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Page 1: Grants to Arts and Culture Organization Application

Q1

Arts/Culture Organization Information

Name	Hillary Tully
Arts/Culture Organization	Arbutus Folk School
Address	610 4th Ave E
City/Town	Olympia
State/Province	WA
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Q2

Project Name

Arbutus Folk School Accessibility Initiative

Q3

Project Summary

GACO funding would allow Arbutus Folk School to offer hands-on, low-cost art classes dedicated to underserved community members.

Q4

Total Grant Request Amount

\$5,000

Q5

What types of expenses will your grant be used to cover?

Expenses ordinarily covered by student registration fees: instructor payment and course materials; pro-rated operating costs such as rent and utilities; administrative time to plan and implement the classes, and for marketing/outreach to underserved audiences.

Q6

How many people do you expect to engage with this project?

\$10,000 would serve approximately 50 community members. The number will vary based on length of classes offered, subject of classes and materials costs, instructor rate of pay, and other factors. However, to give a sense of costs - a sample 5-week ceramics class dedicated to and led by community members of color has \$1,100 in expenses and accommodates up to 8 students. Fiber arts classes, on the other hand, are typically lower in overall cost.

Q7

Yes

Eligibility - To apply for this opportunity, Olympia-based organizations must: Have programs centered on arts and/or culture in Olympia Have minimum two-year history of continuous operation serving Olympia residents Be a 501(c)3 non-profit organization Have at least one ongoing arts program open to the public in Olympia A City of Olympia Business License Previous grant recipients must wait one granting cycle before reapplying Does your program/organization meet eligibility?

Q8

Arts/Culture Organization – Please upload a statement* about your organization, addressing the following questions. (*Not to exceed one, double-sided page) Describe your history of involvement and activity within the community? How does the prior work of your Arts/Culture Organization prepare you to complete the proposed project? How do you anticipate your project will engage Olympia's citizens in meaningful ways to expand involvement in arts and culture?

[GACO%20October%202022%20Application%20-%20About%20AFS.pdf \(149.9KB\)](#)

Q9

Project Proposal – Please upload a statement* about your project proposal, addressing the following questions. (*Not to exceed one, double-sided page) How does your proposal contribute to broad distribution of arts and culture experiences throughout Olympia? How does your project provide for diverse forms of art and culture within the community? How does your project contribute to a balanced offering of arts and culture experiences within the Olympia community

[GACO%20October%202022%20Application%20-%20About%20the%20Project.pdf \(97.1KB\)](#)

Q10

Public Benefit - Please upload a statement* about your project proposal, addressing the following questions. (*Not to exceed one, double-sided page) Describe how this project provides equitable access to arts and culture for all Olympians? Especially populations and groups that have faced barriers to accessing community arts and culture programs. How do you intend to connect this opportunity with underserved communities?

GACO%20October%202022%20Application%20-%20Public%20Benefit.pdf (64.9KB)

Q11

Project Expenses: please list a description and the amount of each project expense. (Eg. Artist fees: \$500)

Project Expense 1	Arts instructor payroll expenses (taxes, wages, mileage): \$4,000
Project Expense 2	Materials (clay, wood, wool): \$1,050
Project Expense 3	Additional insurance required by City: \$600
Project Expense 4	Admin (processing, planning, outreach): \$450
Project Expense 5	Studio space (facilities, utilities, & equipment): \$3,900
Total Expenses	\$10,000

Q12

Project Income (Matching Funds): please list a description and the amount of each project income source (Eg. Ticket sales: \$500) this can include dollar and in-kind sources. (Note: volunteer hours can be included as "project income". Each volunteer hour is valued at \$31.72. To calculate the In-kind dollar value of your volunteer hours multiply the total number of hours by \$31.72. (Eg. 10 Volunteer Hours: \$317.20)

Project Income 1	Partial registration fees paid by participants: \$1,500 (approximate)
Project Income 2	Private funding for operations (rent, insurance): \$3,500
Total Income (Matching Funds)	\$5,000
Grant Request Amount	\$5,000
Overall Total (Add total income & Grant Request amount)	\$10,000

Q13

Will you accept partial funding, if offered?

Yes - project is scalable both up and down

Q14

Please attach verification of your organization's 501(c)3 status.

501C3%20Approval%20Letter.pdf (54.8KB)

Q15

Respondent skipped this question

Optional: Please upload any supplemental information.

Arbutus Folk School Accessibility Initiative

GACO funding would allow Arbutus Folk School to offer hands-on, low-cost art classes dedicated to underserved community members.

ABOUT OUR ORGANIZATION

Arbutus Folk School has offered classes in ceramics, woodworking, fiber arts & more in downtown Olympia since our founding in 2014. In 2021, we offered 150 classes & workshops that engaged over 600 students in hands-on craft classes such as woodturning, weaving, blacksmithing, and more. Key programs last year also included Spanish-language ceramics, Native arts classes such as cedar bark basketweaving and storytelling, and expanded studio/shop open hours in support of local creatives needing access to space, tools, and equipment. We employ dozens of artists to create our unique programming and have become a hub for Olympia's arts ecosystem.

We consistently find that regular registration fees for our classes, even as they allow us to fairly pay local artists and pay rent for an accessible location downtown, have limited the audiences able to participate.

As a result, Arbutus Folk School has piloted several program models to address this disparity since reopening from Covid:

Since November 2021 we have been piloting a new class model in our ceramics studio, where we have hosted a free class dedicated to and led by community members who are Black, Indigenous, & people of color. This studio time is an opportunity for networking, creative expression, and artistic growth. Some use this as studio time to advance their creative practice, while others attend to connect with new & friendly faces in a community space, or express their creativity through a new craft. Students shared, "I had so much fun learning pottery with [the instructor Hyung Mo Chu] and friends; and I really appreciate this amazing opportunity;" "I am so happy to be able to be part of this;" and "I wanted to thank you for this opportunity to have access to a community like this... Thank you for providing the space and the funds to make ceramics accessible for the BIPOC community in Olympia."

From the success of this model, we began growing in new directions with other craft areas. Most recently, we offered free weaving classes on our large floor looms, dedicated to and led by LGBTQ community members. Participants shared, "Wow! So nice to have a queer friendly space to meet friends, learn an exciting new craft, and engage in art. So grateful. Fan of Arbutus for years who couldn't afford;" "Loved the queer community building;" and "Thank you so much for offering this."

In 2021 we also launched a youth scholarship program with the generous support of a GACO grant by the City of Olympia. Students applied to receive a 100% discount for any Arbutus class they wished to take. All were low-income and would not otherwise have been able to participate due to financial barriers. Students shared, “Me and my brother both participated and we had an absolute blast. Personally I learned a lot about slowing down and taking time with my art. It was very calming... my brother says he really enjoyed the creative aspect and he enjoyed working with the clay. Thank you so much for the opportunity;” and “Pottery was extremely fun, I love the pieces I did, my personal favorite being the worm bowl.” Please see our complete report to you as a generous funder of this program to find further information about its positive impact participating students.

We have received overwhelming confirmation from participants that these accessibility initiatives make a positive impact in their life by removing barriers and increasing a sense of inclusion and community. This inspires us to continue seeking public support for such programs to continue.

However, we have found one significant issue with these models – that some students who sign up for a free class do not, at times, end up attending, which unfairly excludes others who wanted to participate but were turned away for lack of space. The best way we know of to solve this issue is to request that students pay a small portion of the registration fee to ensure their commitment to attend class. This is why we would now like to offer ‘low-cost’ opportunities rather than ‘no-cost’ as in past models.

Our growing experience in and reputation for expanding the accessibility of our high-quality craft classes equips us to continue doing so in the coming year, especially as we remain committed to continue identifying barriers and exploring creative solutions with our artists’ leadership.

Arbutus Folk School Accessibility Initiative

GACO funding would allow Arbutus Folk School to offer hands-on, low-cost art classes dedicated to underserved community members.

PROJECT PROPOSAL

Arbutus Folk School's regular programming provides arts and cultural experiences for a general, paying audience of Olympians every day.

GACO funding would allow Arbutus Folk School to offer hands-on, low-cost art classes dedicated to underserved community members of all ages, expanding the number of people and the backgrounds of people who come through our doors. Underserved audiences include people of color, LGBTQ+, people with disabilities, people who identify as immigrants or refugees, people whose first (or only) language is not English, and people most impacted by social/economic inequities.

Priority for leadership of these classes will be for artists who identify as a member of the group served. This goal is supported by ongoing efforts to increase diversity in our staffing and to support equitable opportunities for Olympia's emerging artists. For example, by rededicating our artist-in-residence programs to emerging artists who identify as LGBTQ+ and BIPOC, we have not only provided workspace and professional development for queer artists and artists of color in our community, but have gone on to hire several residents as permanent staff who are now leading our classes, and have expressed a desire to plan and lead more accessible programming. This representation, at the level of program leadership, is extremely meaningful as we seek to serve and engage all Olympians.

Outreach to a wide network of Olympians will be made possible through community relationships and partners such as Centro Integral Educativo Latino de Olympia, South Puget Sound Community College, WA Department of Children Youth and Families, the Olympia Area Chinese Association, contacts at regional schools, Tribes, social service agencies, state agencies, and more – community partners express enthusiasm to share accessible opportunities at Arbutus Folk School with their networks, recognizing both their importance and usually limited availability in our area.

If funded, we will offer a broad array of accessible classes across Arbutus program areas. A fully-funded line-up of low-cost classes dedicated to and led by underserved audiences will most likely include: basketweaving, ceramics, woodworking, weaving, and sewing, representing a diversity of art forms. This project increasing community access to craft would balance a currently much larger number of visual and performing arts opportunities in Olympia.

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PUBLIC BENEFIT

This project recognizes historical as well as current inequities in access to and opportunities in the arts, and seeks to address these inequities by creating art spaces that are dedicated to underserved groups and directly addressing financial and social barriers to access. Here is an example of some feedback we received from community members of color: “We would love to take these classes but financially cannot afford them; at this point we can only take classes that have options for scholarships, as the price for these classes are way over our budget for basic survival;” and “To look around in a room and not see ourselves represented... feels jarring and uncomfortable.”

There are both financial and social barriers which make participation in our downtown Olympia arts programming less possible or even impossible for some residents, and that is what this project seeks to address, by reducing the cost of classes as well as investing in artists as leaders who identify with the groups we seek to serve and better represent our community.