

Legislative Oversight Committee

Summary Report on the

South Carolina Arts Commission

Subcommittee Report - January 2020



The S.C. Arts Commission is charged with encouraging and assisting the freedom of artistic expression in the state to ensure that the arts have a significant role in the welfare and educational experience of the state's citizens. The commission spent \$6.3 million in FY 18-19 and has 25 staff members. It awards grants, provides staff assistance, offers direct programming, and partners with other entities to promote the arts in the state. In FY 18-19, the commission awarded \$4.4 million in grants in 46 counties and should notify members of the General Assembly when these awards are accepted. Staff assistance is provided to artists, community arts providers, educational institutions and arts education providers, and local communities and non-arts groups. A variety of direct programming is offered by the commission including maintaining the State Art Collection and designating cultural districts throughout the state. The commission should work with the cultural districts to ensure data is reported in a format to assess the impact of these districts. Seven of the nine members of the commission have terms that are expired, and the agency should work with the Governor's Office and arts groups to identify and recommend potential members.

Agency at a Glance

S.C. Code §60-15-10 states the legislative declaration of policy to include "all activities undertaken by the State in carrying out this policy shall be directed toward encouraging and assisting rather than limiting the freedom of artistic expression that is essential for the well-being of the arts." The commission awards grants, provides staff assistance, offers direct programming, and partners with other entities to promote the arts in the state. The commission receives most of its funding from state general and EIA funds but also receives grants from federal sources as well as private foundations and community sponsors. For FY 18-19, the board received \$7.4 million in revenues. As of December 2019, the commission had 16 FTEs with one vacancy, 5 temporary positions with one vacancy, and 4 partnership staff (1 Arts Access; 3 ABC Project).

Issues

GRANTS

There are three categories of grants awarded by the Arts Commission: organizational, artist, and arts education. Applications for twelve of the grants are evaluated by commission staff and final funding is approved either by the executive director or the commission. The remaining grants are evaluated by external panels with members with experience in the area of the grant award or an out-of-state panel. The final award decisions are made by the commission. For FY 18-19, the commission awarded 458 grants in 46 counties totaling \$4,437,035. After grants are awarded and have been accepted by the recipients, the commission informs members of the General Assembly of the recipients in their areas for the past year. Since grants have different award dates throughout the year, in order to be timely with the notifications, the commission should communicate the award recipients after each grant is awarded and accepted.

- **Agency Recommendation:** The SC Arts Commission should notify members of the General Assembly of grant recipients in their area as each grant is awarded.

STAFF ASSISTANCE

The Arts Commission provides assistance from members of its staff based on the type of service that requires assistance. Staff members provide assistance to artists, community arts providers, educational institutions and arts education providers, and local communities and non-arts groups.

DIRECT PROGRAMS

The Arts Commission has a variety of programming designed to assist in its work with arts education and artist and community arts development.



The State Art Collection documents visual arts in the state and includes 466 works in a variety of media and styles by 288 South Carolina contemporary artists. Works from the State Art Collection are available for loan to art museums, state agencies, and public and private organizations for the purpose of public exhibition or display.

S.C. Code §60-15-75 gives the commission the authority to develop criteria and guidelines for designating cultural districts. The districts have to submit annual reports describing activities in the district and reporting the number of visitors and business occupancy rates. The commission is working with the eight districts to ensure that they are collecting and reporting the data needed so they do not have current data for all of the districts.

- **Agency Recommendation:** The SC Arts Commission should continue to work with the cultural districts to ensure data is reported so that the impacts of the districts can be shown and evaluated.

PARTNERSHIPS

The Commission partners with many entities to serve the needs of the state's arts community and works with two foundations which support the arts. The South Carolina Arts Foundation supports the programs of the commission through fundraising and volunteers. The South Carolina Arts Alliance states its mission is to advance and promote the arts for all South Carolinians through advocacy, leadership development, and public awareness.

BOARD MEMBERSHIP

S.C. Code §60-15-20 creates the "South Carolina Arts Commission, to consist of nine members, representative of all fields of the creative and interpretive arts, to be appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate from among private citizens who are widely known for their professional competence and experience in connection with the interpretive and creative arts. In making such appointments consideration shall be given to the recommendations made by representative, civic, educational and professional associations and groups, concerned with or engaged in the production or presentation of the fine arts generally." Only two members' terms are not expired.

- **Agency Recommendation:** The SC Arts Commission should work with the Governor's Office and associations and groups concerned with the fine arts to identify and recommend potential commission members for appointment to the commission.

Legislative Oversight Committee

South Carolina Senate



Report on the

South Carolina Arts Commission

Subcommittee Report
January 2020

The S.C. Arts Commission is charged with encouraging and assisting the freedom of artistic expression in the state to ensure that the arts have a significant role in the welfare and educational experience of the state's citizens. The commission spent \$6.3 million in FY 18-19 and has 25 staff members. It awards grants, provides staff assistance, offers direct programming, and partners with other entities to promote the arts in the state. In FY 18-19, the commission awarded \$4.4 million in grants in 46 counties and should notify members of the General Assembly when these awards are accepted. Staff assistance is provided to artists, community arts providers, educational institutions and arts education providers, and local communities and non-arts groups. A variety of direct programming is offered by the commission including maintaining the State Art Collection and designating cultural districts throughout the state. The commission should work with the cultural districts to ensure data is reported in a format to assess the impact of these districts. Seven of the nine members of the commission have terms that are expired, and the agency should work with the Governor's Office and arts groups to identify and recommend potential members.

I. Agency at a Glance

Mission

S.C. Code §60-15-10 states the legislative declaration of policy as:

It is hereby declared to be the policy of the State to join with private patrons and with institutions and professional organizations concerned with the arts to insure that the role of the arts in the life of our communities will continue to grow and play an ever more significant part in the welfare and educational experience of our citizens. It is further declared that all activities undertaken by the State in carrying out this policy shall be directed toward encouraging and assisting rather than limiting the freedom of artistic expression that is essential for the well-being of the arts.

The S.C. Arts Commission states its mission as "With a commitment to excellence across the spectrum of our state's cultures and forms of expression, the South Carolina Arts Commission pursues its public charge to develop a thriving arts environment, which is essential to quality of life, education, and economic vitality for all South Carolinians."

Governing Authority:

S.C. Code §60-15-20 creates the "South Carolina Arts Commission, to consist of nine members, representative of all fields of the creative and interpretive arts, to be appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate from among private citizens who are widely known for their professional competence and experience in connection with the interpretive and creative arts. In making such appointments consideration shall be given to the recommendations made by representative, civic, educational and professional associations and groups, concerned with or engaged in the production or presentation of the fine arts generally."

All of the members of the commission are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. Only two members' terms are not expired.

Current Members	Initial Confirmation Date	Expiration Date
Bell, Dacey P.	6/2/2016	6/30/2018
Crawford, Delores H.	5/25/2010	6/30/2013
Ferillo, Charles T.	4/29/2004	6/30/2006
Hayes, Sarah Lynn D.	3/27/2008	6/30/2011
Horowitz, Henry	6/19/2007	6/30/2011
Nwokike, Barbara R.	6/19/2007	6/30/2011
Stern, Linda C.	5/14/2019	6/30/2022
Vasudeva, Bhavna	5/14/2019	6/30/2022
Webb, Richard C.	4/6/2016	6/30/2018

S.C. Code §60-15-30 states that “the terms of office of members shall be three years, and until their successors have been appointed and qualify. No member of the Commission shall be eligible for appointment for more than two consecutive full terms.” Because seven of the commission members’ terms have expired, the Arts Commission should work with the Governor’s Office as well as associations and groups concerned with the fine arts to identify potential members for the commission.

- **Agency Recommendation**

The SC Arts Commission should work with the Governor’s Office and associations and groups concerned with the fine arts to identify and recommend potential commission members for appointment to the commission.

Operations/Programs

The Arts Commission focuses on three areas to comply with its mission:

- Arts Education - to encourage the incorporation of the arts in the state’s educational systems and lifelong learning process of its citizens.
- Community Development - to help develop the state’s arts resources and organizations and promote creative partnerships.
- Artist Development - to support the artistic growth and personal and economic well-being of the state’s artists.

The Arts Commission uses four approaches to achieve its mission in these three areas:

- Grants – Cash grants with matching and reporting requirements, which support and advance the state’s goals for the arts, and are awarded using an application and review process.
- Staff Assistance – The commission’s staff assists, via direct interaction, local organizations, governments, schools, artists, citizens, and others.
- Direct Programs – The commission presents programs, exhibitions, conferences, awards and other events, usually targeted to a statewide audience.

- Partnerships – Develops relationships with organizations to maximize productivity, cost effectiveness, statewide reach, and inclusiveness for a variety of statewide programs.

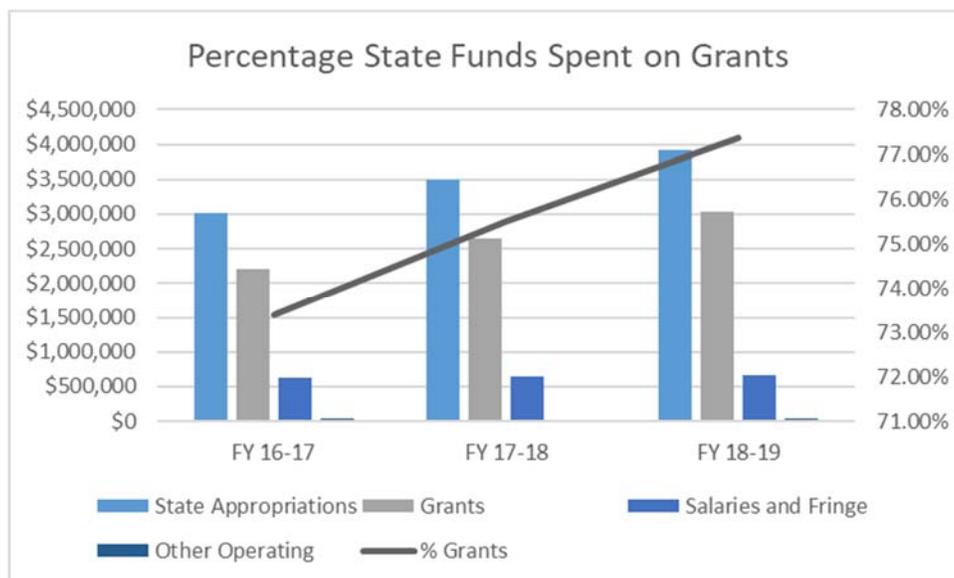
Finance:

Revenues and Expenditures

The commission receives most of its funding from state general and EIA funds. Grants from federal sources, including the National Endowment for the Arts, also fund the agency. Private foundations and community sponsors also support commission projects.

	FY 17-18		FY 18-19	
	Appropriations	Expenses	Appropriations	Expenses
General Funds	\$3,365,938	\$3,180,884	\$3,726,448	\$3,527,734
SC Children’s Theatre	0	0	500,000	500,000
Carryforward	133,265	133,265	185,054	185,054
General Funds	\$3,499,203	\$3,314,149	\$4,411,502	\$4,212,788
EIA Funds	1,070,000	694,353	1,170,000	753,585
Carryforward	398,456	398,456	375,647	375,647
Total EIA	\$1,468,456	\$1,092,809	\$1,545,647	\$1,129,232
Federal Funds	1,335,641	930,349	1,335,641	910,498
Other Funds	148,707	114,115	148,707	100,813
Total	\$6,452,007	\$5,451,422	\$7,441,498	\$6,353,330

Proviso 28.4 in the appropriations act requires that the Arts Commission “expend seventy percent of appropriated state funds on grants to support the statewide improvement of learning and enrichment opportunities for children and communities through educational and cultural programs with proven research based strategies.” In order to comply with this proviso, the commission uses mostly federal and other funds to fund its operations. For the last three fiscal years, the commission reports that it has exceeded spending 70% of state funds on grants.



Budget Request

For the FY 19-20 budget, the commission requested \$865,000 in recurring general funds for grant funds to support community arts development and arts education. This amount would be allocated to different programs funded by the commission. The commission was appropriated \$615,000 which was distributed proportionally among the different programs included in the request.

For FY 20-21, the commission has requested \$4.8 million in recurring and non-recurring funds. The \$1 million in recurring funds would be allocated among several programs:

- \$450,000 - Operating Support - move closer to fully funding the operating support grants formula so that the average grant would be \$12,629 and accommodate new applications.
- \$250,000 - Arts Education - fund arts education programs including Arts in Basic Curriculum and pilot initiatives to reach children in poverty.
- \$140,000 - Professional Development - professional development for arts professionals throughout the state in partnership with the Donnelley Foundation, Together SC, and the SC Arts Alliance.
- \$110,000 - Expansion of Community Services - expand efforts in rural areas and *The Art of Community: Rural SC* project to 9 additional communities or counties: Aiken, Hanahan (Berkeley County), St. Helena (Beaufort County), Fort Lawn (Chester County), Marion, Newberry, Pickens, Eastover (Richland County), and the Catawba Indian Nation located in York County.
- \$50,000 - New Approaches - pilot a project for veterans and families affected by PTSD and partnerships with organizations serving African American artists and Hispanic/Latinx citizens.

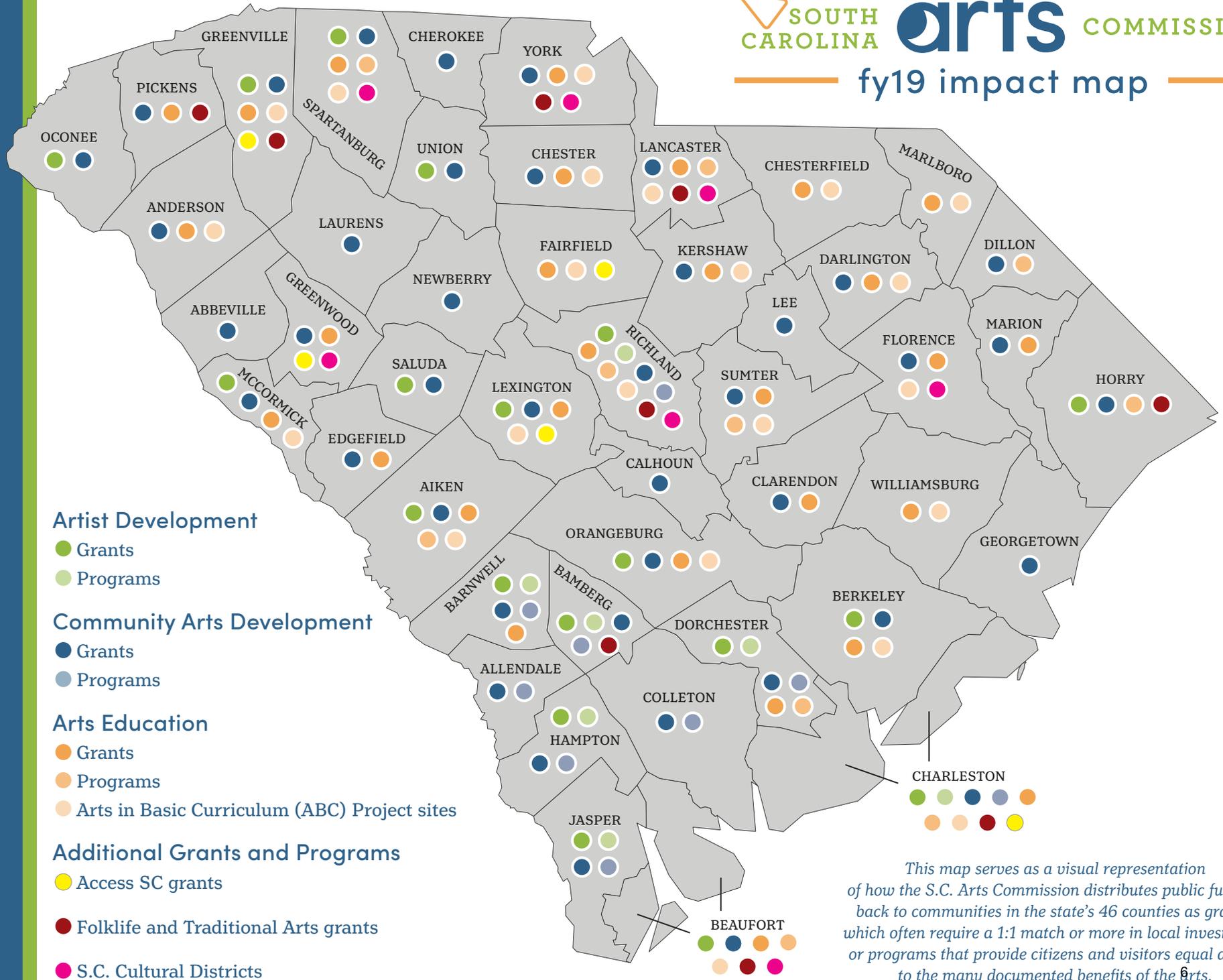
The \$3.8 million in nonrecurring funds is requested to provide grants to local arts organizations, non-profit community organizations, and statewide service organizations for facility maintenance, upgrades, and improvements as well as meeting ADA accessibility requirements.

Staffing

As of December 2019, the commission had 16 FTEs with one vacancy, 5 temporary positions with one vacancy, and 4 partnership staff (1 Arts Access; 3 ABC Project). Partnership staff are funded in part by the commission and work with the commission on those programs.

II. Issues

The operations of the commission impact all the counties in the state through grants or programs. The map on the following page shows the grants and programs that each county participated in for FY 18-19.



This map serves as a visual representation of how the S.C. Arts Commission distributes public funding back to communities in the state's 46 counties as grants, which often require a 1:1 match or more in local investment, or programs that provide citizens and visitors equal access to the many documented benefits of the arts.

Grants

There are three categories of grants awarded by the Arts Commission:

- Organizational Grants
- Artist Grants
- Arts Education Grants

The commission has information about all of its grants on its website and includes a weekly grants roundup on the Hub which is an online publication by the commission with news and stories about artists and programs throughout the state. Commission staff also identify and assist organizations and individuals who may qualify or benefit from grants.

Organizational Grants

The commission has nine grants which are available to organizations. These include an education grant and an artist grant. Three of the grants are for operating support for arts organizations which can be used to support the general operations of the organizations and one is available for subgrants from arts councils to local artists and organizations. Three of the grants fund arts projects, one helps arts organizations make programs and facilities accessible to persons with disabilities, and one funds folklife and traditional arts.

Artist Grants

The commission has four grants for artists which includes one grant that is available to organizations. The Artists' Venture Initiative grants provides funding for artist-driven, arts-based business ventures. The Traditional Arts Apprenticeship grants support the passing of traditional artistic and cultural knowledge from Mentor Artists to qualified Apprentices. Individual Artist Fellowships provide up to four grants each year to individual artists in specific disciplines which change each year.

Arts Education Grants

The commission administers three grants related to arts education: Arts Education Project, Teacher Standards Implementation, and ABC Advancement grants. Arts Education Project (AEP) Grants fund projects and programs that use the arts to meet the educational, developmental and social needs of K-12 students and can be awarded to schools, arts organizations, and community organizations such as government or non-profits. The Teacher Standards Implementation grants are awarded to arts teachers for supplies, materials, professional development, or other tools/expertise needed to meet S.C. arts education standards.

The commission funds the Arts in Basic Curriculum (ABC) grants and works with the SC Department of Education and Winthrop University to develop comprehensive arts education. Funds may be used for arts materials, equipment, professional development, field trips, artist-in-residence programs, and other activities as defined by the school's strategic arts education plan. The grants are funded for a three-year cycle. There are currently 84 sites serving 171,000 students. The average annual rate of growth before FY 18-19 was 17% so in FY 18-19, the commission stopped accepting new applicants because it could not fund new sites without decreasing funding for current sites.

In order to assist qualified applicants to further arts education in the state, the commission is restructuring the ABC project. The current program requires any grant recipient to be an ABC site to receive funds and participate in the programs and network. The commission is working with the S.C. Department of Education and Winthrop

University in its review of the project. Beginning in FY 21-22, individual teachers, schools, and school districts will have access to funds, programs, and network.

The following table shows all of the grants that are available through the commission for FY 19-20 with the match requirement for each grant, the source of funds for the grant, and the deadlines for applying as well as the number of requests and awards made for the grants.

South Carolina Arts Commission Grants with Application Deadlines in FY2020 – as of 12/17/2019

Grant Program	Deadline	# of Requests	# of Awards	Match (grantee:SCAC)	Source of Funds
ABC Advancement	1/16/2020	84	83	2:1	State
Accessibility	6 weeks prior to project start date	4	2	1:1	State
Art of Community (In FY19, these were in Special Projects)	1/16/2020	13		None	
Arts Education Projects	1/16/2020	52	38	1:1	State, EIA, & Federal
Arts Project Support (previously Quarterly Projects)	6 weeks prior to project start date	42	30	Ind - 1:2 Org - 1:1	State and Other
Artists Venture Initiative	3/16/2020	12	3	1:2	State & Other
Cultural District Projects	6 weeks prior to project start date			1:1	State
Education Pilot Projects		8	8	None	EIA
Fellowships	11/15/2019	171	4	None	State
Folklife Apprenticeships	4/1/2020	5	4 (2 apps = 4 awards)	None	Federal
Folklife & Traditional Arts	3/16/2020	8	6	1:1	State & Other
General Operating Support	2/18/2020	130	130	3:1	State
Horizon Opportunity Projects AKA Horizon Underserved Grants	6 weeks prior to project start date			Ind - 1:2 Org - 1:1	State & Federal
Operating Support for Small Organizations	12/16/2019	47	47	1:1	State
Partnerships Includes: Folklife Partnership & Poetry Outloud		5	5	None	State, Federal & Other
Presenting & Performing Arts Initiative	6 weeks prior to project start date	3	1	1:1	State
Special Projects	6 weeks prior to project start date	10	10	None	State & Federal
Statewide Operating Support	2/18/2020	9	9	1:2	State
Subgranting	4/1/2020	7	7	1:1	State & Other
Teacher Standards Implementation	6 weeks prior to project start date	11	11	Title 1: None No Title 1 - 1:2	State & Federal

Applications for twelve of the grants are evaluated by commission staff and final funding is approved either by the executive director or the commission. The remaining grants are evaluated by external panels with members with experience in the area of the grant award or an out-of-state panel. The final award decisions are made by the commission.

For FY 18-19, the commission awarded 458 grants in 46 counties totaling \$4,437,035. The following table shows the number of grants and amounts by county.

County	Number of Grants	Amount
Abbeville	5	\$4,716
Aiken	14	105,792
Allendale	1	7,000
Anderson	8	87,481
Bamberg	5	11,000
Barnwell	5	41,246
Beaufort	19	205,193
Berkeley	9	68,994
Calhoun	2	1,500
Charleston	73	680,779
Cherokee	2	1,500
Chester	4	34,654
Chesterfield	3	33,107
Clarendon	4	87,241
Colleton	4	32,292
Darlington	4	51,862
Dillon	1	2,000
Dorchester	5	27,652
Edgefield	2	2,194
Fairfield	4	43,652
Florence	10	95,251
Georgetown	3	14,545
Greenville	46	599,348
Greenwood	12	132,278
Hampton	3	9,000
Horry	12	97,040
Jasper	5	78,169
Kershaw	2	37,828
Lancaster	13	79,599
Laurens	2	1,300
Lee	1	1,903
Lexington	11	70,392
Marion	3	15,250
Marlboro	1	8,798
McCormick	6	33,680
Newberry	1	36,499
Oconee	3	4,300
Orangeburg	5	34,993
Pickens	8	114,868
Richland	83	667,756

Saluda	2	1,500
Spartanburg	27	290,939
Sumter	10	76,090
Union	3	4,400
Williamsburg	3	29,660
York	9	371,794
	458	\$4,437,035

For FY 19-20, as of December 13, 2019, the commission has awarded almost \$4.5 million in grants in 40 counties and grants will continue to be awarded until the end of the fiscal year.

After grants are awarded and have been accepted by the recipients, the commission informs members of the General Assembly of the recipients in their areas for the past year. Since grants have different award dates throughout the year, in order to be timely with the notifications, the commission should communicate the award recipients after each grant is awarded and accepted.

- **Agency Recommendation**

The SC Arts Commission should notify members of the General Assembly of grant recipients in their area as each grant is awarded.

Staff Assistance

The Arts Commission provides assistance from members of its staff based on the type of service that requires assistance. Previously staff members provided assistance based on location of the assistance and staff members were assigned counties. Staff members provide assistance to artists, community arts providers, educational institutions and arts education providers, and local communities and non-arts groups.

Direct Programs

The Arts Commission has a variety of programming designed to assist in its work with arts education and artist and community arts development. Some of the programs include arts awards, the SC arts directory, the State Art Collection, and programs in arts education, artist development, and community arts.



State Art Collection

The State Art Collection documents visual arts in the state and includes 466 works in a variety of media and styles by 288 South Carolina contemporary artists. The Arts Commission states that the purpose of the collection is to:

- create a collection of historic importance and cultural vitality for the people of South Carolina that will serve as a tool to help promote the state and its cultural resources on the state, regional, national and international levels;
- make available to citizens throughout South Carolina, the best work of the state’s contemporary artists;
- encourage and support the creative visual artists of South Carolina.

The collection is supported by the South Carolina Arts Foundation which administers the Nina Liu South Carolina Arts Commission State Art Collection Fund. The purpose of this fund is to support acquisitions of art and/or provide for the maintenance, conservation, and storage of the collection.

Works from the State Art Collection are available for loan to art museums, state agencies, and public and private organizations for the purpose of public exhibition or display. The commission does not charge state agencies a fee to receive loans of the state art collection. The agency has to confirm they have insurance and pay those fees directly to the insurer. Selections may currently be viewed at the following state agencies:

- South Carolina Arts Commission
- Administrative Law Court
- Department of Administration Data Center
- Forestry Commission
- House of Representatives
- Human Affairs Commission
- UofSC Institute for Mind & Brain
- Medical University of South Carolina
- Revenue & Fiscal Affairs Office
- SCETV
- Technical College of the Lowcountry

Small exhibitions featuring work from the collection can be organized for rural and isolated areas inside and outside of the state. Works from the collection were exhibited at the South Carolina State Fair in 2019 and an exhibition is planned at the Greenville Center of Creative Arts beginning in 2020.

S.C. Cultural Districts

S.C. Code §60-15-75 gives the commission the authority to develop criteria and guidelines for designating cultural districts. Section (B) defines a cultural district:

- (1) must be a geographical area that is within a community and that has a concentration of cultural facilities, creative enterprises, or arts venues located within it;
- (2) may be home to not-for-profit and for-profit creative entities; and
- (3) is intended to impact the larger community in which it is located by:
 - (a) attracting artists, creative entrepreneurs, and cultural enterprises;
 - (b) encouraging economic development;
 - (c) encouraging the preservation and reuse of historic buildings;
 - (d) fostering local cultural development; and
 - (e) providing a focal point for celebrating and strengthening its unique cultural identity.

There are currently eight cultural districts in the state:



The districts have to submit annual reports describing activities in the district and reporting the number of visitors and business occupancy rates. According to commission staff, the commission is working with the districts to ensure that they are collecting and reporting the data needed so they do not have current data for all of the districts. Every five years, the commission evaluates the annual reports and plans for the districts to assess a district's impact and viability to determine recertification for an additional five years.

- **Agency Recommendation**

The SC Arts Commission should continue to work with the cultural districts to ensure data is reported so that the impacts of the districts can be shown and evaluated.

Partnerships

The Commission partners with many entities to serve the needs of the state's arts community. There are two foundations which support the arts that work with the commission.

SC Arts Foundation

The South Carolina Arts Foundation supports the programs of the commission through fundraising and volunteers. It funds artist development and training, supports the Elizabeth O'Neill Verner Governor's Awards for the Arts and the Jean Laney Harris Folk Heritage Awards, hosts the awards luncheon auction and sale, and the South Carolina Arts Gala. It also purchases works for the State Art Collection. For FY 17-18, the foundation reported \$94,000 in revenue and \$72,000 in expenses with net assets of almost \$220,000. The foundation is located at the commission and stated that 96.3% of its expenses were for program services.

SC Arts Alliance

The South Carolina Arts Alliance (SCAA) states its mission is to advance and promote the arts for all South Carolinians through advocacy, leadership development, and public awareness. It promotes the Arts in Basic Curriculum Project as well as arts education. It provides leadership training, advocacy workshops, consultancies, and forums for professional development of arts administrators, artists, and educators. It sponsors the annual S.C. Arts Advocacy Day at the Statehouse and the Legislative Appreciation Luncheon. For FY 18-19, the alliance reported about \$146,000 in revenue and almost \$128,000 in expenses with net assets of \$73,000. The alliance is located in Fountain Inn, SC, and stated that 83% of its expenses were for program services.