



Farash Foundation Creative Arts Request for Proposals

Release Date: April 2, 2026
Information Session: April 13, 2026
Due Date: May 7, 2026

About Us and This Opportunity

The Max and Marian Farash Charitable Foundation works to illuminate the potential of the communities we live in through meaningful grantmaking. In the spirit of our founders, Max and Marian Farash, the foundation focuses on partnering with big thinkers and visionary organizations of all sizes to provide resources and to take risks on bold new initiatives. As a private charitable foundation, we provide grants to organizations within Monroe and Ontario counties, as well as Jewish organizations and initiatives both locally and globally.

In 2023, the Farash Foundation launched a new Creative Arts strategy focusing on small to mid-size arts organizations with visual, literary, and performing arts at their center. This evolving strategy prioritizes organizations that provide readily accessible opportunities to experience creative arts and additionally have arts education programming as part of their regular operations. For a community to thrive, we need to foster imagination and creativity so individuals of all backgrounds have abundant opportunities to experience diverse forms of creative expression.

Purpose

Creative Arts institutions in Monroe and Ontario counties, NY, are invited to apply for flexible support. These funds are unrestricted operating grants that can be used in any capacity the organization decides. It is not necessary to designate these funds to any program or budget item for this grant. The Farash Foundation intends to provide organizations with flexible support to help with operating needs and organizational sustainability.

Who Should Apply

- Creative Arts organizations in Monroe and Ontario counties that are tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service.
- Creative Arts organizations are defined as those utilizing creative expression and imagination through visual, literary, and performing arts, including music, theater, dance, spoken/ written word, and/or film as the primary medium to advance their mission.
- Only those organizations with operating budgets of \$2 million or less are eligible to apply.
- Grants will not be made to individuals, partisan political organizations or to support lobbying efforts and attempts to influence legislation, research grants, or scholarships to individuals.

Available Funding

The foundation has approximately \$300,000 available this year for the Creative Arts strategy. The number and size of awards will depend on responses to this request. Previous Farash Foundation Creative Arts awards average \$19,000, ranging from \$4,000-\$48,000.

The foundation will also consider proposals that seek multi-year funding for up to 3 years (2026, 2027, and 2028). Every application will be considered for funding for any grant duration. If you apply for a multi-year grant and we are unable to commit to that duration, we will consider your request for a one-year grant.

Applicants applying for multi-year funding must provide detailed projected budgets for each year of requested funding.

Completing and Submitting Your Proposal

The application is accessed through the Foundation's grant portal, Fluxx. A pdf of the proposal questions is available [here](#).

Visit the Farash Foundation grant portal [here](#) to get you and your organization registered and to access your FLUXX account. It can take 1-3 business days to register in Fluxx, so if you are not already in the system, register before May 2.

The Foundation will accept and review proposals submitted by the deadline date of May 7, 2026. Applications received after this date will not be considered.

Proposals are to be submitted via online application. Incomplete proposals will not be considered.

The Foundation anticipates that proposals will be presented for consideration at our July 2026 Grants Committee meeting with funds available in August 2026.

Proposal Review Process

- Program meets RFP criteria listed above.
- The Foundation will use a blend of financial data, qualitative information from your proposal, and your requested amount to determine the award. If necessary, staff may reach out to you for additional information in reviewing your request.
- As a general guideline, flexible funding grants will not exceed 10% of the grantee's annual operating budget.
- If awarded, the Foundation will work with grantees to clarify and understand outcomes at the outset of the grant period.

Keys to Our Decision Making

- Organization's mission aligns with the Farash Foundation's mission and Creative Arts grantmaking [strategy](#).
- Organization's work has the potential to significantly impact the availability of diverse arts programming in the community it serves.
- Organization offers creative arts education/Instruction (ex. classes, youth programming, and spaces to learn).

- Organization eliminates barriers to accessing creative arts (ex. cost, location, transportation, adaptive access, cultural affinity).
- Organization demonstrates a commitment to increasing audience engagement (e.g., increasing attendance, expanded performances).

Additional Considerations

Arts organizations applying to the Creative Arts grant program must:

- have the creative arts explicitly stated as a central part of its core mission, vision, focus, and legal purpose
- create, perform, present, or promote artistic programming and/or services and
- at least 51 percent of its annual expenditures are allocated specifically to creative arts programming and/or services.

Learning and Reporting

The foundation asks our partners to help us learn how the awarded funds invested with your organization impacted your anticipated outcomes. This is accomplished through check-in conversations during the grant period where we can celebrate your successes and be a thought partner in tackling any emerging challenges. At the conclusion of your grant, the foundation will ask for a post-grant report that includes a narrative description of how your organization was impacted by the grant and what you learned. We will also require a final budget report that details how funds were expended.

Need more Information?

We encourage anyone interested in applying to join our informational webinar where we will cover the ins and outs of the application process and answer your questions:

All About the RFP Webinar Information Session

Tuesday, April 13, 2026

1pm to 2pm

Via ZOOM

To register click [here](#)

Important Dates and Activities

Date	Activity
April 2, 2026	Creative Arts Flexible Funding requests for proposals open
April 13, 2026 1:00 pm-2:00 pm	Creative Arts Flexible Funding RFP Information Session (virtual)
May 7, 2026	Applications due in FLUXX
May/June 2026	Applications reviewed
July 2026	Funding Decisions

Would you like additional support?

Questions about this opportunity may be addressed to:

Marcus Bliss

Program Officer

mbliss@farashfoundation.org

(O) 585-479-4470

A note on Artificial Intelligence

The foundation does not use artificial intelligence (AI) to review grant applications or to inform decisions made by our grants committee. We do use AI tools to help us analyze data over time—for example, to summarize publicly available information, such as 990s and audit statements. When we use AI for these purposes, it is done on a closed, secure platform, meaning that the data remains private and accessible only to us. We do not upload any confidential or personally identifying information to any AI system.

If you have any questions or concerns about how we use AI, please don't hesitate to reach out.