

# Sauk County New Idea Grant

## Guidelines, Application & Approval Details

### June 2025



**Overview** - The Sauk County ***New Idea Grant*** is a unique opportunity designed to foster creativity and innovation within our county by supporting fresh ideas that celebrate the rich tapestry of art, humanities, history and culture in and across Sauk County.

**This one-time grant** (per year, per new project) provides funding of up to \$500 to individuals, organizations or collaborative teams aiming to implement new projects that enhance cultural engagement, preserve local heritage or promote county dialogue through the arts and humanities.

**Objectives** - The primary objectives of the Sauk County ***New Idea Grant*** are to:

- Encourage the development and implementation of innovative projects and programs that highlight Sauk County's diverse cultural landscape.
- Support initiatives that engage residents and visitors alike in meaningful artistic and historical experiences.
- Foster collaboration among artists, historians, cultural organizations and community members in the exploration of Sauk County's heritage and creativity.

**Eligibility** - Eligible applicants include individual artists, non-profit organizations (must include tax exempt number to be grant eligible), community groups and collaborative teams residing in or working within Sauk County. All projects must demonstrate a clear connection to the themes of art, humanities, history or culture.

Applicants who have received an Arts, Humanities and Historic Preservation (AHHP) grant in the same calendar year are NOT eligible for a ***New Idea Grant***. All grant applications must include a public component to be considered eligible. If you need assistance with developing a public component or have questions about this portion of the grant application, please contact our office.

**Funding & Use** - Sauk County allocates an annual amount within the administrator's budget to fund ***New Idea Grants***. The grants are a one-time opportunity for fresh ideas and are not meant to become a yearly income line item for annual events, activities, programs or ideas.

Grants will be evaluated and awarded on a fiscal year basis (January through December) and must be used within that same calendar year.

#### Grant Details:

- **Funding Amount**- Up to \$500, offered on a first-come, first-served basis until the County's allocated grant total has been expended, within the fiscal year (January through December).
- **Grant Period** - Projects must be completed within the calendar year of grant receipt.
- **Application Process** - Interested applicants must submit a document that outlines the project idea, objectives, expected goals and outcomes, a budget detailing how the funds will be utilized and a provide a project report with data and goal achievement.
- **Incomplete Applications** – Applications that are missing any part of the required data, or have intentionally left a section/s blank, will not be reviewed or considered as qualified for funding.

**Evaluation Criteria** - Proposals will be evaluated based on how well the following parameters have been addressed:

- Creativity and originality of the idea.
- Potential impact on county-wide engagement and cultural enrichment.
- Feasibility and clarity of the project plan.
- Alignment with Sauk County's values and cultural goals.
- Detailed and achievable budget that includes mandatory matching funds with cash or in-kind.
- Partnership and collaborations with letters of support for the project (minimum of two).
- Outlined use of the Sauk County logo and Wisconsin Arts Board logo in marketing materials.

**How to Apply** - Applicants may submit their proposals via email or a designated online portal two months prior to the event for funding. For further inquiries, please contact: Jennifer Nelson 608-355-3250 or Erin Hauck 608-355-3274

We invite all creative thinkers and cultural advocates to apply for the Sauk County ***New Idea Grant*** and contribute to the vibrant cultural dialogue that defines our county. Let us come together to celebrate and strengthen the arts and humanities in Sauk County.