

Muse Guidelines

GRANTS FOR MUSIC ORGANIZATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

Muse is a responsive, competitive grant program offered by Bohemian Foundation's Music Programs. Muse supports music-related organizations and activities in Northern Colorado in order to strengthen community through music. Muse provides grants to nonprofit organizations that have popular contemporary music as their primary focus or that have a program that centers on popular contemporary music. In all cases, funding requests must align with at least one of Bohemian Foundation's Music Programs goals.

Through Muse, the Foundation makes awards up to \$20,000 to eligible 501(c)(3) organizations serving the Northern Colorado area (defined as Larimer and Weld counties).

Bohemian Foundation's Music Programs builds connections by providing music-related resources for enjoyment, personal expression, and the development and improvement of music-related talent.

MUSE GUIDELINES

Below is an overview of key Muse guidelines:

Muse and Music Programs Goals

Muse is designed to help achieve Bohemian Foundation's Music Programs goals while being responsive to the needs and ideas of nonprofits that have popular contemporary music as their primary focus or that have a program that centers on popular contemporary music.

What We Look For

Grant applications are accepted two times per year (in Spring and Fall). Grant requests can be up to \$20,000. In addition to alignment with Music Programs goals, strong proposals will address the following:

Relevance: Requests must reflect an understanding of the current popular contemporary music and community landscapes of Northern Colorado and music industry trends more broadly.

Community Need: Requests must fill a gap or improve upon existing services or models. Applicants should demonstrate a thorough understanding of the Northern Colorado popular contemporary music community and evidence of the gaps or improvements needed.

Stakeholder Buy-In: Requests will document community enthusiasm and

demonstrate strong partnerships within the community.

Innovation: Creative and innovative organizations and programs are encouraged, particularly when addressing long-standing or distinctly difficult challenges.

Fun: Muse encourages proposals that include fun program elements that enliven and inspire while also advancing Music Programs goals.

Leverage: Requests should demonstrate how funding from Muse will leverage additional funding from other sources, including contributed and earned income.

Responsible Resourcing: Proposals will be evaluated on evidence of responsible resource management.

Geographic Focus

Applicants applying for general operating or project support must be located within the geographic boundary of Larimer and/or Weld counties. However, organizations applying for program-specific funding need only provide services in Larimer and/or Weld counties to be eligible.

Applicant Eligibility

Applicant must be a 501(c)(3) organization. Private foundations, government units, type III non-functionally-integrated supporting organizations, and programs under fiscal sponsorship are ineligible to apply to Muse.

One application per school or department is allowed for universities and colleges. If organizations apply as part of a collaborative effort, one organization must be selected to serve as the Muse applicant.

Grant Cycle

Organizations may only submit one application per grant round. There will be two grant rounds per year (in Spring and Fall).

Grant Amount

Eligible organizations may apply for up to \$20,000 per grant round. Applicants may not request funding for the same request twice in a calendar year.

For any organization that has been classified by the IRS as a public charity because of the public nature of its support (i.e. under Section 509(a)(1)/170(b)(1)(A)(vi) or Section 509(a)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code), total grant awards from Bohemian Foundation, within the calendar year, may not exceed 30% of the organization's annual budget or otherwise hinder its ability to meet its public support requirements. The impact of our grant awards on an organization's ability to meet the public support requirements can differ greatly, depending on whether grantees rely on the public support test of Section 509(a)(1)/170(b)(1)(A)(vi) or Section 509(a)(2). Therefore, grantees should contact a tax advisor and address any questions regarding the public support requirements.

In some cases, applicants may be asked to provide a written statement, signed by an officer, that a new grant from Bohemian Foundation will not result in a loss of public charity status, accompanied by a summary of financial data for the five years preceding the current tax year, as well as estimates for the current tax year.

Support Types

General Operating Support (organizational support):

- Only eligible for organizations located in Larimer and Weld counties.
- Organizations must be in operation for two consecutive years prior to the grant year to be eligible for general operating support.
- Colleges and universities are not eligible for general operating support.

Program Support:

- Programs are typically operational each year; they are not one-time efforts.
- Programs do not need to be 12-months in duration. However, consistent delivery and integration into organizational planning is required for a request to be considered a program support request.
- Pilot programs are eligible under this category.

Project Support:

- One-time in nature, nonrecurring within one of the following sub-categories:
 - Equipment/capital projects
 - Technical assistance/capacity building
 - Other (explanation will be required in the application)

Requests Not Eligible for Funding

- School districts and/or requests on their behalf
- Multi-year requests (requests can be for a maximum of 12 months in duration)
- Applications that combine requests for general operating, program, or project support.
- Applications to both Bohemian Foundation's Muse and Pharos Fund grant programs for the same request
- Fundraising events (See Music Event Fund.)
- Single-day events (See Music Event Fund.)
- Non-music related community requests (See Bohemian Foundation's Community Programs for community support.)
- Private schools
- Capital campaigns
- Debt reduction
- Endowment funding
- Political campaigns or legislative issues
- Funding for individuals or teams
- Activities that support a specific religious purpose
- Non-501(c)(3) organizations, private foundations or programs under fiscal sponsorship
- Type III non-functionally-integrated supporting organizations
- Government entities
- Discriminatory programs

Break in Submitting Applications

Organizations that have received Muse funding consecutively over a five year period may be asked to refrain from submitting additional applications for up to 12 months. Foundation staff will contact grantee organizations if this stipulation applies to an organization.