

# ARTS & SCIENCE COUNCIL OF CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG, INC.

## BOARD POLICIES

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### Grant-making Policy

Adopted June 11, 2008

**Purpose:** The Arts & Science Council (ASC) strives to create a more vibrant cultural life for our community. To accomplish this goal, ASC annually invests resources from public and private sources in Charlotte-Mecklenburg's arts, science and history/heritage organizations, educational, community and neighborhood-based groups and creative individuals. In addition to financial investments, ASC provides capacity building, professional development, technical assistance, and shared support services. Based on available resources, ASC annually determines the allocation of resources to specific grant programs for organizations and creative individuals. ASC grant funds are intended to supplement other sources of income available to the grantees (e.g. membership, patronage, sponsorships, grants, ticket sales, special events proceeds, etc.).

**Goals:** The goals of ASC grant making efforts are to:

- Build Appreciation:
  - Advance excellence in all creative endeavors
  - Grow appreciation for the role of creativity across our community
- Build Participation:
  - Grow community participation in cultural programs and education
  - Increase innovative, emerging creative activity that engages audiences
  - Expand cultural activity that is accessible to and reflects our changing community
- Build Support:
  - Foster healthy cultural institutions that have the capacity to operate and sustain themselves
  - Nurture an environment to attract and grow the number of creative individuals who live and work in our community
  - Strengthen existing resources and cultivate new ones to support increased cultural activity

**Grant Programs:** ASC's grant programs include, but are not limited to, operating support, project support, and technical assistance. Specific grant program eligibility, review criteria, matching and reporting requirements are available on the ASC website. Annually, program eligibility, review criteria, matching and reporting requirements are reviewed by the ASC staff, in consultation with applicants, panelists and Board Committees. All ASC grants are annual and require ASC Board approval. Receipt of ASC grant funds in one year does not guarantee grant funds in future periods.

**Grant Review Process:** ASC has established a comprehensive review process to govern operating and project grant programs. Through a competitive application process, careful consideration is given to each request by a volunteer panel representative of the ASC Board of Directors, industry professionals, and the citizens. All operating and project grants of \$5,000 or more require ASC Board of Directors approval. Decisions of the ASC Board are final. Special project and technical

assistance grants of \$5,000 and under may be approved by staff but must be reported to the Board at its next meeting.

Grant requests out of cycle are at odds with ASC's principles of fair competition, accessibility, and equitable treatment. Accordingly, ASC will not entertain requests for grant consideration contrary to the established time lines for respective grant programs. Consideration of such requests will be deferred until the next grant round.

**ASC Grant Acknowledgement:** Grant recipients shall acknowledge the support of the ASC as outlined in contractual agreements for receipt of grant funds. Acknowledgement includes printed materials (newspaper, newsletter, postcards, annual reports, etc.), electronic media (TV, Radio, internet, etc.) as well as at public events where sponsors and donors are publicly recognized.

**Freedom of Expression:** ASC promotes excellence and access in the creation, experience and active support of arts, science and history/heritage for all of the people of our community. ASC supports the freedom of audiences to experience a full range of expression and to respond to creative works. ASC supports the creative individual's right to choose freely the subject matter of his or her work. ASC believes that these rights are in accord with the principles stated in the Bill of Rights in the Constitution of the United States. It is neither the role of the ASC Board or staff to make program or program content decisions for grant recipients nor is receipt of ASC grant funds or calendaring of cultural programming an endorsement by the ASC Board or staff of programs or program content.

ASC encourages open communication, dialogue and exchange between sponsoring organizations, creative individuals and the public. In that regard, operating support applicants are required to provide a board-approved Communications Protocol Plan that describes the applicant's plan to address concerns raised by patrons or community members regarding programs or program content.

**Board Committee Responsible:** Cultural & Community Investment

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## BOARD POLICIES

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### **Nondiscrimination Policy**

Approved December 7, 1999

Amended June 11, 2008

The Arts & Science Council (ASC) is committed to serving a diverse range of individuals and organizations through its programs and services.

- A. Grant-making - Every individual or organization that meets the specific eligibility requirements for a grant program may apply to that program. No eligible applicant will be prevented from applying for or receiving a grant based on race, color, sex, religion, age, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, disability or any characteristic protected by law. ASC is not a political action committee. **ASC's sole purpose in providing grant support to eligible applicants is to offer a broad range of quality programs which enhance and expand the cultural opportunities for the education and enjoyment of all citizens.** As such, ASC will discourage grant applications from non-profit, public service organizations that seek to exclusively advance a particular agenda inconsistent with ASC's sole purpose. ASC has multiple grant programs with specific eligibility criteria. Some grant programs are restricted to non-profit organizations whose primary missions include an emphasis on arts, science, history or heritage programs and services. Other programs are open to any non-profit that operates as a public service organization and seeks to offer programs in the areas of art, science, history or heritage consistent with ASC's funding priorities.
- B. Facility Usage - ASC will only hold meetings, conferences, seminars, social events or other gatherings of the ASC Board, its committees, or officers in clubs or other facilities which uphold stated nondiscriminatory practices pertaining to membership and guest privileges. Such facilities should not prohibit attendance and participation of attendees solely on the basis of race, religion, sex, national origin, or disability status. Further, these facilities should reflect adherence to such policies through practice in their daily operations.

This policy should not be construed to prohibit the use of religious facilities that require a certain religious belief as prerequisite to membership.

ASC requires its Cultural Partners, their guilds, and other support groups or organizations sponsoring events, galas, or other benefits on their behalf to establish a similar policy and to be governed by the same in all their programming. ASC will exclude from funding consideration applications presented by Cultural Partners whose policies and/or practices are deemed to be discriminatory and inconsistent with ASC's stated policy.

**Board Committee Responsible:** Executive Committee

**Amendments:**

**June 2008** – Policy language brought into alignment with new Strategic Plan