

**\*\*Please note: Clarifying language was added at 4pm December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please ensure that you are working with the current grant application.**

### **The Sauk County Economic Development Committee**

The Sauk County Economic Development Committee is a committee of the Sauk County Board of Supervisors created to expand and support the presence of the arts, humanities and historical resources in all portions of Sauk County. The Committee supports public participation in local art, history, and humanities related activities through ongoing programs and the issuance of grant awards. The Committee is composed of seven elected county supervisors. It is responsible for establishing policies and programs as well as general oversight of all county activities relating to artistic, cultural, or historic preservation endeavors.

### **Arts, Humanities, and Historic Preservation (AHHP) Grant Program**

The Committee has chosen to make funds available for grants to community organizations and local governments seeking supplementary funds for local arts, humanities, and historical preservation projects.

**Arts Grants:** Eligible projects in the arts include public exhibitions, performances, publications, lectures, and video, film or slide documentaries. These activities may encompass dance, theater, music, architecture, folk arts, literary arts and visual arts.

**Humanities and Historic Preservation Grants:** Eligible projects involve branches of learning that deal with human thought and culture. They include history, languages, literature, poetry, and philosophy. History projects are similar in scope with specific activities directed at research, documentation, and preservation of the unique cultural history of Sauk County.

AHHP grant supported activities must culminate in tangible services presented to the community within twelve months of when the grant is awarded. Public access to the project, program, or service is a requirement of the grant.

**Awards may not exceed \$4,000.**

#### **Due Date:**

- Applications are due Friday, January 9, 2026, at 4:30pm by using the application at: [www.co.sauk.wi.us/artsandculture/arts-humanities-historic-preservation-ahhp-grants](http://www.co.sauk.wi.us/artsandculture/arts-humanities-historic-preservation-ahhp-grants)
- Late or incomplete submissions will not be considered.

#### **Eligibility**

Applicant organizations must hold federal tax-exempt status. This includes organizations exempted under Section 501(c) 3 of the internal revenue code, but other tax-exempt classifications may also apply. These include but are not limited to chambers of commerce, school districts, municipalities or local government agencies located in Sauk County.

Note: Nonprofit organizations that are not located in Sauk County but that plan to host their grant-funded event in Sauk County are eligible.

Note: Individuals or groups of individuals seeking to apply must work with an existing nonprofit organization or local unit of government to develop their proposals and act as the applicant for the proposal.

**\*\*Competitive proposals will feature a distinct, grant-funded activity that is new to the organization's programming, offering a fresh perspective or approach to arts engagement or historic preservation. This grant is intended to catalyze new initiatives, not sustain existing operations. Applicants are required to clearly describe the specific new component and how its implementation will provide a compelling reason for our committee to invest in this particular project."**

"Projects must demonstrate a clear public benefit and contain an **innovative or unique component** that distinguishes the proposed activities from ongoing or existing programs. The application must articulate how this specific feature will advance the field of arts or historic preservation and create a distinct reason for new investment. Applications that merely support existing operational costs or replicate prior work without a new initiative will not be competitive.

## Review Criteria

The following criteria will be applied by the Committee and panels in the review of all grant applications:

- **Quality of the proposed projects:** Creativity, innovation, collaboration, implementation, and educational outreach components, which benefit the public, should be specifically described and will receive priority consideration for a grant award. Humanities and historical preservation applications should also include the historical significance of the project.
- **Evidence of careful financial planning and fiscal accountability:** Applicant must demonstrate ability to successfully complete the project. It is strongly recommended that applicants include a detailed project timeline.
- **County-wide Impact:** The Committee will give special consideration to proposals that have a wide impact or reach rural areas, diverse audiences and outlying communities in Sauk County.
- **Applicant reaches County goals:** Applications align with Sauk County objectives and goals that include but are not limited to recognizing and promoting a diversity of artistic expression and the endeavors of artists, providing mentorship and encouragement to young and emerging artists, promoting economic development by encouraging the arts, humanities, and historic preservation.

## Application Guidelines

- Projects funded by Sauk County Arts, Humanities, and Historic Preservation Grants must take place within Sauk County.
- Grants are awarded not only to expand public exposure to the county's cultural resources, but also to encourage community-wide support for them.
- The Committee will fund up to \$4,000 of a project. The value of the grant awarded must be matched dollar for dollar by the applicant. Matching funds may include cash, in-kind contributions, or a combination of the two.

Sauk County, Wisconsin  
Economic Development Committee

West Square Building, 505 Broadway, Baraboo, Wisconsin 53913

**In-kind contributions** are defined as goods or services contributed to the applicant organization by individuals, other agencies, or businesses that have a demonstrable cash value. These may include items such as donated or discounted space and equipment rental, printing, advertising costs, professional services, volunteer hours, etc.

For applicants requesting support for another year of a previously funded project, at least 25% of the matching funds must be in cash. (Example: if you request \$4,000, your match will be \$4,000. At least 25% of that match, \$1,000, must be in cash. The other \$3,000 can be in either cash, in-kind contributions, or a combination of those.)

Notes:

1. Professional services should be calculated on reasonable rates customary in the area and will be carefully reviewed by the committee. To find out more about values of volunteer time, please visit the website <http://www.independentsector.org/resource/the-value-of-volunteer-time/>. Nonprofessional volunteer time can only be valued at minimum wage (\$7.25 per hour).
  2. Arts, Humanities, and Historic Preservation grants cannot be matched with other Sauk County tax dollars or Wisconsin Arts Board grant funds. Applications will be excluded from consideration if the applicant receives funding in the same fiscal year from any other Sauk County grants or "Outside Agency" funding source. (For example, if the applicant receives money from Sauk County in the county budget under an "Outside Agency" request, then that applicant will not be able to receive a grant from the Arts, Culture, and Humanities grant program during that same fiscal year. However, the applicant will still be eligible to receive a Good Idea Grant during that same fiscal year.
- Projects are ineligible after three years of consecutive funding. This limit is project based, not organization based.
  - Organizations are only eligible for one Arts, Humanities, or Historic Preservation grant each year.
  - Grants **may be used** for the following item related specifically to the event:
    - External personnel costs (honoraria, stipends, and fees)
    - Space rental
    - Insurance
    - Marketing
    - Travel within the county
    - Supplies and materials
  - Grants **may not be used** for:
    - Operating expenses
    - Building supplies, construction costs, on-going maintenance
    - Capital equipment
    - Hired employees
    - Development of school curriculum or teacher training
    - Endowments
    - Newsletters
    - General website development and maintenance

- Prizes
- Tuition
- Scholarships
- Food or refreshments
- Deficits incurred from prior activities
- Events that are intended primarily for fundraising
- Fundraisers
- Commercial or private ventures
- Grants may **not** support administrative, research, surveys, or planning projects. Eligible projects **may** include these activities if they are part of a larger enterprise that culminates in the public presentation of a project.
- A grant awarded under this program carries no commitment for future support, and the Committee may, at its sole discretion, award amounts less than those requested by applicant.

#### **Instructions/ Application Information**

- **Use the Application Grant required instructions to complete the application.**
- The application **must** have all the documents and required information from all the sections:
  1. Project Cover Page
  2. Vision Statement
  3. Project Description
  4. Budget
    - Includes mandatory match with cash or in-kind funds
    - IRS determination of tax exempt
    - Budget information in detail (spreadsheet)
  5. Metrics for Success
  6. Accessibility Plan
  7. Other requirements:
    - Letters Of Support Included
    - The organization's mission statement
    - A list of current members of the governing board
    - List of Collators
  8. Marketing Materials Defined Sauk County & Wisconsin Arts Board Logos Used

Applications will be NOT be considered without the above requirements.

- Applications and supplemental materials must be turned in by the deadline or they will not be considered.
- For applicants that received a previous AHHP grant, All final report materials for that previous grant must be completed and turned in prior to the application deadline of January 9, 2026, for a new application to be considered in the 2026 grant season, unless prior arrangements have been made.

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### **Applicant Information**

The name and address of the applicant should reflect the tax-exempt entity actually applying for funds. The contact person should reflect the individual within the organization working most closely with the proposed project who is available to discuss the project.

### **Budget Information**

- Budget information will be carefully scrutinized to ensure funding guidelines are met. Please do not jeopardize a quality concept or project by failing to complete and check the budget information.
- **Make sure projected income equals projected expenses.** (Income = Expenses).
- Be realistic; do not inflate your request.

### **Review and Award Process**

Panelists who are knowledgeable in arts, humanities, and historic preservation will review the relevant applications.

The panels will judge each application on its merits and confer at an open meeting to select the projects to be funded. Applicants may attend this meeting but will not be given an opportunity to speak on the merits of any proposal. Upon completion of the review, the panels will provide the Committee with their selection of projects and recommendations on funding. The Committee may or may not award funds in accordance with the panels' recommendations. All awards will be subject to the execution of a grant agreement provided by the County, and the grantee is required to submit a final report for the project and fulfill award contract requirements.

### **Acknowledgement of Support**

Grant recipients are required to acknowledge support from both the Sauk County Economic Development Committee and the Wisconsin Arts Board on all published materials. Published materials include publicity, programs, books, DVDs and advertising. When no printed material is used, verbal credit shall be given prior to each live performance or presentation.

**Statement of Support:** "This (name of project) is supported in part by a grant from the Sauk County Economic Development Committee and Wisconsin Arts Board with funds from the State of Wisconsin and the National Endowment for the Arts"

Grant recipients must also include the:

**Wisconsin Arts Board logo:**

<https://artsboard.wisconsin.gov/pages/AboutWAB/DownloadWABLogo.aspx>

... and the **Sauk County** logo:

<https://www.co.sauk.wi.us/artsandculture/arts-humanities-historic-preservation-ahhp-grants>

A set of all published materials and three digital images must be included in the final report.