

Arts & Creativity Program Grantmaking and Inquiry Process

Grants awarded by the Barr Foundation originate in several ways. The majority are initiated by our staff. Additionally, given the value we place on long-term partnerships, many grants are renewals for current grantees. However, we also welcome those who feel their work aligns with our priorities to introduce themselves to us through an inquiry process.

Please note that, in addition to assessing alignment with the Foundation's strategies, we are particularly interested in partners who:

- Are presenting artistically excellent and relevant work;
- Have a strong, nuanced understanding of their challenges, and approach challenges in bold ways;
- Maximize their assets to experiment, take risks, pivot and change in response to changing contexts;
- Are well informed about their field, and demonstrate curiosity and a rigorous inquiry process; and
- Demonstrate leadership in their field and community.

What to Submit

To submit an inquiry to the Barr Foundation's Arts & Creativity Program, please assemble your responses to the following questions and requested materials, and submit via email to arts@barrfoundation.org:

1. Identify the Barr strategy and priority area that aligns with your work and explain how it aligns. (max 100 words)
 - a. If your work is related to Barr's strategy of **joining arts with other sectors**, please detail how the arts are incorporated into your organization's mission and programs.
2. Describe the key opportunities and challenges (in your community and/or field) you are proposing to address. (max of 100 words)
3. Describe a bold new direction or risk that your organization has recently undertaken or is exploring, and why you consider it to be bold or a risk. (max 200 words)
4. Additional organizational information:
 - a. Contact information, including website URL
 - b. Tax status - Please note Barr Foundation only supports 501c3 entities.
 - c. Most recent completed organizational budget (indicate year), including: total contributed income; total earned income; total expenses; operating reserve and/or endowment (Do not include in-kind support.)
 - d. Number of full-time employees
 - e. Demographics and approximate number(s) of your constituency or audience served
 - f. Brief overview of key programmatic activities and art form(s) of the organization
 - g. Geographic focus

Please also note that,

- In our strategy of **investing in organizations to be adaptive and relevant**, Barr Foundation rarely funds projects or programs.
- The Foundation does not fund individuals.
- The Foundation rarely funds organizations with budgets under \$250,000.
- The Foundation's primary geographic focus is Massachusetts. Selective funding in New England or nationally is limited to partners whose work brings intellectual and/or financial resources to Massachusetts.

Thank you for your interest in the Barr Foundation. While we commit to reviewing all inquiries, given the high volume we receive and a relatively small staff, we reply only to those we intend to explore further.

Goal: Elevate the arts and enable creative expression to engage and inspire a dynamic, thriving Massachusetts.

Adapting boldly. Spanning sectors. Activating public support.

Arts and creativity have the power to connect us with each other, to help us understand our dynamic environment, and to imagine new and better futures. In a time of rapidly changing demographics, technological advancements, and evolving art forms, Barr seeks to invest in bold ideas and leaders through three strategies.

As we consider new funding opportunities, we look for grantee partners who:

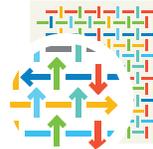
- Are presenting artistically excellent and relevant work;
- Have a strong, nuanced understanding of their challenges, and approach challenges in bold ways—ready to experiment, take risks, an appropriately pivot and change;
- Maximize their assets, are well informed about their field, and demonstrate curiosity and a rigorous inquiry process; and
- Demonstrate field and civic leadership.



Strategy: Invest in organizations to be adaptive and relevant.

Priorities:

- Provide risk capital for exemplary arts organizations to: embrace artistic risk-taking and bold organizational change; expand the diversity of creative experiences and audiences; and present work that inspires with its excellence and relevance.
- Invest in organizations with demonstrated effectiveness at increasing the capacity of working artists to produce, promote, and present excellent, relevant, rigorous art.



Strategy: Join arts with other sectors to foster creative problem-solving, broaden arts participation, share new resources for the arts, and forge new cross-disciplinary alliances.

Priority:

- Creative placemaking: Support initiatives that integrate arts and creativity into community planning and development to strengthen the social, physical, and economic fabrics of communities.

Exploratory Area:

- The intersection of art, science and technology: In 2016, Barr will undertake a research and planning process to develop its priorities in this exploratory area. We will initially focus on arts and medicine, and the maker movement.



Strategy: Activate public support for arts and creativity.

Priorities:

- Invest in research, policy analysis, and communications to inform strong policies and long-term financing options for arts and creativity.
- Support the development of leaders, organizations, cross-sector networks, and coalitions that effectively communicate the value of the creative sector, and increase its visibility in electoral and legislative processes.
- Invest in traditional and new media, forums, and other ways of broadening public awareness of and engagement in arts and creativity.