

2025 TACA Catalyst Grant Applicant Info Session

February 25, 2025



taca-arts.org

Agenda

- I. About TACA
- II. Catalyst Grant Process Overview
- III. Catalyst Grant Application Updates
- IV. Q&A



About TACA

Mission Statement

TACA invests in the vibrancy and resilience of a diverse Dallas arts community.

Vision Statement

TACA envisions a thriving arts landscape that is celebrated and accessible to everyone.

Values

IGNITE: Inclusive, Genuine, Nimble, Impactful, Trusted, Entrepreneurial

Catalyst Grants

Provides bi-annual unrestricted funding to high-performing nonprofit arts organizations in Dallas County.

Pop-Up Grants

Provides bi-monthly funding to arts organizations/fiscally-sponsored arts projects and their artists for exciting, innovative work in Dallas County.

New Works Fund Grants

Provides project funding to nonprofit arts organizations in Dallas County for new artistic works by Black, Indigenous, or other people of color (BIPOC), LGBTQ+ individuals, women, and intersections therein.

Amplifier Workshops

Curated, professional development workshop series offered free to arts administrators on topics relevant to the current landscape.

Arts Accelerator

A 10-month learning experience for emerging arts organizations to increase capacity, acquire new business and leadership skills, and create strategic plans for sustainable growth.

TACA Perforum

Annual cultural community symposium that focuses on “hot topics” in the arts and features nationally-renowned panelists



About TACA – Revenue Streams



**Fundraising
Events**



**Individual Giving
& Membership
Programs**



Institutional Gifts

Catalyst Grants

Fueling Arts with Flexibility

TACA's Catalyst Grants provide vital unrestricted funding to arts organizations in Dallas County, empowering them to strengthen their operations, creativity, and impact. From salaries to programs, these grants give organizations the freedom to use funds where they're needed most.

With Catalyst Grants, we're investing in the future of Dallas' arts community – one transformative project at a time.

Arts General Operating Grants (2018-2020)

Annual grants

Grant Focus:

- Artistic Excellence
- Innovation/Originality,
- Local Creation/Local Artists
- EDI & Access
- Fiscal/Org Health



Resiliency Grants (2020-2021)

Tri-annual grants

Grant Focus:

- Mission Delivery
- Community Relevance
- Organization Adaptability



Catalyst Grants (2021- present)

Bi-annual grants (2021-2023)

Annual grants (2023 - present)

Grant Focus:

- Artist Merit & Impact
- Community Access & Inclusion
- Fiscal/Org Health

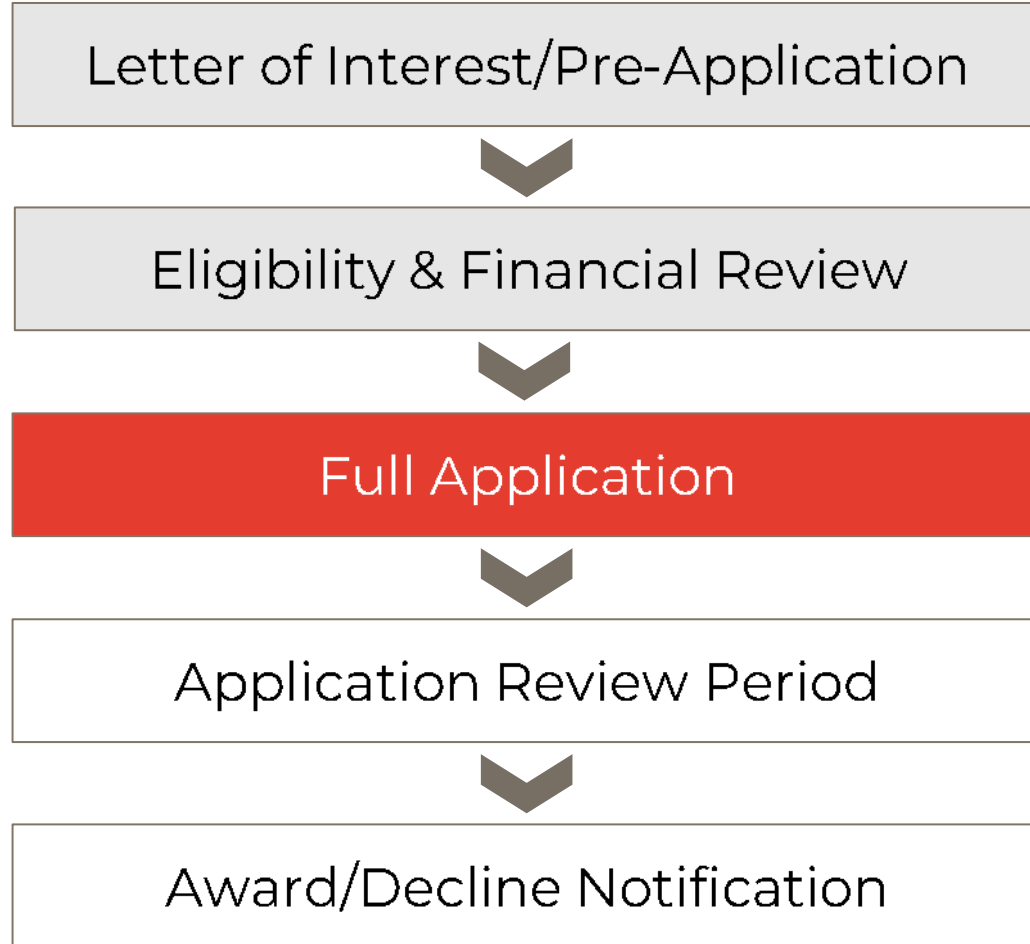
60% Artistic Merit & Impact
(Includes observations)

25% Community Access & Inclusion

15% Fiscal & Organizational Health

For a full description of each criterion, please consult the [Grant Guidelines](#).

Process & Timeline



2025 Cycle Pre-Application Deadline:
Friday, October 18, 2024, by 11:59 p.m. CT
Required step for observation assignments

2025 Cycle Application Period:
Monday, February 17 – Wednesday, March 26

2025 Cycle Application Review Period:
Monday, March 31– Wednesday, May 21

2025 Cycle Application Notifications:
Friday, May 30 **

Who are the Reviewers?

Reviewers are comprised of civic leaders, arts professionals, artists, community and corporate volunteers, arts advocates, and others with arts expertise.

This year, we have 36 panelists spread across 4 different review panels.

Reviewer Responsibilities

- Evaluate and score grant applications
- Observe in-person/virtual performances, exhibits, programming by applicants (when applicable)
- Participate in a deliberation meeting to discuss applications

Funding Recommendations

Funding recommendations are based on a tiered matrix that accounts for the following variables each cycle:

- Most recently completed fiscal year expense amount
- Average review score
- Number of applicants
- Amount of funds TACA has available to distribute

Updates for 2025

- Application Narrative prompts have been simplified
- List of current Board of Directors is required
- Returning: Request for Reviewer Suggestions
- Application Checklist
- Scoring Rubric

Application Checklist



2025 Catalyst Grants Application Checklist

Please use this checklist to help you prepare and cross-check your Catalyst Grant application. The checkboxes are functional so this can be used digitally.

The Catalyst Grant Guidelines are available [>>>HERE<<](#) and contain additional information about our Review Criteria and processes. Please click [>>>HERE<<](#) to view the scoring rubric.

Checklist:

- Review Criteria Narratives
 - Artistic Merit & Impact
 - Community Access & Inclusion
 - Fiscal & Organizational Health
- Upcoming Programming Information (Template [>>>HERE<<](#), if desired)
- Programs & Attendance
 - Number of Programs
 - Total Attendance by category
- Financial Information
 - Budget
 - Current Assets & Liabilities
 - Revenue (listed by source and total unrestricted vs restricted)
 - Expenses (by category)
- Current Fiscal Year Budget
- Current Balance Sheet (as of 12/31/24 or later)
- Workforce Information
 - Race/Ethnicity of Staff & Board Gender of Staff & Board
 - Listing of Current Board Members
 - Number of Artists Employed
 - Personnel Expenses
- Supplemental Materials (optional, max 3)
- Reviewer Recommendations (optional)

If you have any questions, please contact Yaya Gonzalez at yadira.gonzalez@taca-arts.org.

- Simple checklist designed to help track application components outside of the application portal
- Click [>>>HERE<<](#) to download

Scoring Rubric

2025 Catalyst Grants - Reviewer Rubric

Organization: _____
Panel: _____

Category	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Score
Artistic Merit & Impact (60%)	Poor Fails to address prompts, or programs are below average with no clear impact, artist support, or innovation efforts. Audience experiences are poor.	Below Average Artistic programs are inconsistent, demonstrate limited success, or create low quality experiences. Minimal impact. Inconsistent artist support, and limited innovation.	Average Programming is of good quality and creates average audience experience. Narrative has some impact goals, regular artist support, and some innovation.	Above Average Programming is interesting, high quality, and creates meaningful experiences. Demonstrates strong impact, significant artist support, and noticeable innovation.	Excellent Programming is of exceptional quality, creating impactful and meaningful experiences. Demonstrates outstanding impact, sustained artist support, and highly innovative programs.						
Notes:											
Category	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Score
Community Access & Inclusion (25%)	Poor Minimal accessibility efforts with limited reach. No efforts to engage with underserved communities, DEI policies or inclusion practices. No partnerships with other organizations.	Below Average Some accessibility efforts but inconsistent results. Limited inclusion of voices from marginalized communities, and basic DEI policies with little impact on organizational operations. Minimal partnerships with other organizations.	Average Moderate accessibility efforts with room for growth. Some inclusion of underserved voices. Average DEI policies or initiatives, with measurable but limited community engagement. Some partnerships with other organizations.	Above Average Strong accessibility efforts benefiting a wide range of audiences. Demonstrable engagement with and representation of marginalized communities, well-integrated DEI policies and practices, and successful community partnerships.	Excellent Outstanding accessibility efforts with broad impact. Underserved voices are deeply integrated into the organization. Exceptional commitment to inclusion, industry-leading DEI policies, and meaningful strategic partnerships.						
Notes:											
Category	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Score
Fiscal & Organizational Health (15%)	Poor Significant financial instability (either through debt or no cash reserves) with no clear organizational goals, financial planning, or efforts to ensure sustainability or growth.	Below Average Some financial instability (Current Ratio close to 0 and Moths of Operating Cash is low for organization's budget size). Minimal financial or organizational planning efforts with no clear execution of past goals or minimal goals for the coming year.	Average Financially stable with some areas for improvement (Current Ratio at or above 1 and Moths of Operating Cash is typical for organization's budget size). Demonstrates a moderate degree of success in achieving past goals and includes reasonable goals for the coming year.	Above Average Financially stable with some long-term planning (Current Ratio above 1 and Moths of Operating Cash is average or above for organization's budget size). Strong financial and organizational goals, with good demonstration of both past success and strong goals or plans for the coming year.	Excellent Highly stable finances with a strong long-term goals and planning (Current Ratio above 1 and Moths of Operating Cash is average or above for organization's budget size). Successfully met previous financial and organizational goals with exceptional plans for the coming year.						
Notes:											



- Designed to help Catalyst Reviewers evaluate application narratives and incorporate their observation experiences
- Formalization of how TACA has scored applications and reflective of Evaluative Criteria
- Click [>>HERE<<](#) to download rubric

Demo Time

**Application Portal: [Survey Monkey Apply](#)
[Application Checklist](#)
[Reviewer Rubric](#)**

Grantee Requirements



Reporting Requirements (2025 Cycle)

- Grantees are required to complete and submit a brief Catalyst Grants Final Report by April 29, 2026. The report form will be available digitally through the TACA Grants Portal. Completion of the TACA Grant Final Report is required for future funding by TACA.
- Any 2024 Catalyst Grant recipients must submit their 2024 report by April 30th, 2025 to ensure they are eligible for funding in the 2025 cycle.

Recognition Requirements

- Grantees should credit and acknowledge TACA's support at the correct level within your donor recognition structure for our award amount. More details will be provided in the funding notification.
- TACA's has rebranded! Our logo, program ad, and other materials are available [>>HERE<<](#).

Complimentary Tickets

- TACA may ask for up to 4 complimentary tickets for up to 4 of your productions/events. Requests will be made on a per-show basis, and TACA will be respectful of your capacity and number of productions. More details will be provided in the funding notification.

Key Dates

September 9, 2024	Pre-Application Form Opens
October 18, 2024 by 11:59 p.m. CT	Pre-Application Form submission deadline
October 20-February 25, 2024	Pre-Application Form Review / Pre-Application Interviews
February 17, 2025	Eligibility to apply notification / Full Application available
March 26, 2025 by 11:59 p.m. CT	Full Application submission deadline
March 31-May 21, 2025	Application Review Period
May 30, 2025	Notification of grant awards**

Any Questions?

For more information, please consult the [Grant Guidelines](#) or contact Yadira "Yaya" Gonzalez, Programs Associate, at Yadira.Gonzalez@taca-arts.org or 214.520.3930





Thank You!

For more information, please consult the [Grant Guidelines](#) or contact Yadira "Yaya" Gonzalez, Programs Associate, at Yadira.Gonzalez@taca-arts.org or 214.520.3930

TACA

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