



Cultural Pass 2026 Grant Guidelines

What is Cultural Pass?

Cultural Pass provides free access to many of Greater Louisville's arts and culture institutions for youth ages 0-21. Cultural Pass is valid for a one-time general admission for each of the Partners and is valid from May 30 through August 9, 2026. The 2026 Cultural Pass is a collaboration of Louisville Metro Government, Fund for the Arts, Arts & Culture Alliance (ACA), Kentuckiana Cultural Consortium (KCC), and participating libraries including Bullitt County Public Library, Charlestown-Clark County Public Library, The Floyd County Library, Harrison County Public Library, Jeffersonville Township Public Library, and Louisville Free Public Library.

How does Cultural Pass work?

- Passholders download, or continue using, the Cultural Pass app. See culturalpass.app for more information.
- To be eligible for Cultural Pass, Passholders and/or Guardians must live in, or work in, the following: Bullitt and Jefferson counties in Kentucky; Clark, Floyd, and Harrison counties in Indiana.
- Each Cultural Pass Passholder (ages 0-21), and one accompanying adult for youth under 17, will receive free, one-time admission for each Partner, with a maximum of two adults per family. 1 youth = 1 adult OR more than 1 youth = 2 adults; maximum 2 adults.
- Seniors (ages 65+) will receive free admission for eligible Partner Events.
 - Please note: The Senior Pass two-year pilot program (2024-2025) has concluded. Cultural Pass programming for seniors will be offered in 2026, but with updated procedures for check-in and reimbursement. More information will be provided to registered Partners.
- Partners receive financial reimbursement at the conclusion of the Cultural Pass grant period (May 30 – August 9, 2026) for Passholders that check in through the app.
- There are also opportunities for Partners to participate by providing an activity booth, performance, or demonstration during community events promoting the Cultural Pass, including the festival-style Summer Reading and Cultural Pass Kickoff at a library location (to be announced) on Saturday, May 30.

Who may register as a Cultural Pass Partner?

Arts and culture 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations offering arts and/or culture programming during the summer, with a primary place of business in the service region are encouraged to register. The service region includes Bullitt and Jefferson counties in Kentucky; Clark, Floyd, and Harrison counties in Indiana. Organizations located in adjacent counties may register for Cultural Pass, and the Committee will review the registration.

If you are not a 501(c)(3) arts or culture nonprofit organization but would like to be considered for Cultural Pass eligibility, you are encouraged to register, but please note that potential reimbursement may be based on an alternate payment model. The Cultural Pass Committee will review all submitted registrations for eligibility.



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Teaching Artists and independent businesses are encouraged to apply for other Fund for the Arts funding opportunities through the [Teaching Artists and Organizations Directory](#) or the [Event Artist Application](#).

Please note:

- Organizations who are previous Cultural Pass Partners and/or current Fund for the Arts grantees must be compliant with all grant requirements and reporting to be eligible for this opportunity.
- Reimbursement grant funding awarded through Cultural Pass is restricted to arts and culture programming.
- Programs or events funded through other Fund for the Arts and Louisville Metro Government opportunities may be eligible to participate in Cultural Pass, but not eligible for reimbursement grant funding.

How does my organization register to be a Cultural Pass Partner?

Cultural Pass Partner registration is a two-step process. Please note that you will use two different online portals for each step.

1. Register through the Fund for the Arts Grant Portal
 - Read the entire Grant Guidelines document, including the Glossary at the end of the Grant Guidelines, as some terminology has been updated for Cultural Pass 2026.
 - Attend the Partner Registration Information Session (see timeline below for details).
 - Submit your registration through the Fund for the Arts Online Grant Portal no later than 11:59 pm EST Friday, January 9.

- To start your registration, click here: <https://bbgm-apply.yourcausegrants.com/apply/programs/66430890-e3da-428e-8433-d943bb8992bf>

- Login to access a saved registration here: <https://bbgm-apply.yourcausegrants.com/apply/applications>

Please note: The vendor that hosts the online grant portal has made updates since last year's registration. Applicants will need to create a new account the first time they access the new Online Grant Portal.

- After you have submitted the registration, and your eligibility is confirmed, Fund for the Arts will notify the primary, secondary, and additional contact email addresses provided in the registration by Monday, February 9. The Fund for the Arts notification email will include a link to access the Partner Portal and Zoom information for the Partner Portal Information Session.

2. Submit Event(s) through the Cultural Pass Partner Portal

- Registered organizations:
 - Attend the virtual Partner Portal Information Session on Friday, February 13, 12 - 1 pm EST.
 - Submit your Cultural Pass Event(s) through the Partner Portal no later than 11:59 pm EST Friday, March 6.
- Pending eligibility and review of all submitted registration and Events, confirmed Cultural Pass Partners will be notified by email no later than Friday, March 20.



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Please note:

- Remember to take steps to ensure that emails from the following addresses are not lost in your spam filter:
 - Email communications from Fund for the Arts regarding Cultural Pass will come from grants@fundforthearts.org.
 - Email communications from the Cultural Pass Partner Portal will come from no-reply@culturalpass.app.
 - Email communications from the Cultural Pass App, in-app tech support, will come from support@culturalpass.app.
- Should you need support in completing your registration, please contact the Fund for the Arts Community Investment & Support Team at grants@fundforthearts.org. Virtual Office Hours are available every Tuesday from 4 – 5 pm EST. Please visit fundforthearts.org at the top of the [Apply for Funding page](#) for more information.

What information will I need to provide when I register in the Fund for the Arts Online Grant Portal?

- Organization Information
 - Organization:
 - Name
 - Mission Statement
 - Address
 - County
 - Louisville Metro Council District (if applicable)
 - Tax Designation
 - IRS Designation Letter (attachment, PDF preferred)
 - Website and Social Media Information (optional)
 - Contact Information
 - Executive Director:
 - Name
 - Email Address
 - Phone Number
 - Title
 - Primary and Secondary Contacts (these individuals will receive all communications about Cultural Pass):
 - Is primary? (please check this box for the individual you would like to designate as the Primary Contact)
 - Name
 - Email Address
 - Phone Number
 - Title
 - Additional Contact Information, if applicable
 - Marketing and Communications Contact, if applicable
- Participation
 - In what way is your organization interested in participating as a Cultural Pass Partner? (Select all that apply: Cultural Pass Event, Senior Pass Event, Kickoff Activity Booth, Kickoff Performance or Demonstration)



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- Will your Event take place at your organization's primary place of business?
- Does your organization anticipate needing a device for 2026 Cultural Pass check-ins? (checking in Passholders via the Cultural Pass App requires a device featuring a camera capable of scanning QR codes, data and/or wi-fi access, and the ability to download and operate an application)
- Would you be willing to contribute 2026 Passholder incentives?
- Does your organization offer programs/events in languages other than English and/or translation services? (optional)
- Would your organization like to be added to the ACA or KCC email list? (optional)

If my registration is approved, what information will I need to provide in the Cultural Pass Partner Portal?

Tentatively:

- Review Partner Profile Information, and update as needed:
 - Partner Organization Name
 - Partner Organization Description (i.e. Mission Statement)
 - Organization Address
 - Regular Hours of Operation
 - Organization Main Phone Number
 - Organization Website
 - Photos (follow the tips in the Portal for image files)
 - Logo (follow the tips in the Portal for image files)

For each Event you are proposing:

- Cultural Pass Event
 - Name of Partner
 - Banner Image (follow the tips in the Portal for image files)
 - Event Name
 - Event Description (1200 words)
 - Event Website (if different than org website)
 - Name of Venue (select from the drop-down list, or click "Add a New Venue")
 - Date(s) and time(s) of Event
 - Recommended Age(s) (All ages, 0-5, 6-12, 12-18, 18-21, 65+), including if the Event is recommended for Seniors
 - Categories & Tags (Select at least one: Activity, Ages 0-5, Ages 13-17, Ages 18-21, Ages 06-12, All Ages, Dance, Festival, Gallery, Historic, Indoor, Interactive, Library, Live Performance, Museum, Music, Nature, Outdoor, Science, Special Event, Storytelling, Studio, Theater, Visual Art)
 - Things to Know - Additional information Passholders and their families might need to know prior to coming to your Event
 - Event Type
 - Promotional Images with optional Photo Credit (follow the tips in the Portal for image files)
- Summer Reading and Cultural Pass Kickoff



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- If your organization would like to participate in the Summer Reading and Cultural Pass Kickoff, please complete one “Create Event” page per Booth or Performance/Demonstration proposal. Please include:
 - Name of Partner
 - Banner Image (follow the tips in the Portal for image files)
 - Event Name - Please use the following as relevant to your proposal:
 - Kickoff Booth
 - Kickoff Performance/Demonstration
 - Description – Provide a brief description of the engagement activity or performance/demonstration you propose for Kickoff
 - Name of Venue: Kickoff location(s) to be announced
 - Event Dates & Times: May 30, 2026, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
 - Recommended Age(s) (All ages, 0-5, 6-12, 12-18, 18-21, 65+)
 - Categories & Tags (Select at least one: Activity, Ages 0-5, Ages 13-17, Ages 18-21, Ages 06-12, All Ages, Dance, Festival, Gallery, Historic, Indoor, Interactive, Library, Live Performance, Museum, Music, Nature, Outdoor, Science, Special Event, Storytelling, Studio, Theater, Visual Art)
 - Things to Know – If there’s anything else the committee needs to know about your proposed Kickoff participation, include that here. If you are proposing a stage Performance or Demonstration, please include any stage and sound needs you have.
 - Event Type – Cultural Pass Event
 - Promotional Images with optional Photo Credit (follow the tips in the Portal for image files)

Is there a funding limit? How will the grant be paid?

Reimbursement is based on the total number of Passholders that check in through the app at your Event(s) at a target rate of \$6.50, depending upon available Cultural Pass funding and total overall visits confirmed in the app. Reimbursement for Senior Pass is a flat rate, depending on the number of registered Partner Events and Cultural Pass check-ins through the app during the 2025 grant period.

Partners will receive two payments:

1. **June:** Advance payment for summer 2026 grant period.
 - June payments are based on Cultural Pass visits checked in through the app during the 2025 grant period.
 - Up to 250 visits in 2025, **or new Partners**, June payment = \$250
 - 251-500 visits in 2025, June payment = \$500
 - 501-1,000 visits in 2025, June payment = \$2,000
 - 1,001+ visits in 2025, June payment = \$3,000
2. **September:** Partner’s total Cultural Pass Passholders checked in through the app, minus the June payment.
 - Summer Reading and Cultural Pass Kickoff and other community engagements will be reimbursed in September at a rate of \$450 per Activity Booth and \$350 per Performance or Demonstration.

The maximum reimbursement for any organization is \$25,000.



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What is the timeline?

Tentatively, as of November 2025:

First week of December 2025	Registration Opens in the Fund for the Arts Online Grant Portal
Wednesday, December 10 12 - 1 pm EST	Partner Registration Information Session <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Zoom Link: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82940345029?pwd=5ytyHuBhgj4amaDec63TD3ovTavYGd.1• Meeting ID: 829 4034 5029• Passcode: 735400• Call-In Number: +1 (929) 205-6099
Tuesdays 4 - 5 pm EST	Virtual Office Hours <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Link: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83555402129?pwd=RjhnNIY3QmQ4L3J4Rk1BV01NUmtkUT09• Meeting ID: 835 5540 2129• Passcode: 393225• Call-In Number: +1 (312) 626-6799 <p><i>Virtual Office Hours are available for anyone planning to register as a Cultural Pass Partner, to provide time for questions with FFTA staff. Additional resources include the Grant Guidelines and recorded Information Session. RSVP is not required.</i></p>
Friday, January 9 11:59 pm EST	Registration Closes
By Monday, February 9 11:59 pm EST	Notification of Registration status emailed to primary and secondary contacts submitted with Registration.
Friday, February 13 12 - 1 pm EST	Partner Portal Information Session
By Friday, March 6 11:59 pm EST	Event information and uploads due in the Cultural Pass Partner Portal
March 7 - 20	Review Period; primary and secondary contacts may be contacted for additional information.
By Friday, March 20	Cultural Pass Partners and Events confirmed
April 2026	Cultural Pass Partners and Events are approved and are live in the app Primary and Secondary Contacts will be contacted for additional information and/or to review app content.
May 2026	Partner Orientation (Date(s) and Time(s) TBA)
May 30	Summer Reading and Cultural Pass Kickoff (Location and Time TBA)
May 30 - August 9	Cultural Pass 2026 Grant Period
June 2026	Partner Payment 1
Monday, August 17	Final Report Due in the Fund for the Arts Online Grant Portal



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September 2026	Partner Payment 2 Partner Feedback Session (Date(s) and Time(s) TBA)
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How will my registration be reviewed?

The Cultural Pass Committee reviews and approves both steps of the registration process, based on the following criteria:

- Organization meets eligibility requirements.
- Organization and proposed Event(s) support the Cultural Pass purpose of providing free access to arts and culture throughout the duration of the grant period.
- Proposed Event(s), Kickoff Activity Booth, and/or Kickoff Performance/Demonstration is described clearly.
- Proposed Event(s), Kickoff Activity Booth, and/or Kickoff Performance/Demonstration is appropriate for Passholders ages 0-21, and/or Seniors.
- Organization is compliant with the Fund for the Arts and Cultural Pass previous or current grants.
- Available funding.

Please note:

- Cultural Pass prioritizes Partners and Venues within traditionally underrepresented and underserved communities.
- Cultural Pass prioritizes Events that, when combined, provide unique and exciting opportunities for Participants throughout the grant period.
- The Cultural Pass Committee prioritizes Event Partners for Kickoff participation.
- Funding decisions are made by the Cultural Pass Committee.

What are the requirements if I am approved as a Cultural Pass Partner?

Upon receiving confirmation as a Cultural Pass 2026 Partner, organizations will sign a Grant Agreement with the Fund for the Arts. Grantees are required to:

- Provide Events as submitted and approved in the registration and Partner Portal.
- Work with Fund for the Arts and the Cultural Pass Committee to develop Cultural Pass app content.
- Attend Partner Orientation.
- Utilize the Cultural Pass app to check in Passholders and Guardians for Events.
- Promote the Cultural Pass and libraries' summer reading programs.
- Document participant experiences and submit one final report at the conclusion of the grant period, including stories, quotes, photographs, videos, etc.
- Use the following credit line in promotions including print and web materials: The 2026 Cultural Pass presented in collaboration with Louisville Metro Government, Fund for the Arts, Arts & Culture Alliance, Kentuckiana Cultural Consortium, Louisville Free Public Library, and [insert your county library if other than Louisville Free Public Library].
- Submit timely updates and changes if needed through the Partner Portal, including but not limited to, Cultural Pass Events and primary or secondary contacts.



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Additional questions?

Fund for the Arts encourages all interested organizations to attend the Registration Information Session and/or Virtual Office Hours. If you have any additional questions about Cultural Pass, please contact the Fund for the Arts Community Investment & Support Team at grants@fundforthearts.org.



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Cultural Pass Glossary

Arts and Culture Organization

An Arts and Culture Organization, for the purpose of Cultural Pass, is broadly defined as an entity that actively engages in the creation, promotion, preservation, or presentation of artistic and/or cultural endeavors. This includes but is not limited to artist communities, arts education, dance, design, film and media arts, folk and traditional arts, literary arts, museums, music, opera, presenting and multidisciplinary works, theater, visual arts, heritage, science, and engagement with nature. Museums, as integral components of this category, are institutions that collect, conserve, and/or display objects of artistic, cultural, historical, or scientific significance. Arts and Culture Organizations demonstrate a commitment to providing services such as exhibitions, performances, demonstrations, educational programs, outreach initiatives, or other activities that contribute to the enrichment and accessibility of cultural experiences to guests and the community at large.

Arts and Culture Organizations actively contribute to the vibrancy and diversity of the arts and culture landscape, fostering a dynamic environment that engages, educates, and inspires the public. The organization's mission and activities should align with the promotion of artistic expression, cultural understanding, and/or the enhancement of community well-being through the provision of accessible and impactful services.

Collaborator

Collaborators are agencies that provide support or resources throughout the fiscal year to facilitate Cultural Pass. Collaborators for the 2026 Cultural Pass include:

- [Louisville Metro Government](#)
- [Fund for the Arts](#)
- [Arts & Culture Alliance \(ACA\)](#)
- [Kentuckiana Cultural Consortium \(KCC\)](#)
- [Bullitt County Public Library](#)
- [Charlestown-Clark County Public Library](#)
- [The Floyd County Library](#)
- [Harrison County Public Library](#)
- [Jeffersonville Township Public Library](#)
- [Louisville Free Public Library](#)

Cultural Pass Committee

The Cultural Pass Committee consists of representatives of the following agencies that collaborate to provide Cultural Pass: Louisville Metro Government, Arts & Culture Alliance (ACA), Kentuckiana Cultural Consortium (KCC), Bullitt County Public Library, Charlestown-Clark County Public Library, The Floyd County Library, Harrison County Public Library, Jeffersonville Township Public Library, Louisville Free



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Public Library, and community members. Fund for the Arts provides program management for Cultural Pass and the Cultural Pass Committee.

Event

An activity organized by a **Partner** that takes place at a **Venue** on specific dates and times. Examples of a Cultural Pass Event schedule include:

- Interactive activity every Tuesday at 10 am throughout the duration of Cultural Pass at a museum.
- Guided nature walks on June 7 at 12 pm noon, July 5 at 9 am, and August 2 at 6 pm, each at a different park location.

Guardian

An adult age 18+ that accompanies the Passholder(s) for Cultural Pass Events.

Online Grant Portal

Fund for the Arts provides an Online Grant Portal for grant applications and other funding opportunities. Visit the [webpage](#) for more information about funding opportunities and access an Online Grant Portal link for any funding opportunity that is currently active.

Partner

Partners are Cultural Pass program providers; organizations or groups that create Cultural Pass **Events**. They may also be a **Venue**, but not in all cases. A Partner may offer **Events** in different **Venues** throughout the duration of Cultural Pass.

Partner Portal

A web-based portal where **Partners** log in to enter and maintain **Event** information to populate within the Cultural Pass app. **Partners** have access to Cultural Pass data related to their **Events** through the Portal.

Passholder

An individual age 0-21 who engages with the Cultural Pass; signs up for Cultural Pass on the app and checks in using their unique QR code for an **Event**.

Venue

A Venue is a physical location or space where **Events** take place. It could be a **Partner's** location, or another location (park, library, other nonprofit) where a **Partner** provides an **Event**.