

GC24 OPERATING GRANT PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Bravo Greater Des Moines provides general operating support funding to eligible arts, culture, heritage and interpretive science organizations in Greater Des Moines. The 2024 Grant Cycle (GC24) runs January 1 – December 31, 2024.

BASIC APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

Eligible GC24 Operating Grant applicants must meet all of the following criteria:

- Be a 501(c) organization exempt from tax under the Internal Revenue Code with at least 6 months of active programming history OR be an agency, division or department of the State of Iowa which operates a facility open to the public.
- Have headquarters in and conduct most of its activities within one of [Bravo’s partner local governments](#).
- Demonstrate a **primary** organizational purpose of arts, culture, interpretative sciences, and/or heritage that focuses on the collection, preservation, production, presentation and/or promotion of artistic expression, traditions, customs, or stories within creative, educational, or historic contexts. Mission language, programming, public access, support materials, partnerships, and budget must all clearly illustrate arts, culture, interpretative science or heritage as the organization’s primary purpose (at least 60%) in Greater Des Moines.

*Eligibility does not guarantee funding. Specific eligibility requirements may be waived at Bravo’s discretion.

Please refer to this chart to ensure your organization falls squarely within at least one category:

ARTS	CULTURE	HERITAGE	INTERPRETIVE SCIENCES
The arts represent work in the visual arts, performing arts, music, theatre, dance, architecture, film, radio, poetry, and interdisciplinary fields. It also includes the presentation and preservation of, and education about, works in these disciplines.	Culture is a way of life. This encompasses the distinct ideas, values, customs, and social behavior of particular group of people or society. This is reflected in how people express ideas and creativity as well as their identity, history, and heritage.	Heritage preserves the identity of a culture. It refers to cultural aspects that are inherited such as the traditions, languages, customs, buildings, objects, specific sites, and creative expressions of a particular group or society.	The sciences are limited to the interpretive and educational expression of science and refers to types of learning that deal with nature and science in ways that explain how they relate to people’s lives.
Examples may include nonprofit museums, galleries, art centers, theatres, music groups, dance companies, radio stations or cinemas.	Examples may include nonprofit organizations that promote ethnic and cultural awareness through alliances, festivals, and cultural education centers and events.	Examples may include nonprofit historical societies, history museums, and heritage centers.	Examples may include nonprofit botanical centers, zoos, science centers, children’s museums, or natural history museums.

Ineligible applicants include but are not limited to:

- Individual artists
- Fiscally sponsored organizations
- Private organizations, clubs or groups that do not offer public programming
- Political, religious, or academic organizations
- Public libraries
- Public or private schools or higher education institutions
- Those formed with the express purpose of fundraising on behalf of, supporting and/or promoting applicants that are not otherwise eligible for funding (e.g. friends societies, etc. for libraries, political, religious or academic organizations)
- Nonprofit organizations whose primary mission and work advances other sectors such as social services (food, housing, childcare, schools, mental health and wellness, etc.), economic development, business and entrepreneurship, financial services, sports and recreation, technology, etc., even if arts and culture programming is used to deliver some of the organization’s mission.

APPLICATION TRACKS & GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Applications and requirements are designed to acknowledge the capacity and breadth of organizations Bravo serves. All eligible applicants will apply for general operating support through [SurveyMonkey Apply](#) using the most appropriate application:

- **New to Bravo Applicants** – For organizations of annual operating budgets over \$1,000 that have not previously received annual operating support from Bravo. New applicants are required to meet with Bravo staff to verify eligibility at least two weeks prior to the application deadline.
- **Organizations with annual operating budgets that fall between \$1,000 - \$50,000** must have received Bravo funding in at least one previous grant year.
- **Organizations with \$50,000 - \$200,000 annual operating budgets** must have received Bravo funding in at least one previous grant year.
- **Organizations with \$200,000 - \$2,000,000 annual operating budgets** must have at least one year-round, full-time employee or full-time equivalent; a completed, current SMU DataArts Funder Report; AND at least three years of consecutive Bravo funding.
- **Organizations with \$2,000,000+ annual operating budgets** must have at least 5 full-time employees; a completed, current SMU DataArts Funder Report; AND at least five years of consecutive Bravo funding.

Depending on the application your organization completes, you may be asked to provide some or all of the following documents: Current fiscal year budget; August 2023 balance sheet; Current SMU DataArts Streamlined Funder Report; organizational goals/strategic plan; and up to 3 support materials (images, annual report, audio/video clips, etc).

IMPORTANT DATES FOR GC24

August 21, 2023	Applications available on Bravo’s website and SurveyMonkey Apply at 10:00 a.m.
September 15, 2023	If applicable: The SMU DataArts Cultural Data Profile must be updated and a Funder Report with data from the last 3 completed fiscal years must be generated with Bravo as the recipient.
September 15, 2023	Deadline for new applicants to meet with staff
September 29, 2023	All applications due by 3:00 pm
Oct. 2 – Nov. 22, 2023	Review of applications
November 30, 2023	Award notification sent via email by noon
December 15, 2023	Signed grant agreements due by 3:00 pm
January 1, 2024	Funding term starts
December 31, 2024	Grant term ends
January 24, 2025	Final Grant Report due by 3:00 pm

GRANT AWARDS

Organizations will not be asked to request a specific grant amount, and awards will not be determined based on prior investment by Bravo. Final grant awards are based on the organization’s current fiscal year operating budget, merit of the organization’s application, and Bravo’s available funds. Awards will generally fall within the following target ranges:

ANNUAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$2 million and above	\$200,000 – \$2,000,000	\$50,000 - \$200,000	\$1,000 - \$50,000	New Applicants
TARGET FUNDING RANGE	1% - 7%	3% - 18%	5% - 20%	5% - 25%	5% - 25%
MAXIMUM ANNUAL AWARD	\$500,000	\$125,000	\$30,000	\$10,000	\$5,000

*Organizations should not expect to receive the maximum award amount and should conservatively estimate contributions from Bravo.

APPLICATION REVIEW AND AWARD PROCESS

Bravo is committed to a transparent, fair, and consistent grantmaking process. All GC24 applications will be reviewed by an anonymous panel of community peers and professionals prior to recommendation of awards. Feedback from the panel will be shared with applicants and will be included with award notifications. Review meetings are closed to the public, and the Bravo Board of Directors will make final funding decisions. Applicants should not directly contact Bravo Board or panel members to discuss applications or funding amounts. There is no appeal of final funding decisions made by Bravo.

For awards greater than \$5,000, quarterly payments will be sent in January, April, July and October 2024 to support operating expenses incurred between January 1 – December 31, 2024. For awards \$5,000 and smaller, a single payment will be made the first week of January 2024 to support operating expenses incurred between January 1 – December 31, 2024. All funding is dependent on receipt of funds from Bravo's local government partners.

GOOD STANDING ACKNOWLEDGMENT

For all applicants who receive operating support from Bravo Greater Des Moines, organizations must stay in good standing to continue to be eligible for payments and future funding. Expectations include:

1. Remaining a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.
2. Depositing checks in a timely manner or setting up Electronic Fund Transfer.
3. Using funds as indicated in the application and being compliant with eligible and ineligible expense requirements.
4. Completing grant agreements, surveys, and reports by communicated deadlines.
5. Recognizing Bravo in its donor listings for the duration of the grant agreement and acknowledging support from Bravo's local government partners.

Questions about anything? We are here to help your organization navigate the process.

Please reach out to us at grants@bravogreaterdesmoines.org or call 515-243-0388.