



## **Arts Accelerator**

2024-2025 Cohort

### *Program Description*

#### **Program Overview and Goals**

The Arts Accelerator is a learning opportunity customized for small and emerging arts nonprofits to increase their organizational capacity, learn new organizational management and leadership skills, and create actionable plans for sustainable growth. This 10-month program combines workshops, panels/guest speakers, mentorship, and peer-learning, with each organization working to hone their big picture goals and create a unique strategic plan.

We seek arts organizations that are on the precipice of expansion and ready for a transformative change. Program participants should be in early years of nonprofit status or experiencing some sort of growth or transition in size/scope/activity/funding levels. Participants can be from any type of arts and/or culture-focused organization. It is also important to note that this cohort process is a significant time commitment, so it is not right for organizations who cannot focus time on exclusively organizational growth due to financial issues and consequential staff-board transitions.

The 2024-2025 cohort will have a maximum of 6 organizations, who will participate with a core team of 3-5 members of their staff and board. Since curriculum builds over time, **executive leadership and board leadership are expected to attend every session in-person**, with other staff or board members rotating their attendance depending on the subject matter.

The Arts Accelerator will create an opportunity for arts nonprofits to:

- Develop deeper understanding of effective nonprofit and arts management tools and practices
- Deepen their impact through increased organizational capacity and efficiency
- Invest in their organization's sustainable growth
- Grow their networks of peers, supporters, and advisors to support the organization's mission and goals

***The Arts Accelerator is free for all participating organizations.***

Please contact Anne Kogan, Director of Programs, with any questions: [anne.kogan@taca-arts.org](mailto:anne.kogan@taca-arts.org)

## **Content & Leadership**

The Arts Accelerator is a collaboration with Suzanne Smith, Founder & CEO of [Social Impact Architects](#) and Adjunct Professor – UTA/SMU. All sessions will include a mini-MBA style workshop with a subject-matter expert instructor, discussions with seasoned arts professionals, working time with your organization’s participants, and peer-to-peer networking and content sharing and learning.

The content of the program will be based in the flywheel effect, addressing growth and performance improvement in strategy, culture, impact, operations, financial management, and other functional components of organizational management, as well as arts-specific content like audience development, fundraising, and board development & management.

The final session on May 13 will be a presentation of the strategic plan developed during the cohort for the program leaders, educators, and participants, with an invited group of arts and culture funders and stakeholders.

## **Eligibility**

Participating organizations must be:

- Verified 501c3 organizations OR fiscally-sponsored organizations with an explicit organizational focus on providing significant arts and/or cultural programming
  - o Fiscally-sponsored organizations should intend to formalize their 501c3 status by the end of 2025
- Organizations whose primary activities take place in Dallas County
- Organizations able to commit to their executive and board leaders attending all 10 program sessions (see full list of dates in Timeline section) AND to completing program assignments

Ineligible organizations:

- Colleges/Universities/High Schools/Elementary schools
- For-profit arts organizations
- Government entities or “Friends of” organizations
- Nonprofit organizations that do not have an explicit focus on arts programming
- Religious institutions
- Festivals/Fairs and other “one-time” special events

Some characteristics of organizations best positioned to benefit from this cycle of the Arts Accelerator include:

- Expense budgets under \$500,000
- In Operation from two to 10 years
- Transitioning from working on a project-basis to a long-term or annual work cycle
- Hiring additional staff to support the founder
- Organizations experiencing a significant shift in size, scope, or activity levels

We recognize that small and/or emerging organizations may mean different things to different applicants, and this list of characteristics is not exhaustive or exclusive. If you have any questions about

*Please contact Anne Kogan, Director of Programs, with any questions: [anne.kogan@taca-arts.org](mailto:anne.kogan@taca-arts.org)*

eligibility, please contact Anne Kogan, TACA’s Director of Programs, at [anne.kogan@taca-arts.org](mailto:anne.kogan@taca-arts.org) to discuss your organization.

**Timeline**

Application Period: April 8 – May 17, 2024

Interviews: June 10-27, 2024 (conducted virtually)

Notification of Decision: June 28, 2024

- Successful applicants will be asked to provide organization’s logo, promotional photos, or other relevant promotional materials

Program Announcement (Tentative): July 9, 2024

Program Dates:

Tuesday, August 13, 2024	Session 1
Tuesday, September 17, 2024	Session 2
Tuesday, October 15, 2024	Session 3
Tuesday, November 19, 2024	Session 4
Tuesday, December 10, 2024	Session 5
Tuesday, January 7, 2025	Session 6
Tuesday, February 11, 2025	Session 7
Tuesday, March 4, 2025	Session 8
Tuesday, April 8, 2025	Session 9
Tuesday, May 13, 2025	Session 10
Tuesday, May 20, 2025	Final Presentations

Please note that participating in the Arts Accelerator is a commitment to attend all of the above sessions. All sessions will run 9:30am to 4:30pm unless otherwise specified. TACA will provide lunch, snacks, drinks, and parking.

**Application**

The application will be available from April 8 to May 17, 2024, on TACA’s Survey Monkey Apply portal - <https://taca.smapply.io/>.

If you do not already have an account in our portal, please create one to access the application. You will receive an email from Survey Monkey Apply with directions for accessing your new account.

The application asks for some standard information about your organization, staff, board, and financials. It also contains a series of narrative questions to better understand your organization’s programs, goals, and challenges so that we can do our best to tailor the Accelerator to the needs of the participants.

*Please contact Anne Kogan, Director of Programs, with any questions: [anne.kogan@taca-arts.org](mailto:anne.kogan@taca-arts.org)*

While you can write up to 600 words for each narrative question, please do not feel you need to fill the space unless necessary.

Each applicant will have a one-hour conversation with TACA staff, Suzanne Smith, and/or other program stakeholders. A sample list of questions will be provided so you have a sense of what we may want to discuss. The conversation will also be an opportunity for you to ask questions about the program and how it may best serve your organizational needs.