

# Bloomington Arts Commission

## Full Commission Meeting

April 8, 2026

5:15pm to 6:30pm

This meeting will be held in the McCloskey Conference Room 135 located in City Hall, 401 North Morton Street. This meeting may also be accessed via zoom at the following link:

<https://bloomington.zoom.us/j/88691874944?pwd=NkhGeDE3Rzd4MngzQXhMc3pCcUI2dz09>

**Meeting ID:** 886 9187 4944

**Passcode:** 868050

Bloomington Arts Commission meetings can be watched on CATS public access television, available here: [Catstv.net](http://Catstv.net)

Materials for this meeting can be found on the Bloomington Arts Commission's website, which is located at the following address: [Bloomington Arts Commission | City of Bloomington, Indiana](#)

## Agenda

1. Call to Order & Roll Call
  - a. Chair Nada Abdelrahim absent. Gerard Pannekoek to conduct meeting.
2. Approval of Agenda and Minutes
  - a. February 2026 Minutes
3. Staff report
  - a. Financial Report
  - b. Hiring updates: Assistant Director of the Arts & Special Projects Manager
  - c. Arts Projects Support Grants status
4. From your Chair - Nada Abdelrahim
  - a. Welcome new Commissioner Austin White (Common Council appointment)
  - b. Meeting attendance
5. Public Art - Christina Elem, Subcommittee Chair
  - a. Commissioner participation in Trades District mural selection (CCC grant)
6. Grants - Gerard Pannekoek & Paul Anderson, Subcommittee Co-Chairs
  - a. Arts Projects Support Grants
    - i. Updates to Guidelines and Ineligible Expenses language
    - ii. Applications now open and accessible here: [Grants, Opportunities, and Professional Development | City of Bloomington, Indiana](#)
7. [Upcoming events & important dates](#)
8. Commissioner Comments & Announcements
9. Public Comment
10. Call to Adjourn

## Commission Membership

Pursuant to applicable law and policy, and in compliance with Indiana Code 5-14-9-6, the following details are provided regarding the officers serving on this committee:

<b>Commissioner</b>	<b>Appointed By</b>	<b>Appointment Date</b>	<b>Term</b>
Nada Abdelrahim (Chair)	Mayor	2/1/2025	2/1/2025 - 1/31/2028
Paul Anderson (Grants Co-Chair)	Common Council	2/28/2024	2/1/2024 - 1/31/2027
Christina Elem (Public Art Chair)	Mayor	2/1/2026	2/1/2026 - 1/31/2029
Lynn Hooker	Common Council	9/30/2025	2/1/2025 - 1/31/2028
Brandie Macdonald	Mayor	9/19/2025	2/1/2025 - 1/31/2028
Gretchen Nall	Mayor	2/21/2024	2/1/2024 - 1/31/2027
Gerard Pannekoek, Grants Co-Chair	Common Council	2/1/2026	2/1/2026 - 1/31/2029
Robert Shakespeare	Common Council	2/1/2024	2/1/2024 - 1/31/2027
Betsy Stirratt	Mayor	2/9/2024	2/1/2024 - 1/31/2027
Austin White	Common Council	2/18/2026	2/1/2026 - 1/31/2029
Vacant	Mayor		

The City of Bloomington is committed to providing equal access to information. If you encounter difficulties accessing this notice or related meeting materials, please contact the Department of Economic and Sustainable Development at 812-349-3419 or e-mail [esd@bloomington.in.gov](mailto:esd@bloomington.in.gov) and provide your name, contact information, and a link to or description of the document or web page you are having problems with.

<b>Grant Funds</b>	<b>Total Allocated</b>	<b>Total Awarded: Arts Projects</b>	<b>Total Awarded: Operations</b>	<b>Total Awarded: Artistic Advancement</b>	<b>Total Awarded: All Grants</b>	<b>Total Remaining</b>	
2026 BAC Grant allotment	\$130,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$130,000.00	
2026 BUEA Zone Art grant allotment	\$50,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50,000.00	BUEA approved overage to cover additional operation grant funds
<b>Total Grant funds available</b>	<b>\$180,000.00</b>					<b>\$180,000.00</b>	
<b>Other Funds</b>							
<b>Emerging Artist Professional Development</b>	<b>\$5,000.00</b>						
<b>Total Remaining</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>						



# Bloomington Arts Commission

## – 2026 Arts Projects Support Grants

### – Program Info & Guidelines

#### ABOUT THE PROGRAM

[The Bloomington Arts Commission](#) (BAC) offers Arts Project Support (APS) grants of up to \$4,000 to support arts projects that occur primarily within Bloomington, Indiana (or Monroe County Community School Corporation District) and positively impact public understanding, appreciation, or engagement with art.

#### KEY DETAILS

- Most awardees will not receive full funding (\$4,000)
- Projects may be one-off or ongoing
- Project expenses supported by this grant should not be made earlier than July 1, 2026 or any later than June 30, 2027

#### ELIGIBILITY

- Individual artists, groups, and organizations are eligible to apply. Organizations are not required to be registered non-profits.
- Projects must take place within Bloomington city limits and be open to the public or occur in schools.
- Projects may be one-off or ongoing. Project expenses supported by this grant should not be made earlier than July 1, 2026, or any later than June 30, 2027
- Students enrolled at a higher education institution may apply, but funds cannot be used to support assignments associated with a course at a higher education institution

#### TIMELINE

##### Grant Period July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027

Grant Phase	Date
Program Opens for Applications	March 16, 2026
Application Deadline	April 23, 2026
Funding Notification	June 8, 2026
Funding Disbursement	*By July 31, 2026
Final Report Deadline	July 15, 2027

\* Be advised, payment may be delayed due to the contracting process. Submit required materials at your earliest convenience.

## **FUNDING RESTRICTIONS**

BAC Arts Project Grant funds cannot be used for the following purposes

### **Operations**

- Alcoholic beverages
- Private reception expenses (e.g. food, beverages)
- Purchase of vehicles of any kind
- Gifts and prizes, including cash, gift card, and gift certificates, as well as other items (e.g., electronic devices) with a monetary value
- Contributions and donations to other entities
- Costs of goods for resale, such as the sale of concessions, promotional merchandise, food and/or beverages, t-shirts or other clothing, artwork, or other items for resale
- Costs to bring a project into compliance with federal award requirements
- Costs incurred earlier than July 1, 2026, or later than June 30, 2027

### **Programming**

- Projects or programs to be delivered primarily outside of Bloomington, unless they take place within the Monroe County Community School Corporation District.
- Visa costs paid to the U.S. Government.
- Costs or underwriting for ongoing residencies or curricular programs in degree-granting colleges and universities.
- Costs that support assignments associated with a course or degree requirement at a higher education institution
- Scholarship assistance for academic credit.
- Staff salaries or operational overhead of public or private schools, colleges, universities, or government agencies.
- Projects whose primary purpose is to present political or religious ideas, or those that will enhance the property of religious or political institutions.
- For sub-granting or re-granting to individuals or other organizations.

## **EVALUATION CRITERIA**

Applications will be reviewed by a conflict free panel and measured by the following criteria.

### **Community Impact & Engagement**

- How well will this project positively impact public understanding, appreciation, or engagement with art?
- Is this project accessible to the public?
- To what extent does this project include participants and audience members from different groups?
- To what extent does the project connect or collaborate with other Bloomington organizations?

## **Implementation**

- Does this project have clearly articulated outcomes?
- Does this project have a realistic plan to achieve its outcomes?
- Are the funds requested directly related to the project's success?
- Are sufficient resources committed to this project from outside the grant?

## **FINAL REPORTING**

By the final grant report deadline (see TIMELINE above), grantees are required to submit a report outlining the outcomes of their project. Requirements may include the following:

- The total number of people involved (including staff, volunteers, artists)
- The total number of people impacted (e.g. community members, audience)
- Brief narrative
- Documentation (e.g. image of event, press coverage, etc)
- Final project budget of actual income and expenses

## **QUESTIONS?**

Bloomington Arts Commissioners will offer office hours for applicants on a first come first serve basis for anyone interested in discussing the application process during the application period.

Please contact Paige Sharp, Arts Consultant and liaison to the Bloomington Arts Commission, [paige@sharpvisionarts.com](mailto:paige@sharpvisionarts.com) to schedule an appointment with a commissioner.

## **READY TO APPLY?**

[Access the Application](#)

[Review the 2026 Project Budget Template](#)

## 2026 Arts Project Grant Application

City of Bloomington | Bloomington Arts Commission

	<b>Text of question</b>
	2026 BAC Art Projects Grant Overview - Link to WEBPAGE
	Does your project take place within Bloomington city limits? *
	Is the majority of your project/program occurring within the Bloomington Urban Enterprise Association (BUEA)? * <i>Not sure? <a href="#">Click here</a>. Once in, enter your address under "Zone Lookup Tool". If your address is in the BUEA you will see "Urban Enterprise Zone" listed.</i>
	Will your project be open to the public or occur in schools? *
	Will the expenses of your project be incurred between July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027? *
	Are you or your organization currently enrolled in E-verify? *
	Please list any City of Bloomington grants that you have received since January 1, 2023 (note that prior grants will not disqualify you from receiving BAC grant funding). If no funding was received, state "Not Applicable".*
	Full Name *
	Email Address *
	Phone Number *
	I am applying as... *
	If business, what type of structure?
	Organization Name *
	Organization Address *
	Social Media
	Link to organization website
	Project Title *
	Project Start Date *
	Project End Date *
	Using one sentence starting with "Funds are requested to support...", please tell us what your funds are requested to support: *

	Describe your project in 500 words or less. Focus on its impact on public understanding, appreciation, and engagement with the arts. *
	How will you make this project accessible to the public? Please also describe your efforts to include participants and audience members from different groups.
	Is the project location(s) accessible to persons with disabilities as defined in the Americans with Disabilities Act? *
	To what extent does your project connect or collaborate with other Bloomington organizations?
	What are your project outcomes? *
	Describe specific methods that you will use to achieve the outcomes listed above. *
	Provide a brief project timeline. Include important dates and deadlines related to project planning, implementation, and evaluation. *
	Describe how you will manage the project. Include roles and responsibilities of staff and other individuals by name or position (including volunteers). 300 words or less.*
	How will you gather evaluative information that shows well you achieved the outcomes listed above?
	How are the funds requested directly related to the project's success?
	If your project requires more resources than this grant would provide, please identify those resources and tell how you will acquire them. Include nonmonetary ones, such as performance space or assistance from Parks and Recreation.
	Please upload the Arts Project Grant Budget document detailing your projected expenses and project income sources. *
	The BAC Arts Project Grant Budget Template is available <a href="#">here</a> .



