

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How will my application be reviewed?

A: Applications will be evaluated in two stages. First, ASC staff will review initial applications for eligibility and then the application will be reviewed by a panel made up of artists, community members, Mecklenburg County staff, and ASC Board and Advisory Council members.

As you prepare your application, it is important to clearly articulate the value and impact of the programming and how it responds to community feedback as listed within the **Community Feedback**. If you have worked with Culture Blocks before, clearly explain your experience as a provider and the outcomes of your work. **Whether you are a new applicant or a previously funded provider, do not assume that the panelists have knowledge of your work or creative discipline. In your application, clearly, concisely explain what you have done before and intend to do with your proposed program.** The more detail the better. Explain what someone could expect if they were to attend your class or event.

Q: How much can I request?

A: Applicants will be asked to provide information about anticipated budget and/or sources of financial support when submitting their application. Applicants are encouraged to develop a strong application and be realistic about contract expectations, including getting estimates. Every application will not be approved, and every approved application will not receive the full funding requested.

Q: How will I receive payment, if contracted?

A: Payment schedules will vary, depending on both the scope and duration of the contracted programming. Submission of initial paperwork will be required for a first installment and final report submission will be required before final payments are made.

For organizations applying to partner with a creative individual or cultural organization, ASC will provide the fees and payment schedule to the program provider.

Q: What types of programs have been provided through Culture Blocks in the past?

A: To view a listing of current ASC Culture Blocks programming, click [here](#). This listing is not an exhaustive representation of eligible programs.

Q: What costs can I include in my Culture Blocks proposal?

A: Culture Blocks proposals can include program-related fees & contracts, marketing & advertising expenses, supplies & materials, etc.

The following is a list of ineligible costs:

- Prizes, including scholarships, tuition, or financial awards.
- Purchase of artifacts or artwork.
- Capital expenditures – funds for expenses for purchase of buildings or real estate, renovations or improvements involving structural changes, payments for roads, driveways or parking lots, or permanent and generally immobile equipment such as grid systems or central air conditioning. This also includes acquisitions, which are expenses for additions to a collection of art.

- Contingency or miscellaneous funds – funds for an event or items that may occur but that are not likely or intended.
- Costs for selling and/or marketing any products or services of the organization unrelated to the funded programming.
- Deficit reduction, bad debts, interest on loans, indirect cost rate expenses, losses on other awards or contracts, or fines, penalties, or litigation costs.
- Donations and contributions to other organizations.
- Fundraising and investment management costs.
- Events specifically designed to fundraise.
- Goods or services for personal use of the organization's employees.
- Lobbying expenses.
- Organizational establishment or reorganization costs.

If you are unsure if you can include a specific expense in your proposal, please contact ASC staff at cultureblocks@artsandscience.org or 704-335-3030.

Q: Can Culture Blocks funding support Public Art Projects?

A: ASC happily accepts proposals to support Public Art projects, provided they meet the above stated criteria. Public Art provides a sense of place by evoking memories, making connections between cultures, exploring differences, telling stories, and provoking thought and discussion. Public Art is not a tool for PR or Marketing or merely beautification or decoration. ASC believes that much of the value of Public Art lies in the process, therefore, requests for funding to support Public Art projects must:

- Define the community that will engage in and be the beneficiary of the project.
- Display evidence that the community will be involved in the identification of the project purpose and concept.
- Display evidence that the community will be involved in the artist selection process.
- Display evidence that the selected artist will engage the community in the development and/or fabrication of the work.

Requests that do not follow this process will be considered ineligible. Additionally, please note that a common obstacle faced by these types of projects is securing a suitable location for the work, especially if the proposed location is publicly owned. Prior to funding being awarded for a Public Art project, the applicant must submit proof that a location has been secured.

Q: Other than the online application information, can I submit any additional support material?

A: No.

Q: I have more questions. Where can I get help?

A: Please attend one of the scheduled Information Sessions. ASC Culture Blocks staff are available to answer questions as you develop your application. Please contact ASC staff at 704-335-3030 or email cultureblocks@artsandscience.org