from at least 25% of the guests who attend and/or participate in the event)
- (14) The organization must comply with Americans with Disabilities Act standards as it relates to persons with disabilities, and may not discriminate based on age, race, color, religion ancestry, national origin, handicap, sexual orientation, marital status, gender or gender identity in any program or activities (e.g., hiring practices, board, audience, or volunteer participation).

Seminole Cultural Arts Grants Program Grant Funding Levels

Grant Funding Levels: \$250.00 to \$5000.00

Seminole Cultural Arts Grants Program Review and Evaluation Process

Evaluation Criteria:

The grant application will be evaluated in the following areas, with a maximum of 100 points.

Quality of Offerings (up to 40 points)

Applicants must demonstrate the quality of their offerings in all aspects of the proposal.

Panelists will evaluate this criterion using the responses to questions related to the following information:

- Applicant Mission Statement or Artist Statement; (No more than 500 words)
- Project Description. (No more than 500 words)

- Partnerships and Collaborations (if applicant is partnering with another organization, a letter of support addressed to SCAC and dated within the current grant window must be submitted for each partnering organization listed); and
- Required Attachments and Support Materials and/or work samples (see: Support Materials)

Impact (up to 40 points)

Applicants must demonstrate the expected impact of the proposal through accessibility.

Panelists will evaluate this criterion using the following information:

- Estimated number of individuals benefiting, youth benefiting, elders benefiting and artists participating;
- Estimated number of events and opportunities;
- Location and reach of project;
- Project impact (organization's economic impact and education and outreach);
- Marketing and promotion; and
- Accessibility of event facilities and programming location.

Track Record (up to 15 points)

This criterion covers administration, planning, budgets and evaluation.

Panelists will evaluate this criterion using the following information:

- Project Evaluation Plan;
- Project Budget;
- Plan for Marketing the Florida State of the Arts License Plate;
- Plan for Collecting Post Event Guest Data;
- Panelists will also consider the applicant's reporting history and compliance status as of the panel meeting

Uniqueness of Project Design and Gauged Effectiveness of Project Goals (5 points)

Please explain, in summary as you wrap up the conclusion of your grant application narrative answers to the following questions:

- A. Why is your project unique when compared to other arts/culture projects in Seminole County?
- B. Explain why you feel you have designed an event/project/program that effectively meets unmet needs of Seminole County residents.

Seminole Cultural Arts Grants Program

Application Instructions

Grant forms are available for download as PDF documents at www.seminoleculturalarts.org. If your organization requires that grant documents be in Microsoft Word format, please contact the SCAC office via email at info@seminoleculturalarts.org.

1. All applications must be submitted via email to info@seminoleculturalarts.org by 11:59pm EST on May 31, 2026. All application materials must be sent in one email with the email subject “SCAC 2025-2026 Application Submission from APPLICANT NAME”. All materials must be sent as Adobe PDFs (preferred) or MS Word/RTF File Formats. Letters/supporting materials may be submitted by Adobe PDF (preferred) but JPEGs or PNGs are also acceptable.
2. A complete application will contain the following items:
 - Cover Letter from Applicant stating the following information:
 - Applicant/organization name
 - Applicant contact information including email address, mailing address, telephone number, application point of contact (i.e., individual who can be contacted about the grant application)
 - Grant category
 - Grant application event title
 - Funding request amount
 - Reference to applicant’s prior grant funding from SCAC (if any) and/or an indication that the applicant is applying for the first time.
 - Grant Application Form
 - Project Narrative/Timeline of Deliverables/Brief Project Budget
 - Certification
 - Supporting Materials (including Final Grant Report and copies of Post-Event Guest Feedback Survey for prior award winners funded after 2026)

Required Attachments/Support Materials: (Compile in the order described below and include in the Attachments/Support Materials section of each copy.)

1. Proof of registration with the Florida Division of Corporations (Sunbiz.org)
2. 501(c)3 Determination Letter from IRS
3. Letters of Support/Endorsements

SEMINOLE CULTURAL ARTS GRANTS PROGRAM
as funded by the Seminole Cultural Arts Council
FY 2026-2027 GRANT APPLICATION

I. General Information

(1) Name of Organization _____

(2) Name of Event/Project _____

(3) Grant Contact Person _____

(4) Complete Street Address of Organization
Street _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

(5) Email Address of Organization _____

(6) Email Address of Grant Contact Person _____

(7) Grant Contact Person Title: _____

(8) Grant Category:

_____ CATEGORY I: Artistic or Cultural Event/Programming

_____ CATEGORY II: Educational Active Learning Activity

_____ CATEGORY III: Community Outreach to Support Arts & Culture in Underserved Populations

_____ CATEGORY IV: Art Project/Show/Exhibition

(9) Federal Employer ID# for 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations _____

(10) Amount Requested \$ _____

(11) Event/Project Beginning Date: _____ Ending Date: _____

(12) Have you ever applied for a SCAC Grant? _____ YES _____ NO

(13) If yes, when? _____ (If yes, copies of Final Grant Report Forms for 2025-2026 grant recipients shall be included with Required Support Material in this application.

(14) Have you ever received SCAC Grant funding? _____ YES _____ NO

(15) If yes, when? _____ (If yes, copies of Final Grant Report Forms for 2025-2026 grant recipients shall be included with Required Support Material in this application.

II. Project Narrative:

A. Quality of Offerings – Maximum 40 points

1. Project Title (clearly identify what your project involves):

2. Project Description – 500 word maximum word count (What is the goal? What makes this project unique? Describe the relationship between the organization’s mission and goals, project’s goals, and activities. List any other individuals/groups/organizations involved with the project.):

4. Merit of Project/Community Need -- 500 word maximum word count (How will it enhance/highlight arts and culture—broadly defined--in Seminole County? Be specific in explaining why this funding will have a positive outcome or what you anticipate the benefits of this funded project for the citizens of Seminole County.):

5. Organization Mission Statement -- 250 word maximum word count

B. Impact – Maximum 40 points -- 1000 word maximum word count

Describe the expected impact of the grant activity and/or event on the citizens of Seminole County. In your summary include the following information:

- Estimated number of individuals benefiting, youth benefiting, elders benefiting and artists participating;
- Estimated number of events and opportunities;
- Location and reach of project;
- Project impact (organization's economic impact and education and outreach);
- Marketing and promotion; and
- Accessibility of event facilities and programming location
- Explain how you will you increase recognition for Arts License Plates and the Seminole Cultural Arts Council? (SCAC’s ability to continue granting funds depends on proceeds from sales of arts license plates. For this reason, recognition of support is important.

C. Track Record – Maximum 15 points -- 1000 word maximum word count

- Brief Project Budget;

Please note that the event budget should only include expected costs of specific materials, fees, or costs associated with the event described in the application narrative. Estimates of specific cost amounts may be used.

PROJECT EXPENSES ALLOWED

- Artist/Guest Speaker Honorarium
- Artist/Performer Fees – please note that performer fees CANNOT be paid to any individual who has had any formal affiliations with the grant application group via their Board of Directors in the last 2 years.
- Personnel- Technical or Production (fees)
- Venue Rental (EX. theater, hall, gallery, rehearsal venue, park, classroom, etc.)
- Marketing-Publicity/Promotion (newspapers, radio/television advertising, posters, printing, mailings)
- Other Logistical Costs (scripts, scores, supplies specific to this project, equipment rental, sets, props).

- Plan for Collecting Post Event Guest Data;
- Grant reviewers will also consider the applicant's reporting history and compliance status as of the panel meeting

D. Uniqueness of Project Design and Gauged Effectiveness of Project Goals (5 points) -- 250 word maximum word count

Please explain, in summary as you wrap up the conclusion of your grant application narrative answers to the following questions:

- A. Why is your project unique when compared to other arts/culture projects in Seminole County?
- B. Explain why you feel you have designed an event/project/program that effectively meets unmet needs of Seminole County residents.

III. CERTIFICATION - Authorizing Official

I have reviewed this application for funds from the Seminole Cultural Arts Council (SCAC) for FY 2025-26. I am in full agreement with the information contained herein. I am authorized to submit this application and certify that the organization meets all eligibility requirements as described in the grant guidelines and that all information contained within this application is true to the best of my knowledge.

TREASURER _____
Signature

Printed Name **Date**



**SEMINOLE CULTURAL ARTS GRANTS PROGRAM
GRANT FINAL REPORT FORM
FY 2026-2027**

Email to: info@seminoleculturalarts.org

You must return this Final Grant Report Form to SCAC no later than sixty (60) days after the completion of your project. Failure to do so will deem your organization ineligible for future grants from the SCAC. Final Grant Report must include photographs of the progress or end product of your program or project in a form which can be used in advertising and promotion.

Organization: _____

Project Title: _____

Grant Category: _____

Grant Amount Funded: _____

Organization Address: _____

City: _____ **Zip Code:** _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

Contact Person: _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

Please provide complete and accurate answers to the following:

1. Date project began: _____ **Date project ended:** _____

2. Total Cost of Project: \$ _____ **Amount of Grant Award:** \$ _____
(Please Note: Any unused grant funds must be returned to SCAC)

3. Did you have to change any aspect of the project as originally designed?
____ YES ____ NO If Yes, briefly explain.

4. Do you plan to repeat this project or continue it in some modified version?
____ YES ____ NO If Yes, when? _____
If No, briefly explain.

5 Briefly describe your project - What did you do? When did you do it? Where did you do it? (Use an attached sheet if more space is needed.)

6. Briefly explain the organization’s use of the grant monies for programs, projects, other activities funded, and summarize the impact of this grant to the organization. (Use an attached sheet if more space is needed).

7. How did your organization promote State of the Arts License Plates? Does your organization want information about the “State of the Arts” license plates? YES NO

8. How many individuals benefited from this project? _____

9. What was the attendance at the grant project? (If applicable).
Paid admissions _____ + Complimentary admissions _____ = Total _____

10. Support Materials: You must attach support materials and submit them with this Grant Final Report. Include copies of reviews, articles, brochures, programs, support letters, etc. (Please Note: Credit to the Seminole Cultural Arts Council must be reflected in your marketing and support materials.)

I certify that the above information presents an accurate and complete description of the grant activity within the report dates shown above.

Signature of Authorizing Official

Date

Printed Name of Authorizing Official



SEMINOLE CULTURAL ARTS GRANTS PROGRAM
GRANT FINAL REPORT FORM – SAMPLE POST-EVENT GUEST DATA SURVEY
FY 2026-2027

Post-Event Guest Survey

Presented by [Host Organization Name]

*This event was funded in part by the Seminole Cultural Arts Grants Program,
through the Seminole Cultural Arts Council.*

**Thank you for attending our event! Your feedback helps us improve and
demonstrate the value of public arts funding in our community.**

1. Overall, how would you rate your experience at this event?

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor

2. Is this your first time attending this event?

- Yes
- No — I've attended in the past

3. How did you hear about this event? (Check all that apply)

- Social media
- Email or newsletter
- Friend or word of mouth
- Website
- Flyer/poster
- Other (please specify): _____

4. What did you enjoy most about the event?

5. Do you feel this event contributed positively to the cultural life of the community?

- Yes
- Somewhat
- No
- Not sure

6. How likely are you to attend this specific event again if it is held in the future?

- Very likely
- Somewhat likely
- Not likely
- Unsure

7. How likely are you to attend other arts and cultural events hosted by this organization?

- Very likely
- Somewhat likely
- Not likely

8. Do you believe public funding (such as through the Seminole Cultural Arts Grants Program) should continue to support arts and culture events like this one?

- Yes
- Maybe
- No
- Unsure

9. Please share any additional comments or suggestions:

(Optional) Zip code: _____

(Optional) Email (to receive updates about future events): _____