

2026 TACA Catalyst Grant Applicant Info Session

March 2, 2026



taca-arts.org

Agenda

- I. About TACA
- II. Catalyst Grant Process Overview
- III. Demonstration
- IV. Catalyst Grant Application Updates
- V. 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 annual unrestricted funding to high-performing nonprofit arts organizations in Dallas County.

Pop-Up Grants

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

New Works Fund Grants

The New Works Fund aims to stimulate and support the creation and presentation of brand-new artistic works of literary, performing, and visual art that tell stories of individuals and communities often underrepresented in the canon of their artistic disciplines.

Amplifier Workshops

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

Learn More: taca-arts.org/amplifier

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.

Learn More: taca-arts.org/arts-accelerator

Unscripted

Reimagined from TACA's *Perforum* and designed to spark community-wide dialogue through curated conversations and a keynote event with national and local arts leaders.

Learn More: taca-arts.org/programs/taca-unscripted/



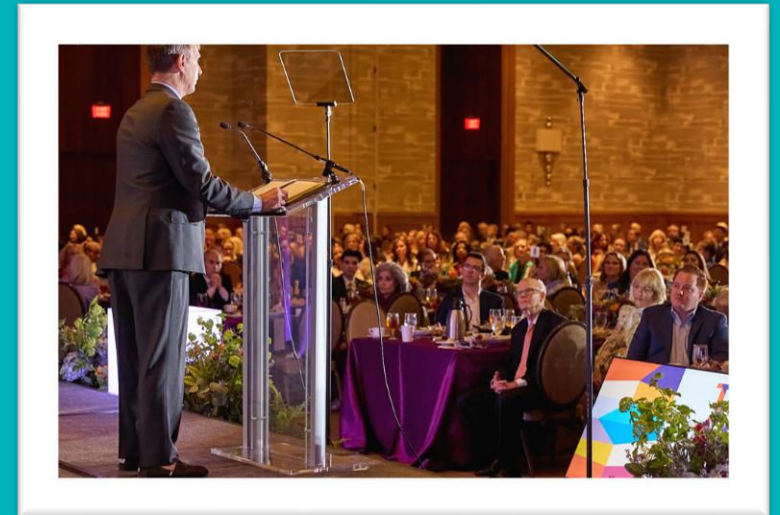
About TACA – Revenue Streams



**Fundraising
Events**



Individual Giving



Institutional Gifts

Catalyst Grant Process Overview

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.

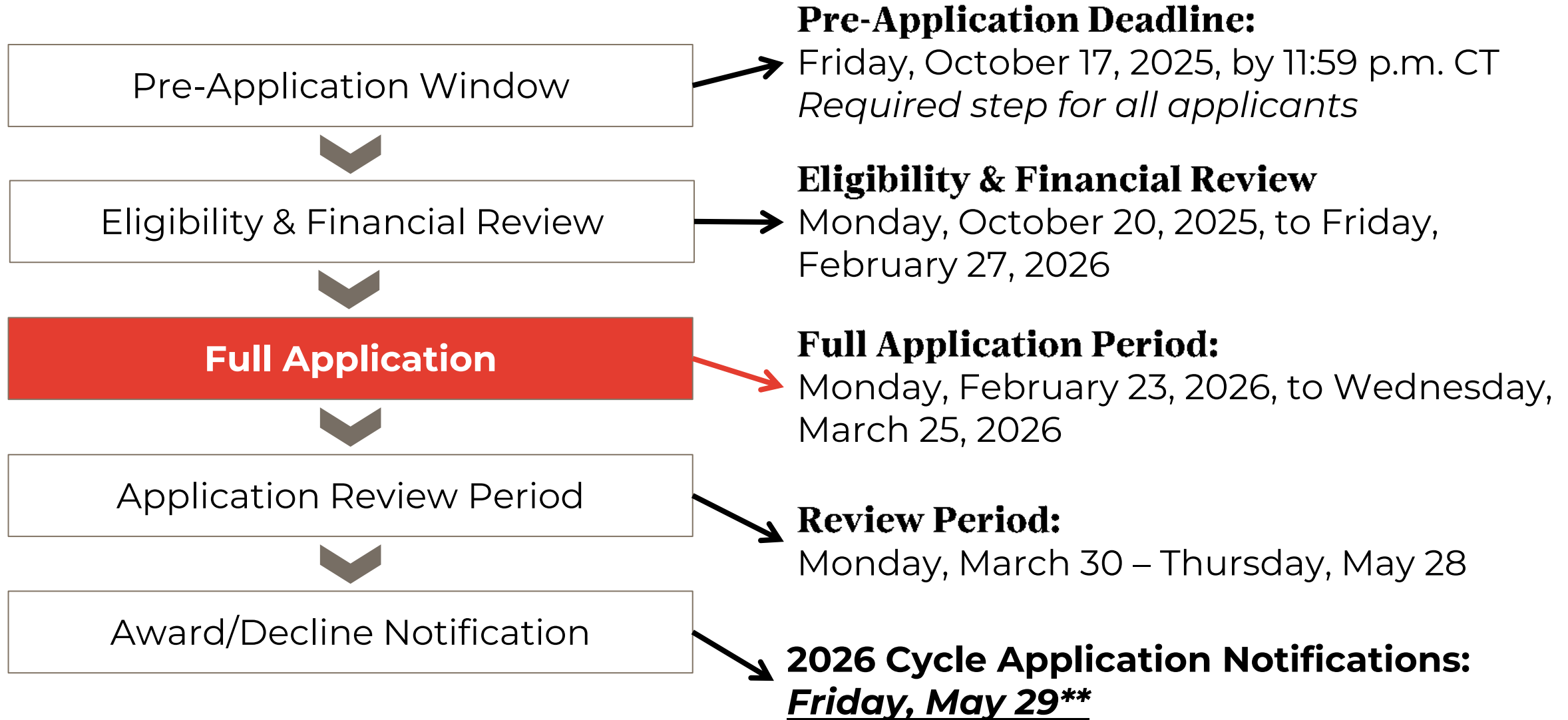
60% Artistic Merit & Impact
(Includes observations)

25% Community Access & Inclusion

15% Fiscal & Organizational Health

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

Key Dates



Application Reviews

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 about 36 panelists spread across 4 different review panels.



Funding recommendations are based a combination of the following variables each cycle:

- Most recently completed fiscal year budget
- Final review score
- Amount of funds TACA has available to distribute

Catalyst Grant awards may vary from year to year!

2026 Catalyst Grant Application Updates

1. Organization Information

- Organization Information and ALAANA designations are now separate tasks
- ALAANA information will not be shared with reviewers

2. Criteria Narratives

- Community Access & Inclusion has new prompts
- Narratives have been simplified for clarity and focus

3. Financial Information

- Optional Revenue Composition Added:
 - Individual | Corporate | Foundation | Government

Demo Time

Application Portal: Survey Monkey Apply
Application Checklist
Reviewer Rubric

Application Checklist



2026 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.

Updated 2026 Catalyst Guidelines can be found [>>>HERE<<](#). 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 12/31/25 or later)

Workforce Information

- Race/Ethnicity of Staff & Board
- Gender 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 Yadira 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

2026 Catalyst Reviewer Rubric

Organization: _____
 Artistic Discipline: _____

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Category	Poor		Below Average		Average		Above Average		Excellent		Score
Artistic Merit & Impact (60%)	Fails to address prompts, weak programming with no clear impact, artist support, innovation, or measurable goals.		Limited impact, inconsistent artist support, and minimal innovation. Goals exist but lack clarity, measurement, or meaningful success.		Moderate impact, regular artist support, and some innovation. Impact goals exist with some measurable success.		Demonstrates strong impact, significant artist support, and noticeable innovation. Impact goals are well-defined and show measurable progress.		Creates outstanding impact, sustained artist support, and highly innovative programming. Impact goals are clear, measurable, and well-executed.		
Notes:											
Category	Poor		Below Average		Average		Above Average		Excellent		Score
Community Access & Inclusion (25%)	Limited or unclear efforts to broaden access. Minimal understanding of audience and no mechanism for community feedback. Partnerships are informal or not connected to increased access.		Identified some barriers and outlined initial steps to address them. Demonstrates basic awareness of audiences, with limited evidence of using feedback. Partnerships are limited in scope.		Moderate efforts to reduce barriers and improve access. Demonstrates some understanding of audiences and responsiveness. Partnerships support community engagement, though impact may be limited.		Implements clear strategies to broaden access with some results. Demonstrates ongoing efforts to understand audiences and responds to learnings. Partnerships increase access and community engagement.		Integrates access strategies with strong results. Deep audience relationships inform organizational direction. Partnerships significantly expand participation or strengthen community connection.		
Notes:											
Category	Poor		Below Average		Average		Above Average		Excellent		Score
Fiscal & Organizational Health (15%)	Significant financial instability with no clear goals, financial planning, or strategic efforts to ensure sustainability or growth.		Some financial instability with basic planning. Minimal strategic or financial planning efforts with no clear execution or long-term vision.		Financially stable with some areas for improvement. Well-defined financial goals and moderated strategic planning and capacity-building efforts.		Financially stable with long-term sustainability planning. Strong strategic financial planning aligned with organizational growth and proactive risk management.		Highly stable finances with a strong long-term plan. Comprehensive financial strategy and advanced strategic planning.		
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

Grantee Requirements



Reporting Requirements (2026 Cycle)

- Grantees are required to complete and submit a brief 2026 Catalyst Grants Final Report by April 28, 2027. 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 2025 Catalyst Grant recipients must submit their 2025 report by April 29th, 2026, to ensure they are eligible for funding in the 2026 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.
- Our logo, program ad, and other materials are available [>>HERE<<](#). We will have an updated program bill next month that we will share for the 26-27 season!

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 8, 2025	Pre-Application Form Opens
October 20, 2025 by 11:59 p.m. CT	Pre-Application Form submission deadline
October 20-February 23, 2026	Pre-Application Form Review / Pre-Application Interviews
February 23, 2026	Eligibility to apply notification / Full Application available
March 25, 2026, by 11:59 p.m. CT	Full Application submission deadline
March 30-May 28, 2026	Application Review Period
May 29, 2026	Notification of grant awards**

Any Questions?

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

TACA

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