

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
- 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.

Religious organizations. The WAB cannot fund activities that are "inherently religious" such as religious worship, instruction, and proselytization. Religious organizations or groups with a religious affiliation are eligible to apply for funding for a project or program that:

- is available to the general public.
- has purpose of benefitting the public, not the religious organization.

Review Criteria

Application Guidelines

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

Sauk County, Wisconsin
Economic Development Committee

West Square Building, 505 Broadway, Baraboo, Wisconsin 53913

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.

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.