

FY2026 Arts Access Assistance PROGRAM SCORING RUBRIC

Panelists will receive a copy of the rubric as part of their panelist training materials, and grant applicants can use the rubric as a guideline in completing their applications. The rubric will be used to ensure as fair and unbiased a panel process as possible. The scoring mechanism defines each of the four criteria scored by panelists. Each criterion features benchmark descriptions and corresponding point values to guide scoring.

SCORING CRITERIA AND MATRIXES (100 points possible)

Overall consideration for applications (Panelists' overall application scores will reflect the following)

Value	Description	Score
Excellent	Applicant demonstrates exemplary value and connection to the arts and health theme, artistic excellence, and capacity and planning.	75-100
Good	Applicant demonstrates appropriate value and connection to the arts and health theme, artistic excellence, and capacity and planning.	50-74
Fair	Applicant demonstrates inadequate value and connection to the arts and health theme, artistic excellence, and capacity and planning.	25-49
Weak	Applicant demonstrates questionable value and connection to the arts and health theme, artistic excellence, and capacity and planning.	0-24

FOR EACH CRITERION

Excellent = Exceeds Expectation	Good = Firmly Meets Expectation	Fair = Barely Meets Expectation	Weak = Does Not Meet Expectation
Provides detailed information and directly and thoroughly addresses the question. Processes, policies, strategies and/or methods are exemplary.	Addresses question clearly with full description. Processes, policies, strategies and/or methods are adequate and appropriate.	Addresses question with minimal description; lacks detail. Processes, policies, strategies and/or methods are inadequate or need improvement.	Response incomplete; does not fully address the question. Omits information. Processes, policies, strategies and/or methods are questionable.

Point allocation and distribution

Value and Connection to the Arts and Health Theme, 32 points

How well did the applicant connect to the theme of Arts and Health, describe the value of the proposed activities, and demonstrate the ability of the organization and partners to serve the audiences and participants effectively and responsibly?

Excellent = Exceeds Expectation 25-32 points	Good = Firmly Meets Expectation 17-24 points	Fair = Barely Meets Expectation 9-16 points	Weak = Does Not Meet Expectation 0-8 points
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Artistic Excellence, 28 points

How well does the applicant's response and work sample demonstrate the artistic merit and qualifications of the artists involved?

Excellent = Exceeds Expectation 24-28 points	Good = Firmly Meets Expectation 15-21 points	Fair = Barely Meets Expectation 8-14 points	Weak = Does Not Meet Expectation 0-7 points
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Capacity and Planning, 40 points

How well does the applicant demonstrate their capacity to accomplish the project within the grant period, using the funds provided, serving the appropriate participants and audiences, while creating an atmosphere of belonging?

Excellent = Exceeds Expectation 31-40 points	Good = Firmly Meets Expectation 21-30 points	Fair = Barely Meets Expectation 11-20 points	Weak = Does Not Meet Expectation 0-10 points
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