



VIRGINIA COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS

WHICH VCA GRANT IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

December 16, 2025 Workshop



Cathy Welborn
Senior Grants Officer


Lo Bruner
Grants and Artist Rosters Coordinator

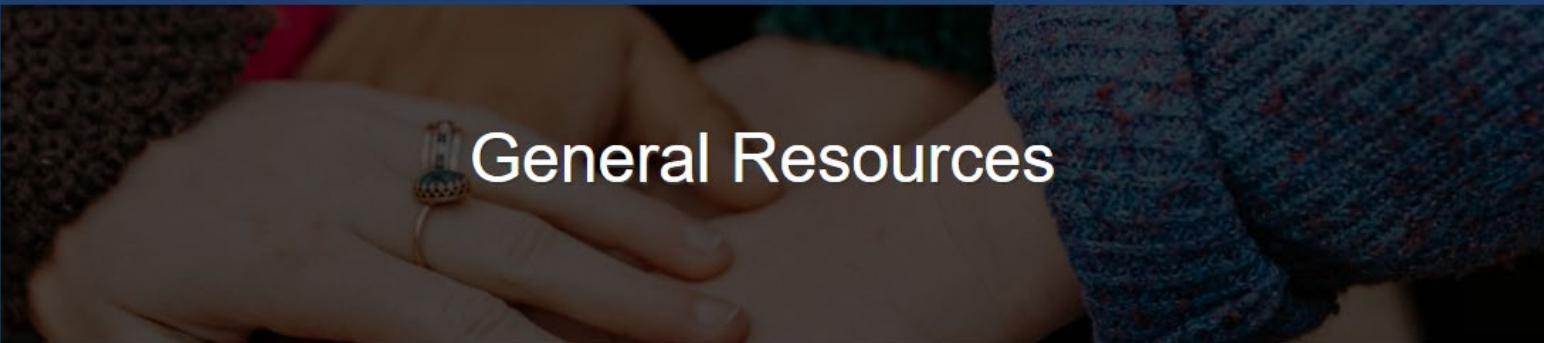
Dawn LeHuray
Communications Coordinator and Office Specialist

Casey Polczynski, PhD
Deputy Director | Accessibility Coordinator


TODAY'S SLIDES AND RECORDING



[HOME](#) [ABOUT](#) [GRANTS](#) [ARTIST ROSTERS](#)  [INITIATIVES](#) [RESOURCES](#) [NEWS](#) [APPLY](#)




General Resources




PASSPORT PROGRAM INFO SESSION
VCA | VDH
November 13, 2024

VDH VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH


Passport Program Info Session
[Slides](#) and [Recording](#)



[Sample Press Release for Grantees](#)



VIRGINIA COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS
5 WAYS TO LEVERAGE YOUR VCA GRANT



VIRGINIA COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS
CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT & LOCAL

Please enter
your questions
in the chat!

1968

year established

*executive branch agency under
the Secretary of Education*

*member of the National
Assembly of State Arts Agencies
(NASAA)*

Mission

*to invest in the arts in the
Commonwealth of Virginia*



\$5.5 million

allocated in FY26

2

*Artist Rosters:
Teaching & Touring*

9

*Governor-appointed
Commissioners*

*continually striving to
reach Virginia's*

133

municipalities

VCA COMMISSIONERS



Barbara Parker | Chair
Collinsville



Frazier Millner Armstrong | Vice Chair
Richmond



Lou Flowers | Secretary
Virginia Beach



Hayley Allison
Richlands



Debbie Garrett
Buena Vista



Raven Custalow
Aylett



Alex Grabiec
Farmville



Vanessa Thaxton-Ward, Ph.D.
Hampton



Yan Zhao
Falls Church



Virginia General Assembly, with
budget approved by the Governor



Virginia citizens:
Tax Credit Contributions

**NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT**
for the **ARTS**
 **arts.gov**

National Endowment for the Arts

Funding
Acknowledgement
requirements are
outlined on your grant
award letter!

ELEVATING VARIOUS DISCIPLINES



WHICH VCA GRANT IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

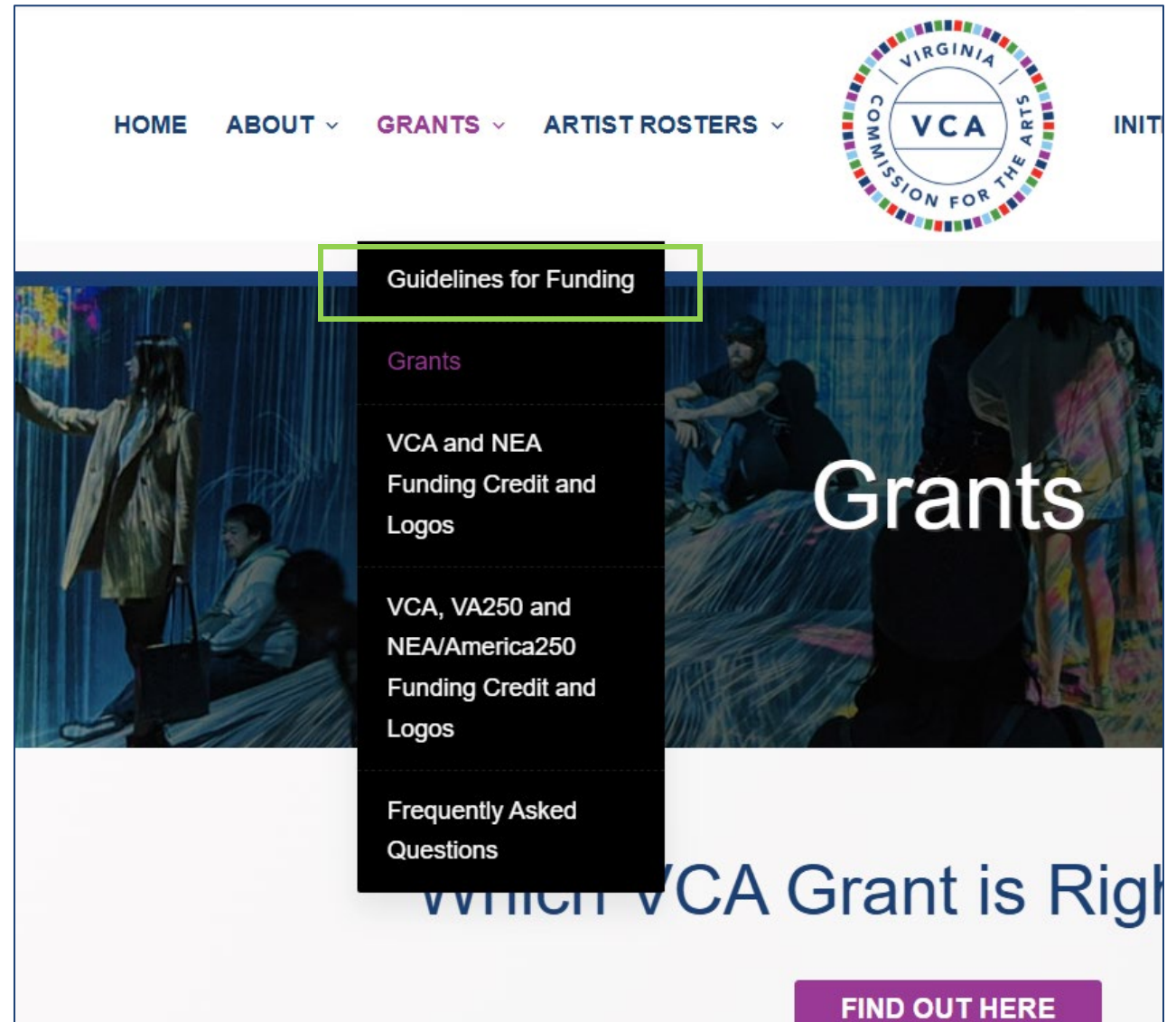
VCA FY26 ~ FY27 Grants	Eligible Applicants	Application Deadline	Grant Support	Grant Allocation	Match Requirement
GOS General Operating Support for Medium & Large Organizations	501(c)(3) arts organizations with income greater than \$150K	February 1 Short Form* March 1 Long Form	General operating support	\$5,500 - \$100,000	None
OSS Operating Support for Small Organizations	501(c)(3) arts organizations with income between \$20k - \$150k	March 1	General operating support	\$3,000 - \$4,000	None
Creative Communities Partnership Grants	Independent city/town/county/tribal governments in VA	April 1	Operating support for arts organizations serving the locality or tribal nation	Up to \$4,500	1:1 cash match
Capacity Building Grants	501(c)(3) arts organizations with income of at least \$20,000, but no greater than \$750,00	November 1 - May 1	Consultations focused on specific challenges and/or professional development	Up to \$1,500	None
Community Impact Grants	501(c)(3) organizations, colleges/universities, units of local and tribal government	April 1	New arts initiatives GOS & OSS May Not Apply	Up to \$5,000	1:1 cash match
Accessibility Microgrants	501(c)(3) arts organizations	Cycle 1: July 1, 2026 - December 1, 2026 Cycle 2: January 1, 2027 - June 1, 2027	Projects that meet a specific accessibility need	Up to \$2,000	10% cash match
Virginia Touring Grants	501(c)(3) organizations, Pre-K-12 schools, colleges/universities, units of local and tribal government	March 1 - December 1	VCA Touring Artist performance fees	Up to \$7,500	1:1 cash match
Arts in Practice Grants	501(c)(3) organizations, Pre-K-12 schools, colleges/universities, units of local and tribal government	July 1 - April 1	VCA Teaching Artist residency/workshop fees GOS May Not Apply	Up to \$2,000	15% cash match
Touring Artist Roster	Performing artists/ensembles residing in VA	July 15	Inclusion on the VCA Touring Artist Roster for the next grant cycle	\$2,000-\$4,000 allocation for new artists; may increase with use	N/A
Teaching Artist Roster	Teaching artists residing in VA	July 15	Inclusion on the VCA Teaching Artist Roster for the next grant cycle	\$2,000-\$2,500 allocation for new artists; may increase with use	N/A





GUIDELINES FOR FUNDING

July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027

A screenshot of the VCA website's navigation menu. The top navigation bar includes links for HOME, ABOUT, GRANTS, and ARTIST ROSTERS. The GRANTS link is highlighted with a green box, and a dropdown menu is visible. The dropdown menu contains the following items: Guidelines for Funding (highlighted with a green box), Grants, VCA and NEA Funding Credit and Logos, VCA, VA250 and NEA/America250 Funding Credit and Logos, and Frequently Asked Questions. The background of the website features a large image of people in an art gallery setting, with the word "Grants" overlaid in large white text. At the bottom right, there is a purple button that says "FIND OUT HERE".

HOME ABOUT GRANTS ARTIST ROSTERS INIT

VIRGINIA
COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS
VCA

Guidelines for Funding

Grants

VCA and NEA
Funding Credit and
Logos

VCA, VA250 and
NEA/America250
Funding Credit and
Logos

Frequently Asked
Questions

Grants

which VCA Grant is Right

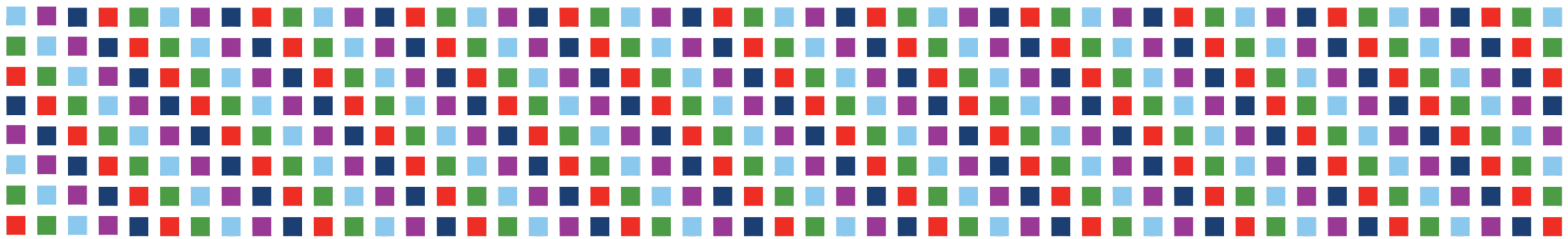
FIND OUT HERE

4 KEY UPDATES TO FY27 GUIDELINES FOR FUNDING



- GOS | increased minimum funding levels to \$5,000 (currently \$3,500)
- GOS | increased audit requirement for organizations with previous year income to \$1M+ for two consecutive years (currently \$750,000)
- OSS | increased grant awards (currently \$2,500)
 - \$20,000 - \$74,999: \$3,000
 - \$75,000- \$150,000: \$4,000
- Accessibility Microgrants (*NEW!*)
 - Applications open July 1, 2026

BASIC ELIGIBILITY



BASIC ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS



Applicants applying for a Virginia Commission for the Arts grant must:

- Be a **nonprofit and exempt from federal income tax.**
- Produce, present, or support the arts **in Virginia.**
- Have a valid **[SAM.gov](#) Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number.**
- Remain in **operation for the duration of the grant cycle** to receive and apply the funds.
- Not be **under current debarment or suspension** from federal funding.
- Comply with **federal non-discrimination laws**, including:
 - Title VI of the Civil Rights Act (race, color, national origin).
 - Title IX of the Education Amendments (sex).
 - Age Discrimination Act (age).
 - Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and ADA (disability)
- Have no **past due Final Reports to the VCA** at the time of application.



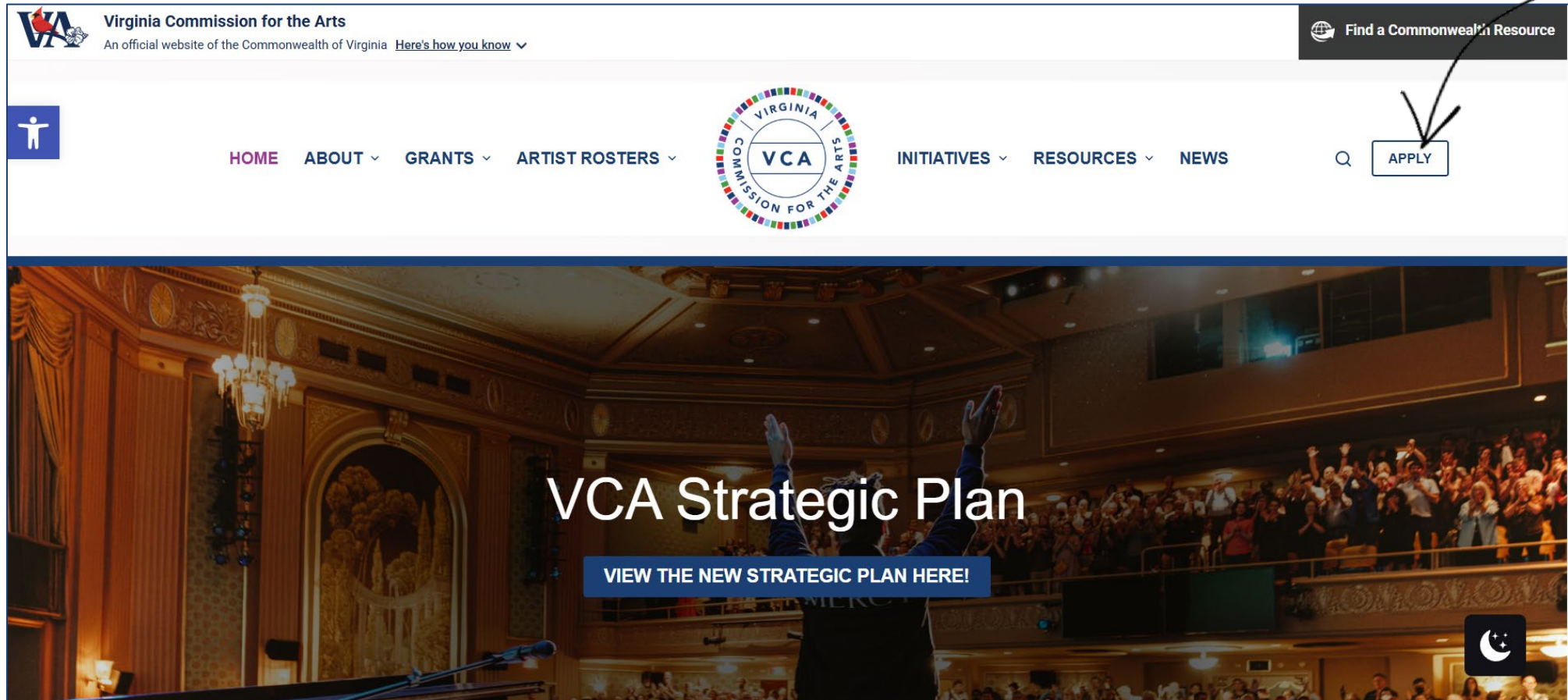
INELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES



The Virginia Commission for the Arts does not fund:

- Activities restricted to an organization's membership.
 - Expenses related to parties, receptions, fundraising events/benefits, etc.
 - Endowments or capital campaigns.
 - Cash awards, prizes, scholarships, or competitions.
 - Activities that are primarily religious in purpose.
 - College or university-based projects that are part of a required course or curriculum, that do not involve and serve a significant non-student population, or that are for activities that are otherwise available in the community.
 - General operating support for historic celebrations or community promotional activities.
 - Fines and penalties, bad debt costs, or deficit reduction.
 - Arts activities / programs that have already started or otherwise occurred.
 - Activities or programs that take place outside Virginia.
 - Vocal, dance and musical ensembles that perform primarily pop, Broadway, or barbershop music, or that focus primarily on competitions.
- Lobbying** | No part of a Virginia Commission for the Arts grant shall be used for any activity intended to influence a member of Congress or the General Assembly, to favor or oppose any legislation.

**APPLY
HERE!**



The screenshot shows the VCA website homepage. At the top left is the VCA logo with the text "Virginia Commission for the Arts" and "An official website of the Commonwealth of Virginia". To the right is a search bar with the text "Find a Commonwealth Resource". Below the header is a navigation menu with links: HOME, ABOUT, GRANTS, ARTIST ROSTERS, INITIATIVES, RESOURCES, and NEWS. A large "APPLY" button is located to the right of the navigation menu. A hand icon is visible on the left side of the navigation menu. Below the navigation menu is a large banner image of a theater audience. Overlaid on the banner is the text "VCA Strategic Plan" and a button that says "VIEW THE NEW STRATEGIC PLAN HERE!". A small "VCA" logo is visible in the bottom right corner of the banner.

Virginia Commission for the Arts
An official website of the Commonwealth of Virginia [Here's how you know](#) ▼

Find a Commonwealth Resource

HOME ABOUT ▼ GRANTS ▼ ARTIST ROSTERS ▼ INITIATIVES ▼ RESOURCES ▼ NEWS

APPLY

VCA Strategic Plan

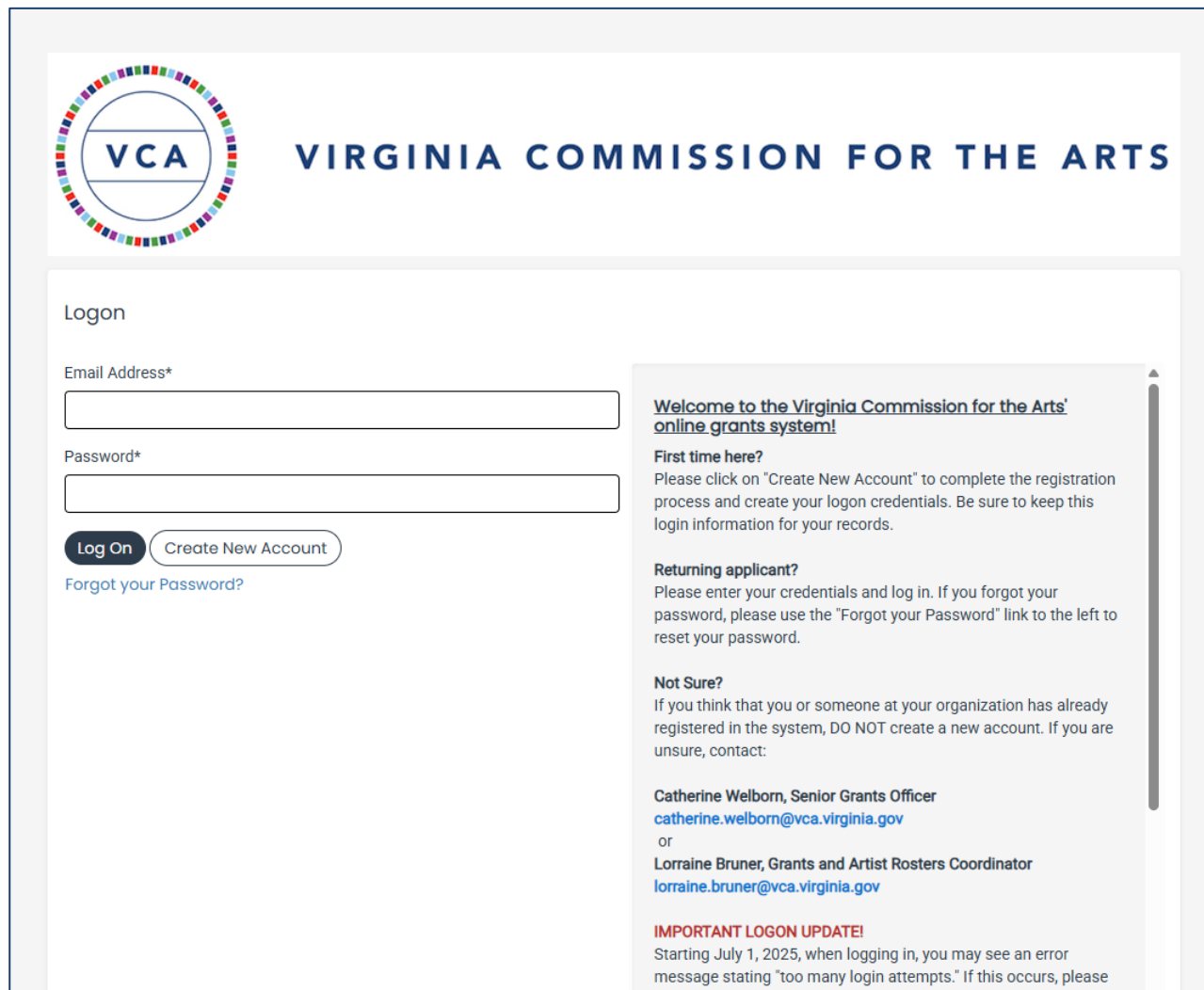
VIEW THE NEW STRATEGIC PLAN HERE!

Online Grant System

All applications must be submitted via [Foundant](#), the VCA's online grants portal. Applications are due by 5:00 p.m. EST on the date published for each individual grant program. No paper applications are accepted – no exceptions!

Once you or your organization is registered in Foundant, you will have created an online profile and account. You can log on anytime to apply for funding opportunities, review active grants, view past submissions, request funds, and submit final reports. Simply enter your username and password to sign in.

Click here for [Foundant Tips and FAQs](#)



The screenshot shows the login interface for the Virginia Commission for the Arts (VCA) online grant system. At the top left is the VCA logo, a circular emblem with a colorful border. To its right is the text "VIRGINIA COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS". Below the logo is a "Logon" section with two input fields: "Email Address*" and "Password*", each followed by a "Log On" button. To the right of the input fields is a "Create New Account" button. Below the "Log On" button is a link "Forgot your Password?". To the right of the login fields is a sidebar with a scroll bar. The sidebar contains the following text: "Welcome to the Virginia Commission for the Arts' online grants system!", "First time here? Please click on 'Create New Account' to complete the registration process and create your logon credentials. Be sure to keep this login information for your records.", "Returning applicant? Please enter your credentials and log in. If you forgot your password, please use the 'Forgot your Password' link to the left to reset your password.", "Not Sure? If you think that you or someone at your organization has already registered in the system, DO NOT create a new account. If you are unsure, contact: Catherine Welborn, Senior Grants Officer, catherine.welborn@vca.virginia.gov or Lorraine Bruner, Grants and Artist Rosters Coordinator, lorraine.bruner@vca.virginia.gov", and "IMPORTANT LOGON UPDATE! Starting July 1, 2025, when logging in, you may see an error message stating 'too many login attempts.' If this occurs, please..."

Logon

Email Address*

Password*

Log On **Create New Account**

[Forgot your Password?](#)

Welcome to the Virginia Commission for the Arts' online grants system!

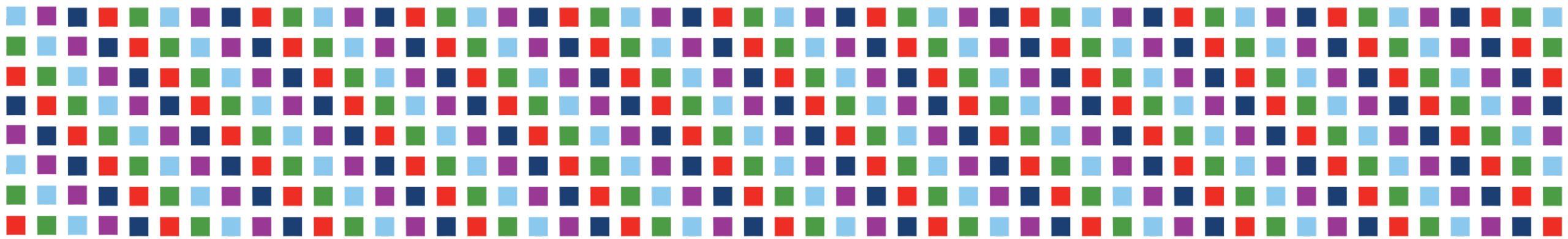
First time here?
Please click on "Create New Account" to complete the registration process and create your logon credentials. Be sure to keep this login information for your records.

Returning applicant?
Please enter your credentials and log in. If you forgot your password, please use the "Forgot your Password" link to the left to reset your password.

Not Sure?
If you think that you or someone at your organization has already registered in the system, DO NOT create a new account. If you are unsure, contact:
Catherine Welborn, Senior Grants Officer
catherine.welborn@vca.virginia.gov
or
Lorraine Bruner, Grants and Artist Rosters Coordinator
lorraine.bruner@vca.virginia.gov

IMPORTANT LOGON UPDATE!
Starting July 1, 2025, when logging in, you may see an error message stating "too many login attempts." If this occurs, please

GRANT PROGRAMS



PARTNERSHIP GRANTS

- General Operating Support: Medium and Large | GOS
- Operating Support Small | OSS
- Creative Communities Partnership Grants
- Capacity Building Grants

These grants build strong collaborations and bolster arts organizations and Virginia municipalities, providing funding to support their missions.

IMPACT GRANTS

- Community Impact Grants
- Accessibility Microgrants

These grants offer project-based funding to enrich access and meaningful change through the arts, enriching communities and educational institutions across the state.

ARTIST ROSTER ENGAGEMENT

- Virginia Touring Grants
- Arts in Practice Grants
- Touring Artist Roster
- Teaching Artist Roster

These non-competitive, rolling grants leverage the VCA Artist Rosters to connect Virginia organizations and schools with accomplished teaching and performing artists.

PARTNERSHIP GRANTS



General Operating Support for Medium and Large Organizations | GOS

\$5,000 - \$100,000

- Medium to large arts organizations with previous year income of \$150,000+
- 3 previous years of programming and 3 programs per year
- Long form applications are reviewed by statewide Advisory Panels. Short form applications are reviewed by VCA staff.
- FY27 GOS application assignments can be found [HERE](#)
- May not apply for OSS, Community Impact, and/or Arts in Practice grants

Deadlines:

FY27 GOS Short Form: February 1

FY27 GOS Long Form: March 1

Operating Support for Small Organizations | OSS

\$3,000 or \$4,000

- Small arts organizations with previous year income between \$20,000 - \$150,000
- Combined deficits over the last two completed fiscal/calendar years may not exceed 20% of total income
- 2 previous years of programming and 3 programs per year
- Applications are reviewed by VCA staff
- May not apply for GOS and/or Community Impact grants

Deadline: March 1

Creative Communities Partnership Grants | CCPG

Matching grant up to \$4,500

- Independent cities, towns, counties, or tribal governments in Virginia
- Sub-grants to independent, ADA-compliant arts organizations for arts activities in the locality.
- Local or tribal governments that have not approved their budgets by the grant deadline may apply conditionally
- Grants may not be used to supplement school arts budgets or arts programming by local governments or to match payments paid to performers for specific performances.
- Applications are reviewed by VCA staff
- **Deadline:** April 1

Artistic Excellence *30 points*

- Present programming that clearly reflects their artistic mission and goals.
- Demonstrate consistently high artistic quality through the caliber of artists, works, services, and online presence/website.
- Maintain strong artistic leadership and transparent processes for artistic decision-making.
- Provide fair and equitable compensation or meaningful support to artists.

Operational Excellence *30 points*

- Have qualified, well-structured staff and Board leadership that effectively support operations.
- Maintain diversified and dependable revenue sources and demonstrate sound financial management.
- Use clear, practical planning methods, including strategic planning, to guide priorities and sustainability.
- Implement effective evaluation practices to monitor operations and inform improvements.

Community Engagement and Access *40 points*

- Clearly define the communities they serve and align programming with community interests and needs.
- Build and sustain meaningful relationships with audiences, partners, and community stakeholders.
- Implement effective outreach strategies that broaden participation, including among underserved groups.
- Demonstrate strong accessibility practices that reduce physical, financial, cultural, and other barriers.
- Use community feedback to refine and strengthen engagement and access efforts over time.

General Operating Support (GOS) applications are scored on a 100-point scale.

Priority 1 Organizations

(90 - 100 pts/ average score 90% - 100%) meet the criteria for funding with high scores for artistic excellence, organizational excellence, community engagement, and overall professionalism. These organizations demonstrate best practices in the key areas above and are critical to the cultural life of their communities.

Priority 2 Organizations

(80 - 89 pts/ average score 80% - 89%) meet the criteria for funding and show strong overall performance. While they may have one or more areas that are less developed than Priority 1 applicants, they provide meaningful benefit to their communities and demonstrate the capacity to deliver high-quality work.

Priority 3 Organizations

(70 - 79 pts/ average score 70% - 79%) meet the criteria for funding and demonstrate adequate capacity and impact across the review areas, while opportunities for growth are more prevalent than Priority 1 and 2 applicants.

No Funding

(Less than 70 pts /average score 69% and below) not recommended for funding based on the Advisory Panel's assessment across the review criteria.

Scoring Scale (0 - 100)	Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3	No Funding
	(90 - 100 points)	(80 - 89 points)	(70 - 79 points)	(Less than 70 points)

CAPACITY BUILDING GRANTS *(NEW!)*



Capacity Building Grants help Virginia arts organizations enhance artistic quality, strengthen community engagement, and improve management capabilities by providing access to external expertise.

Eligible Activities:



Short-term consultations focused on specific artistic or organizational challenges or opportunities, with the staff of the applicant organization implementing the resulting action plan.



Sending staff, board members, and authorized representatives to conferences, seminars, institutes, or other professional development opportunities designed to strengthen organizational sustainability, leadership capacity, and overall effectiveness.

up to \$1,500
no match required

Eligible Applicants

- Virginia 501(c)(3) nonprofit arts organizations
- First-come, first served rolling grants that are reviewed by staff. Applications must be submitted no less than 2 weeks before the planned grant activity.
- Payment is dispersed on receipt of a Final Report – receipts required
- May only apply once per fiscal year.

Deadlines (currently open!)

- Applications are open now for the FY26 grant cycle.
- FY27 applications will open May 1, 2026, and remain open until funding is exhausted.

IMPACT GRANTS





Matching Grant up to \$5,000

Eligible Activities

- New or expanded performances, exhibitions, screenings, conferences, readings, public art projects, and festivals that focus on engaging new and underserved, under-resourced, and under-represented audiences or communities
- program enhancements that enable participation of individuals with disabilities
- commissions of new works of visual, performing, and media arts
- public art projects that commission an artist for the creation of new work that engage the community in the planning, presentation, and/or fabrication

Note: Applications for traditional learning environments, including Pre-K-12 and lifelong learners with identified learning goals may be filed under the Arts in Practice Grant program if applicable. **Community Impact applicants may not apply for GOS or OSS.**

Eligible Applicants

- nonprofit organizations, universities/colleges, units of local and tribal government
- 1:1 cash match requirement
- Applications are reviewed by a statewide Advisory Panel
- Applications are scored on 3 criteria: **Artistic Excellence, Operational Excellence, and Community Engagement and Access**

Deadline: April 1

COMMUNITY IMPACT | SCORING AND PRIORITY RATINGS



Community Impact Grant applications are scored on a 100-point scale.

Priority 1 Projects

(90 - 100 pts/ average score 90% - 100%) are innovative, professional, high-quality projects that fully meet the criteria for funding, will be accessible, well-managed and a cost-effective use of limited state/federal tax funds, and will benefit the cultural life of the community/target audience.

Priority 2 Projects

(80 - 89 pts/ average score 80% - 89%) meet the criteria for funding, but artistic excellence, operational excellence, community engagement and access are not as strongly evident.

Priority 3 Projects

(70 - 79 pts/ average score 70% - 79%) meet the criteria for funding, but artistic excellence, operational excellence, community engagement and access are weak.

No Funding

(Less than 70 pts /average score 69% and below)

Scoring Scale (0 - 100)	Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3	No funding
	(90 - 100 points)	(80 - 89 points)	(70 - 79 points)	(Less than 70 points)

ACCESSIBILITY MICROGRANTS *(NEW!)*



Accessibility Microgrants provide funding to organizations who have engaged with the disability community to improve the accessibility of their programming, equipment, or facilities.

Eligible Activities:



“My theatre wants to provide sign language interpretation for some of our shows this season...”



“Our choir has members with low vision, and we’d like to print braille sheet music for them to use...”



“We would like assistive tools to help people with disabilities get the full experience of our art...”

up to \$2,000
10% cash match

Eligible Applicants

- Virginia 501(c)(3) nonprofit arts organizations
- First-come, first served rolling grants that are reviewed by staff. Applications must be submitted no less than 2 weeks before the planned grant activity.
- Payment is dispersed on receipt of a Final Report – receipts required
- May only apply once per fiscal year.

Deadlines

- FY27 applications open June 1, 2026.
- Cycle 1: July 1, 2026 to December 1, 2026
- Cycle 2: January 1, 2027 to June 1, 2027

Staff reviews each application for **eligibility, completeness, and satisfaction of each criteria:**

Feasibility of Project Proposal

- Given the proposed project, the extent to which the applicant demonstrates their ability to effectively carry out all activities within funding, time, or staff constraints.

Impact on Organizational Accessibility

- The extent to which audiences and/or artists will be able to access the applicant's offerings and programs more easily after the successful completion of the project.

Engagement with Disability Community

- The extent to which the applicant can demonstrate that their project has been informed by people with disabilities or disability experts (including tools developed by those people). Examples of successful engagement include community partnerships, ongoing relationships, or programming that serves people with disabilities.

ARTIST ROSTER

ENGAGEMENT GRANTS



ARTIST ROSTER ENGAGEMENT GRANTS



These non-competitive rolling grants utilize artists from the VCA's Touring and Teaching Artist Rosters.

- Virginia Touring Grants
- Arts in Practice Grants

Virginia nonprofits, schools, and units of local and tribal governments may apply. These grants act as a reimbursement program. Awards are issued to the applicant, not the VCA Roster Artist, who is then responsible for paying the Roster Artist in full.

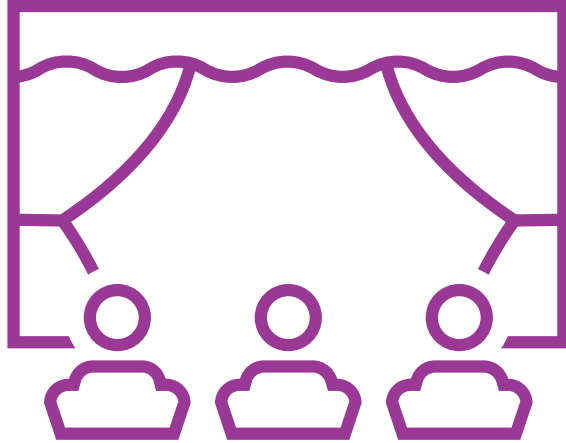


Up to \$2,000

(subject to the Teaching Artist's allocation)

15% cash match

- This non-competitive rolling grant program utilizes artists from the VCA Teaching Artist Roster.
- Designed to support in-person participatory residencies and workshops across diverse learning environments for all ages, as well as professional development opportunities for educators.
- Funding supports VCA Teaching Artist fees, consumable materials, and travel.
- Applications are open from July 1 to April 1 of the following year for activities occurring throughout the year. Applications must be submitted at least two weeks before the activity's start date. GOS grantees may not apply.
- Reviewed and approved solely by VCA staff. Award letters are typically issued within two weeks, with payments dispersed 30–45 days after approval.



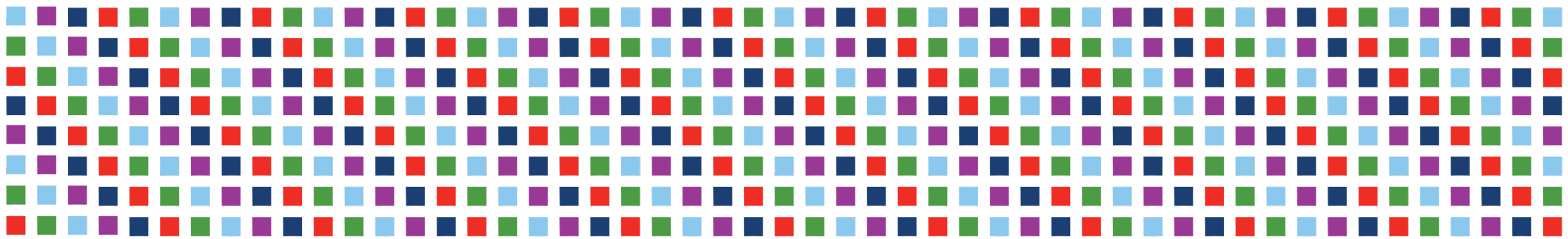
Up to 50% of performance fees

(subject to the Touring Artist's allocation)

1:1 cash match

- This non-competitive rolling grant program utilizes artists from the VCA Touring Artist Roster.
- Designed to support up to 50 percent of performance fees for touring programs listed on the VCA Touring Artist Roster. Performances must take place **at least 30 miles away** from the Roster Artist. Travel fees may not be included.
- Applications are open from March 1 through December 1 of the same year for activities occurring throughout the year. Applications must be submitted at least two weeks before the performance start date.
- Reviewed and approved solely by VCA staff. Award letters are typically issued within two weeks. Payments are disbursed approximately 30 days after receipt of the Final Report, which must be submitted following the completion of the performance.

TIPS FOR APPLYING AND STAYING CONNECTED



START NOW!



- FY27 Guidelines for Funding
- New applicants - create your account in Foundant
- SAM.gov UEI#
- IRS Determination Letter and VA W-9 Form
- P&L Statement
- Balance Sheet – December 31, 2025 for GOS & OSS
- Board list / Staff bios
- Up to date website and include VCA logo for current grantees
- Review previous Advisory Panel Comments



PREPARING A STRONG APPLICATION



Tell Your Story Clearly

- Showcase your unique value and align your mission with VCA's goals.

Submit High-Quality Materials

- **Website Matters:** Ensure your site clearly reflects your mission and includes engaging media.
- **Highlight Achievements:** Feature recent reviews, videos, awards, and recognitions in your application.
- **Include Testimonials:** Provide letters of support that speak to your artistic integrity and community contributions.

Align Budget with Narrative

- Match financials to your story; include in-kind support to show community investment.

Be Transparent About Challenges

- Share issues like deficits or staffing changes—and your plans to address them.

Demonstrate Accountability

- Use data and evaluation tools to show how you measure success.

PREPARING A STRONG APPLICATION (CONT.)



Proofread & Review Thoroughly

- Avoid errors, ensure clarity, and confirm all uploads are accessible.

Apply Early & Stay Connected

- Submit ahead of deadlines and reach out with questions — support is available!

Show Community Impact & Accessibility

- Include metrics, partnerships, and efforts to serve diverse audiences.



ELECTRONIC DATA INTERCHANGE (EDI)



The VCA encourages grant recipients to sign up for Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) to streamline payment processing. EDI is a secure, low-cost way to receive grant funds directly into your organization's bank account, no more waiting for paper checks! It helps avoid delays, improves cash flow, and ensures payments are fully traceable. If your organization is interested, just follow the instructions on the provided forms and mail your request to Virginia Treasury.

New applicant EDI Form

Returning applicant EDI Form

The VCA will be sharing more details on how to get started with EDI in early 2026!

ADDITIONAL GRANT OPPORTUNITIES



www.arts.gov



www.midatlanticarts.org



www.vatc.org/

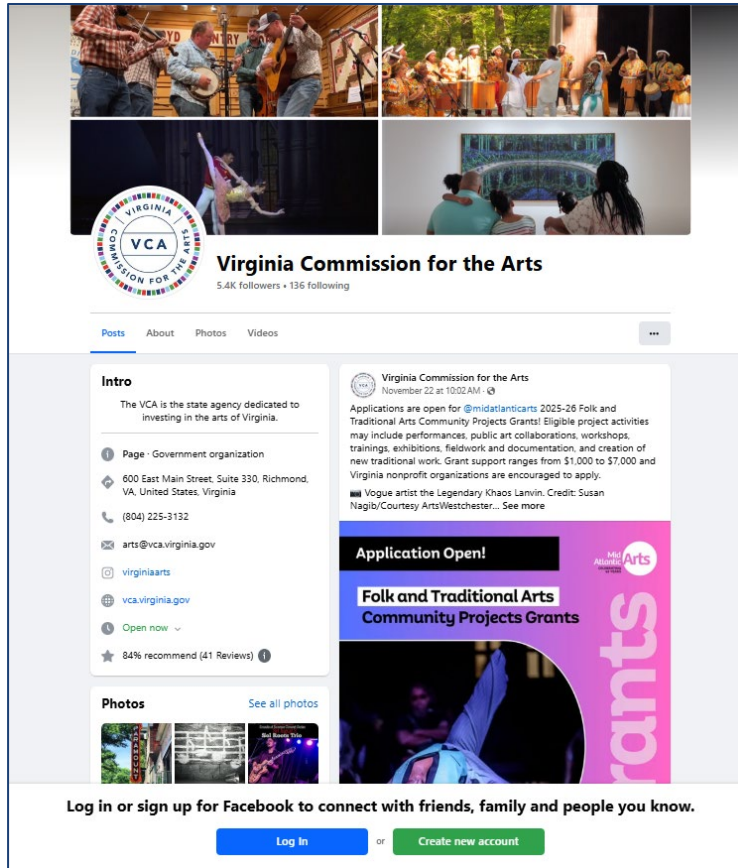


www.virginiahumanities.org

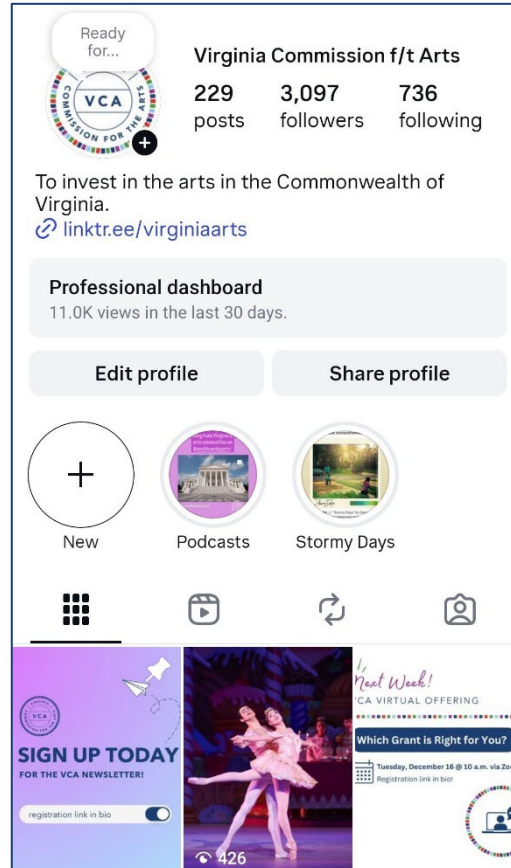


www.vmfa.museum

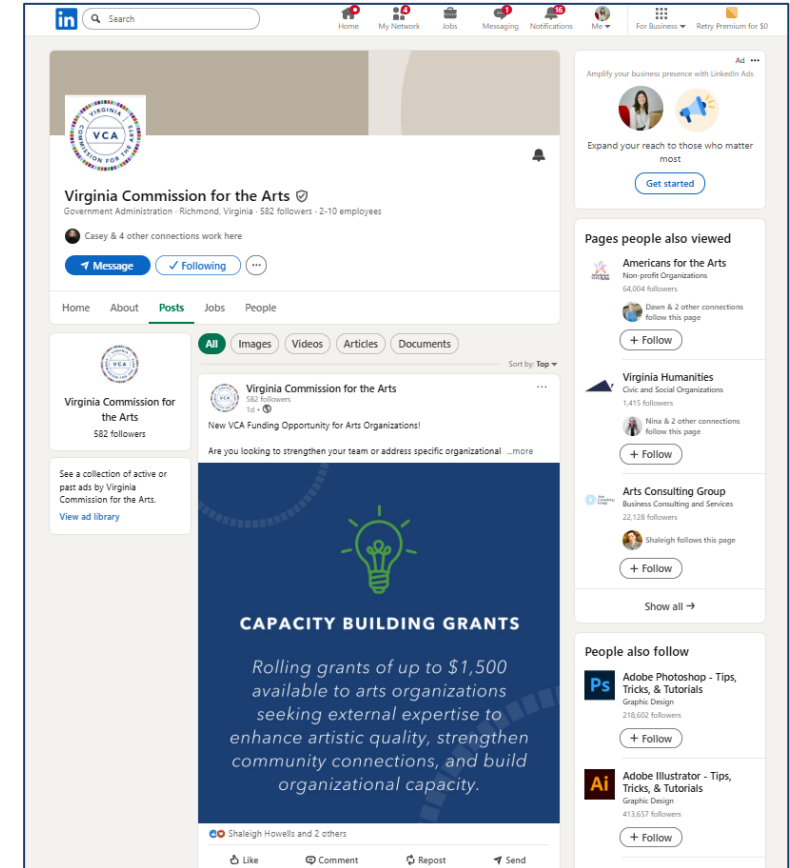
CONNECT WITH US @VIRGINIAARTS



Facebook



Instagram



LinkedIn

Interested in having the VCA share your performance, class, and/or incredible work?
Tag us or contact VCA Communications Coordinator and Office Specialist at
dawn.lehuray@vca.virginia.gov

VIRGINIA COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS

October 2, 2025

2025 Constituent Feedback Survey & Special Fund Task Force Updates



VCA Staff Retreat | Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden | July 2025

The VCA extends our sincere thanks to all artists, arts organizations, and arts lovers who participated in our Constituent Feedback Survey this summer. Your insights were instrumental in shaping how we plan to “invest in success” through our one-time \$2 million appropriation and in guiding the implementation of our 2025–2028 Strategic Plan.

Working closely with a newly formed Special Fund Task Force of VCA Commissioners, our team developed recommendations based on the challenges you identified. Approved at the September Commission Board meeting, these initiatives will launch during the FY26 and FY27 grant cycles:

- **Expanded General Operating Support (GOS) & Operating Support for Small Organizations (OSS):** Increases to core grants that help organizations remain stable and resilient.
- **Capacity Building Grants:** Small but strategic awards that help arts organizations with budgets between \$20,000–\$750,000 strengthen their operations, expand capacity, and build long-term sustainability.
- **Education Impact Grants:** Renewed support for schools, after-school programs, libraries, and tribal governments to bring high-quality arts experiences to young learners and communities.
- **Artist Catalyst Grants:** A new program with direct investment in individual artists to help them showcase work, learn new skills, or take key steps in advancing their careers.
- **Accessibility Initiatives:** A multi-pronged effort that includes webinars, peer study groups, new permanent resources, refinements to the Passport Program, and targeted



October 31 Deadline
FY26 VA250
Application

November 1
Capacity Building
Grants Open

December 1 Deadline
Virginia Touring
Applications

The VCA newsletter is distributed on the first Wednesday of each month. Archived newsletters can be found on the News page of the VCA website.

New grant funding opportunities will be announced in Spring 2026 so stay tuned via the VCA newsletter!



QUESTIONS

Answers to FAQ's can also be found on our website, [HERE](#)

CONTACT US

Questions about VCA Partnership and Impact Grants

Cathy Welborn, Senior Grants Officer

catherine.welborn@vca.virginia.gov

Questions about Artist Roster Engagement Grants

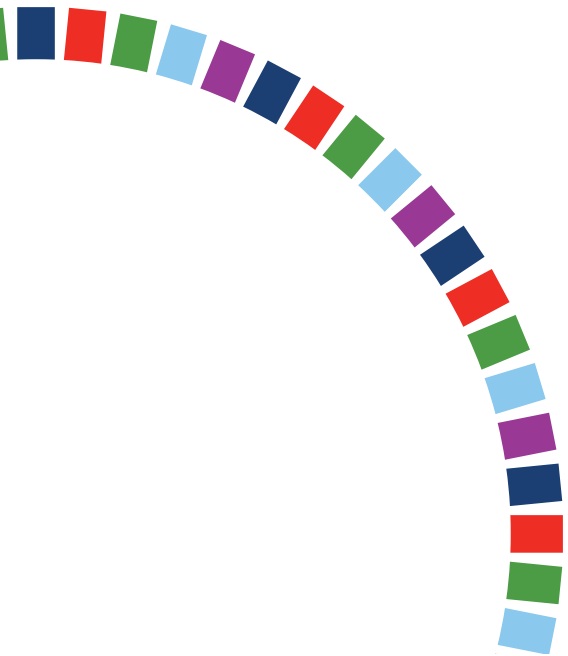
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THANK YOU!



