



Clarifying Language for the Spokane Arts Grant Awards (SAGA) Program

March 2021

Our general eligibility guidelines follow this two-page clarification.

SAGA is an advocate for the lived lives of artists in our region. As we enter our fifth year of grantmaking, our observations on our community and their needs demand that we make some of the basic principles behind our efforts more explicit.

The Spokane Arts Grant Awards (SAGA)

- 1) insists on artist compensation,**
- 2) restricts cultural appropriation, and**
- 3) encourages artists and organizations to address safety and accessibility issues.**

We will be incorporating this more direct language throughout our systems of community education, grant eligibility, panel direction, and contracting.

1: On Artist Representation and Compensation

SAGA will not fund applications where significantly contributing artists are both not representing themselves AND are not directly or appropriately compensated in the initial conditions of the project. Sole secondary compensation, in the absence of a separate contract with the artist, is expressly ineligible.

This clause is being introduced to prevent applications that presume to advocate for an artist or group by using the artist/s' work without compensating the artist to whatever extent is reasonable and possible with SAGA funds. Industry standard publishing approaches entail a separate contract with the writer/illustrator etc. detailing the artist's compensation. Similar projects without such artist considerations or direct artist payment from the SAGA budget will not be eligible to apply for SAGA support.

This stipulation will also restrict applications that involve artists only as a channel for donated work. Artists are disproportionately leaned upon for auction items in fundraising. Unless SAGA requests are for funds to reimburse contributing artists in a reasonable fashion, these proposals will not be considered for funding.

Conversely, given the relatively small size of the maximum SAGA award (\$10,000), it is often not possible to pay an artist market value for their proposed work with SAGA funds alone. We do not preclude consideration in these cases, instead requiring the artists pay themselves to the extent that the budget allows and record unpaid hours as in-kind donation.

These points are matters of education for the city and for our arts community in properly valuing the very real labor of artists. Spokane Arts believes that artists should be paid for their work.

2: On Cultural Appropriation

SAGA will not fund applications that use the language, iconography, history, narratives or other aspects of any non-dominant culture without evidence of the artist or applying group's direct connection to or work with individuals from the culture/s in question.

Cultural materials must be informed by reasonable, non-trivial input from members of the culture in question. This is not to suggest that a uniform representation of any community is possible, but the conversations and collaborations must be pursued in good faith.

3: On Accessibility via Capital Improvements

Although SAGA does NOT currently support applications requesting capital improvements, projects that are specifically addressing accessibility and/or safety issues in the program's environment may be considered. Please be aware: Permanent alterations to rented spaces will not be considered. Please discuss your specific situation with the Grants Administrator before submitting an application.

We are introducing this language both in light of continued pandemic safety concerns and the basic accessibility issues our performing and exhibiting groups often face. As a program, we would like to support ongoing accessibility efforts, while retaining the primary restriction on capital support.

SAGA wants to encourage our community's efforts toward ADA compliance, outreach and accommodation for affected audiences, and Covid-safe environments. Every situation will differ, so we ask applicants addressing these issues to speak with our Director of Grantmaking before applying.

For more information about any aspect of the SAGA program, please write our Director of Grantmaking, Shelly Wynecoop at shelly@spokanearts.org.

SAGA's general eligibility guidelines follow below.



SPOKANE ARTS GRANT AWARDS ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES



1 ABOUT SAGA

The Spokane Arts Grant Awards, known as SAGA, works to support a thriving arts economy. SAGA accepts requests for up to \$10,000 per application. There are three granting rounds per year and multiple grants can be awarded each round. Grant funding financially supports arts and culture projects and programs, as well as individual artists and evaluates applications along three criteria:

Artistic Merit: Spokane Arts encourages innovative, creative, and unique programming in the Spokane region.

Effectiveness: SAGA looks for evidence of a history of well-planned and effectively managed projects, appropriate partnerships and skillsets, and a solid plan for the proposed work.

Community Impact: We encourage programs that reflect and include the diversity of the Spokane community and express and support the perspectives of our diverse cultures.

2 GENERAL ELIGIBLE ARTS DISCIPLINES

All arts disciplines are encouraged to apply including but are not limited to, visual, performing, literary, audio, media arts, humanities, culinary, fashion, architecture, crafts and folk/traditional arts. Arts service organizations, including arts therapy-focused groups may also apply.

3 GENERAL INELIGIBLE REQUESTS

SAGA will not fund the following:

- Projects that do not **directly** impact Spokane, **or organizations or artists that do not reside in the Spokane region**
- Reimbursements for past projects or art works
- Tuition assistance for college, university or other formal course of study that generates course credit
- Capital campaigns or endowment funds (with some exceptions, please inquire)
- Pass-through grants
- SAGA will not fund fees for artist residencies or travel, production costs, lodging etc. outside of the Spokane area. One exception will be residency fees related to the material cost or exhibition/performance expenses for projects/performances that will take place in Spokane.
- Groups or Individuals who have been SAGA-funded in the previous two consecutive years (regardless of round). Such applicants are asked to not apply to SAGA in the third calendar year.
- Applications where significantly contributing artists are both not representing themselves AND are not directly and appropriately compensated with requested funding

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ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS, AND ORGANIZATIONS

SAGA provides grant funding to artists, arts service organizations, large and small organizations and collectives, community-based arts programs and organizations, and culture and heritage groups. All grant proposals from individuals and organizations must have artistic merit, solid management and a financial plan, and have an impact on the Spokane community.

Individuals

Application from individuals must be submitted by an individual working artist:

A “working artist” is defined as a person who has received training in an artistic discipline or tradition, and/or self-identifies as professional artist, meaning that they attempt to derive income from work in which they use their expert artistic practices and skills. While serious artistic activity performed as a hobby or as part of volunteer community service may be considered eligible, the most successful grant applicants will have demonstrated a history of artistic accomplishment and a sustained commitment to deepening and expanding their artistic work.

Grantees must maintain permanent residency in the Spokane region during the grant award period.

Only one application total may be submitted per individual during each funding round.

Collectives

For the purposes of the SAGA process, a collective is defined a group of two or more artists who are working together, usually under their own management, towards shared aims.

Collectives do not have to possess a nonprofit status or have a fiscal sponsor.

Collectives can be small for-profit organizations.

Organizations

Arts organizations whose budgets are larger than \$500K per fiscal year must be a 501(c)3 organization.

Mid-sized organizations whose budgets are smaller than \$500K per fiscal year are **not** required to have a 501(c)3 status.

The following organizations are not eligible to apply for funding:

- Organizations that exclusively raise funds
- Organizations that require participation in religious services and/or education as a condition of receiving services
- Organizations that have discriminatory policies and/or practices on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex/gender, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information or political beliefs.
- For profit organizations with an annual operating budget larger than \$500k, and without 501(c)3 status.

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HOW TO APPLY

1. Go to the online portals found at <https://spokanearts.org/apply-to-saga/>
2. Choose your application. There are three categories of applications available online.
 - **Category 1** is for individuals
 - **Category 2** is for small to mid-sized organizations, collectives or groups with an annual budget of less than \$500K per year (no 501(c)3 requirement).
 - **Category 3** is for large 501(c)3 organizations with a budget more than \$500K per fiscal year.
3. Create a unique username and password through our SmarterSelect software.
4. Fill out the grant application form. The online portal opens one month prior to each deadline, however, application questions are available year-round at: <https://spokanearts.org/saga-resources/>
 - a. Prepare a narrative description of your request and include information on the work's artistic merit, management and financial plan, and impact on the Spokane region's communities.
 - b. Prepare your budget including details about income and expenses.
 - c. Upload your artistic work samples. All samples should be clear, legible, and/or audible. Do not send reviews, catalogs, etc. as work samples. See more about Artistic Samples below.
5. Review your materials and application narrative, sign the agreement and submit.

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SAGA FUNDING PRIORITIES

SAGA will fund projects, arts education programs, exhibitions, artistic innovation, collaborations, events, production and venues, artist supplies, technical assistance, and operational support. Applicants are encouraged to review SAGA's history of funded applications, which are available at <https://spokanearts.org/grantees/>.

General categories SAGA may support:

Grant proposals may align with one or more of these categories, but applicants are not required to limit themselves to this list.

- **Arts participation:** Supports performances, exhibitions and/or lifelong learning programs
- **Accessibility:** Increases the availability of the arts, especially among underserved populations
- **Educational success:** Increases arts education opportunities for students.
- **Innovation:** Supports individual artists and/or the development of new creative works.
- **Artistic heritage:** Supports the preservation of cultural traditions such as projects in folk and traditional arts.
- **Cultural infrastructure:** Invests in cultural organizations, both established and emerging, via stabilization funding and networking support.
- **General operating support:** Strengthens an organization's ability to achieve their mission.

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ABOUT THE TYPES OF GRANT SUPPORT

SAGA accepts applications that ask for project support or general operating support.

Program/Project Support

These grants are restricted to a specific program or project to achieve measured results. Examples: Exhibits, concerts, performances, festivals, workshops, and readings are examples of projects eligible for funding through Project Support grants. Projects may also include, as a component of the project, consultant assistance related to improving the quality or management of arts programs, such as planning, marketing, and design of the project.

General Operating Support

Grants made to support day-to-day operations a nonprofit's mission rather than specific projects or programs. Or, in the case of an individual, grants made to support the artist's vision along with day-to-day operations. This is also known as unrestricted or core support as it allows the grantee to use the funds to strengthen their core work or to further their purpose as they see fit.

Capital Support (CURRENTLY NOT ALLOWED UNDER SAGA)*

Most Capital grants are in the highest amounts within the arts sector, because small amounts for these types of expenses do not make an impact. Capital grants support:

- Equipment, furnishing, and other major material purchases
- Renovations, refurbishment, remodeling, rehabilitation, etc. for outdated facilities
- Construction of new facilities
- Land purchases
- Capital campaigns (formal approaches to major construction projects)
- Matching/challenge grants for capital campaigns

*If a portion of a project support or operating support proposal includes the purchase of equipment, this is not necessarily a Capital Grant. Please contact the Director of Grantmaking for questions at grants@spokanearts.org.

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HOW SAGA FUNDS

Grant Applications

- Grant applications are available three times per year (rounds) through an online grant application.
- Applicants can only apply using one application per organization/individual, per round.
- Applicants can apply again if they are not funded. Once funded, they may not apply again until the initial grant is properly reported out.
- Applicants must submit at least one artistic work sample, which can represent past work or represent the proposal for which the grant will fund. This is a required component of applications and may provide the Selection Panel with a deeper understanding of the work.
- Funds are available within 20 days after the award announcement with a signed grant contract. No matching funds are required. Grants projects are to be completed within one year of the award and grant reports are required.

When to Apply: Grant Cycles

Funds are dispersed in three rounds. The grant deadlines each year are:

ROUND 1 – Deadline: February 1; Awards Announced: April 1

ROUND 2 – Deadline: June 1; Awards Announced August 1

ROUND 3 – Deadline: October 1; Awards Announced December 1

Grant Funding Period

Selecting which grant round you apply for is very important. We generally allow a grant funding period of up to one year. For example, if you choose to apply in Round 3 and are funded December 1, you must complete your project/work and provide a grant report by December 1 of the following year.

SAGA grants are non-renewable.

The one-year grant period is intended to allow an applicant sufficient time to plan, execute, and report out its project. If you get close to the end of your grant period and think you need more time, you may request an extension, but approval is not guaranteed.

Grant Awards

- Grantees are required to sign a grant agreement before receiving their funding.
- Significant changes in the scope of the project/ proposal may result in cancellation of the grant. Grantees are required to contact Spokane Arts immediately if changes are necessary. If the original project for which funds were awarded is canceled, the grant will be canceled.

Reporting on Grant Funds and Other Requirements

- Grant reports on how funds are used are due after the project is complete, and within one year from the date of payment/ grant-funding.
- The Grant report form is available online at <https://spokanearts.org/saga-resources/> under “Submit Your Final Report.”
- Grantees agree to be photographed and interviewed, and have a profile created for the Spokane Arts public website either before, during, or after they complete their project. This does not replace the grant report.

Unacceptable Expenses

- Reimbursements of any kind outside of the grant period
- Taxes related to receiving your grant award (Grants are taxable income)
- Re-granting or scholarships
- Fees for residencies outside of the Spokane region
- Tuition that generates credit
- Grant writing expenses

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ARTISTIC SAMPLES

Artistic excellence is a high priority for SAGA. At least one work sample is required for all applications. The work sample must be submitted electronically through the online grant application. Much of the decision to fund a grant is based on the quality of the work samples. A strong work sample supports creative vision or thematic content described in the grant application narrative. Please provide a detailed description that may include a title, date, artist materials, and referencing the author/creator of the work.

File Types for Artistic Samples

File are listed in the grant application. Accepted file types: .doc .pdf .jpg .docx .ppt .gif .xls .pptx .tiff .xlsx .zip .bmp .csv .txt .jpeg .tif

Tips for your artistic samples:

If your work sample is accessible via the internet, you may submit a separate document that lists the website address and the specific URL for the work to be viewed.

The grant selection panel will generally have a limited time to review work samples. If your sample is part of a longer or larger work, be sure to indicate clearly which segments you believe would be most crucial for the panel to review.

Arts organizations presenting the performing arts are strongly encouraged to submit a video clip rather than still photos.

Literary projects may submit written materials in electronic format (PDF preferred).

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SELECTION PANEL AND REVIEW CRITERIA

The selection panel is made up of Spokane-based individuals with diverse backgrounds and experience in the arts. They base their decisions on the following criteria:

Review Criteria #1 Artistic Merit

Evaluation is based on evidence that the organization or individual is providing programs/services of high artistic quality. "Artistic" is defined as demonstrated mastery of skills and techniques, professional approaches to process and presentation, and/or communication of unique vision or perspective.

Review Criteria #2 Effectiveness (Management & Financial)

Evaluation is based on evidence that the organization or the individual has and/or will successfully carry out the mission or the project plan. Will include the ability to develop and organize the operational means necessary to support the activities and may include prior records of success and the soundness of the plan of action.

Review Criteria #3 – Community Impact (Service to Community)

Evaluation is based on evidence that the organization or individual is committed to serving the Spokane community. Community is defined as the constituents served by the applicant, and can be based on artistic discipline, geography, or it can be culturally-based.



CONTACT:

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<https://spokanearts.org/saga-grants/>