



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**TENNESSEE ARTS COMMISSION**

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DATE: December 8, 2025  
TO: Current Partnership Support Grant Applicants  
FROM: Ann Brown, Associate Director for Grants  
SUBJECT: FY2027 Partnership Support Review Reminder and Process

This memo contains information for the FY27 Partnership Support (PS) grant category, the PS panel review process scheduled for March 23, 2026, and the Specialty License Plate requirement for FY26. Please take note that some of this information may need to be shared with members of your staff and those involved in the preparation and review of your grant application in this category.

**1. Three-Year Review Schedule for PS Applicants**

FY27 Annual Grant applications are now open in the online grants system. All organizations interested in the PS grant are required to apply every year to the TN Arts Commission. The application deadline for FY2027 funding is Tuesday, January 13, 2026.

Representatives from applicant organizations are encouraged to attend a panel review once every three years. The three-year review cycle continues for FY27 PS applications. See pages 2-3 of this memo for a list of current Partnership Support Grant applicants outlining the calendar year in which they will be required to appear for a review of their application. Two exceptions to this cycle are:

1. Organizations new to this category will still be required to have two consecutive years of an application review prior to joining the once every three years cycle.
2. Any organization on heightened review status will be required to attend a review until it is determined that the organization may resume the once every three years cycle.

Organizations whose applications do not require a review will carry forward their adjudicated scores from their previous review.

**2. FY27 Operating Support Dates**

Operating Support dates for FY2027 are July 1, 2026-May 15, 2027 instead of ending on June 15<sup>th</sup>. Every effort should be made to complete spending and submit final evaluations by May 15<sup>th</sup>. For exceptions, please contact your program director.

**3. NEW: Audit Not Required for FY27 PS Application**

Beginning in FY27, PS applicants are not required to submit a single entity audit for the most recently completed fiscal year. However, the total cash operating expenses

must be verified by an audit or Form 990 submitted to the IRS within 12 months from the application date and provided by the applicant at the time of application.

Please note:

- Applicants may choose to demonstrate ongoing fiscal responsibility through a single entity audit conducted externally by a certified public accountant (CPA) for its most recently completed fiscal year at the time the application. Submitting an audit is optional.
- Audit costs for the applicant organization are an allowable grant expense.

If your organization expects to experience delays in obtaining the audit or Form 990, you may consider submitting your application by December 31, 2025. If using an audit to verify expenses, see examples below for guidance.

- Example Org A: Org A has Fiscal Year 2024 end date of December 2024. If Org A submits the PS application by December 31, 2025, they should use the audit for Fiscal Year 2024. However, if this same Org A submits anytime between January 1-13, 2026, Org A should use the Fiscal Year 2025 audit for the fiscal year ending December 2025.
- Example Org B: Org B has Fiscal Year 2025 end date of June 2025. Regardless of whether Org B submits the PS application in December 2025 or by January 13, 2026, Org B should use the Fiscal Year 2025 audit for the fiscal year ending in June 2025.

Plan accordingly. For questions, please contact your assigned program director.

#### **4. FY2027 PS Panel Reviews will be scheduled together virtually.**

For organizations up for review, the PS grant panel reviews will be scheduled together on March 23, 2026. Any organization appearing for a review for their FY2027 PS application will do so virtually.

#### **5. Reminder: Specialty License Plate Promotions for FY26 Grant Period**

During FY26, Partnership Support grantees are contractually obligated to execute 4 of 5 specialty plate promotional efforts listed in the contract and retain proof of the promotion on file for 5 years after the contract end date.

### **Tennessee Arts Commission Partnership Support Review Schedule (Once every three years rotation)**

**Organizations must submit a complete application every year.**

#### **Review in Spring 2026 for FY2027 applications**

1. Bijou Theatre (1<sup>st</sup> of 2 Consecutive)
2. Contemporary Arts Memphis (1<sup>st</sup> of 2 Consecutive)
3. Girls Write Nashville (1<sup>st</sup> of 2 Consecutive)
4. Move Inclusive Dance (1<sup>st</sup> of 2 Consecutive)
5. Scenic City Clay Arts (1<sup>st</sup> of 2 Consecutive)
6. Town of Jonesborough Office of Cultural Affairs (2<sup>nd</sup> of 2 Consecutive)
7. Arts & Culture Alliance of Greater Knoxville
8. Arts Center of Cannon County, Inc.
9. Association For Visual Arts
10. Bessie Smith Cultural Center
11. City of Kingsport Office of Cultural Arts
12. Community School of the Arts
13. Creative Discovery Museum
14. Dogwood Arts

15. Knoxville Childrens Theatre
16. Nashville Film Festival
17. Nashville Shakespeare Festival
18. Niswonger Performing Arts Center
19. Oak Ridge Playhouse
20. Overton Park Shell
21. OZ Arts, Inc.
22. Paramount Foundation
23. Rose Center Council for the Arts
24. Symphony of the Mountains

**Review in Spring 2027 for FY2028 applications**

1. Arts & Business Council of Greater Nashville
2. Athens Area Council for the Arts
3. Big Ears Festival
4. Centennial Park Conservancy
5. Chattanooga Ballet
6. Creative Aging Memphis
7. East Tennessee Community Design Center
8. Germantown Performing Arts Center
9. Global Education Center
10. Humanities Tennessee
11. Joy of Music Youth Music School
12. Monthaven Arts and Cultural Center
13. Music for Seniors
14. Oak Ridge Community Art Center
15. Southern Word
16. Tennessee Craft
17. Tennessee Performing Arts Center
18. W.O. Smith/Nashville Community Music School

**Review in Spring 2028 for FY2029 applications**

1. Blues Foundation
2. Center for the Arts, Inc.
3. Chattanooga Boys Choir
4. Children's Museum of Oak Ridge
5. Collage Dance Collective
6. Cumberland Communities Communications Corporation-WDVX Radio
7. Dixie Carter PAC/Town of Huntingdon
8. Germantown Community Theatre
9. Historic Tennessee Theatre Foundation
10. IRIS Orchestra
11. Johnson City Symphony Orchestra
12. Kingsport Ballet
13. Nashville Jazz Workshop
14. National Museum of African American Music
15. Oak Ridge Civic Music Association
16. Playback Memphis
17. Porch Writers' Collective
18. River & Rail Theatre Company
19. Roxy Productions, Inc.
20. Studio Tenn Theatre Company
21. Tennessee Arts Academy Foundation
22. Tennessee Shakespeare Company
23. The Orpheum Theatre
24. Tullahoma South Jackson Civic Association