

# CULTUREBLOCKS



a community partnership with



## FUNDING INFORMATION, RESOURCES, AND SELECTION CRITERIA

### Creative Individuals Winter-Programming Jul-Dec. 2026

#### KEY PROGRAM INTENTIONS

- Programming must prioritize enriching experiences that are accessible to a broad audience rather than professional development or training for specific groups.
- Culture Blocks supports programs that can engage and enrich the community at any time without the need for prior training, offering flexibility and accessibility.
- Funding is designated for the direct delivery of programming and does not cover start-up costs or capacity-building efforts.

#### COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT - COMMUNITY IS KEY

Culture Blocks center on community. Providers create programs shaped by resident feedback, ensuring activities reflect local needs and foster belonging for all. Culture Block Program providers develop their experiences based on feedback gathered from the community through ASC Community Gatherings. Proposals are only accepted if they clearly demonstrate how [community feedback](#) has shaped the planned activities and experiences.

#### WHO CAN APPLY

- Creatives individuals, Teaching artists
- Neighborhood organizations are welcome to apply.
- Religious organizations and institutions of higher education can apply. Ensure the programming reaches a broader audience (not only church membership or faculty/student body) and does not contain proselytizing religious content.
- Collaborative programming is welcomed. Organizations working together must identify a single organization to serve as the applicant.

#### FUNDING INFORMATION

- **Program Alignment:** Proposed programs must align with Culture Blocks' mission to provide accessible arts, science, and history experiences in Culture Blocks. [Community Feedback Themes](#), [Partners contact list by Block](#) and [Culture Blocks' designated Geographic Areas](#).
- **Funding Usage:** Funds must be used for program-related expenses, including artist fees, materials, marketing, and operational support directly related to Culture Blocks activities. Applicants must use only the [Official CB Creative Individuals Budget](#).
- **Community Engagement:** Programs must demonstrate a strong connection to community needs and actively engage residents.
- **Reporting & Evaluation:** Funded organizations must track participation data, assess program impact, and submit reports as required by ASC.
- **Compliance:** Organizations must adhere to ASC Culture Blocks' funding guidelines, deadlines, and contractual agreements.

#### RESTRICTIONS INELIGIBLE REQUESTS AND EXPENSES

Culture Blocks funding is specifically intended to support the direct expenses of creative individuals or non-profit organizations delivering programs. Before applying, please review the following restrictions:

- Programming occurring out the designated areas within the Block's will be not considered.
- Ongoing staff or faculty salaries within organizations.
- Operating expenses, including staff salaries, marketing budgets, annual product licenses, membership fees, and web hosting fees.
- Investments in technology or software.
- Capital expenditures, such as laptops, digital cameras, kilns, instruments, or other equipment purchases, are not eligible.
- Applicants cannot budget for lost revenue or income offsets.
- Programs involving PreK-12 children during school hours are not eligible.
- Programs designed as fundraisers are not eligible.
- Custom T-shirts for programs are ineligible.
- Food and beverages are generally not funded, except in specific cases—for example, snacks for after-school youth programs lasting more than 3 hours, or water for physical activities like dance. Please check with Culture Blocks staff before submitting your application.
- Mileage or mileage reimbursement is not covered.
- Costumes and props are typically not funded but may be considered on a case-by-case basis, up to 10% of the total program budget. Please check with Culture Blocks staff before submitting your application.
- Culture Blocks does not fund temporary lodging or airfare.

## **FUNDING RECIPIENT RESOURCES**

[Application Questions Creative Individuals](#)

[Official CB Creative Individuals Budget](#)

[Community Feedback Document](#)

[Facility Host Agreement](#)

[Geographic Areas](#)

[Marketing Guidelines](#)

[Marketing Toolkit](#)

[New Logo 2025](#)

[Partner Facilities Contact list](#)

[Photography Notice](#)

[Resource Guide](#)

[CULTURE BLOCKS REVIEW RUBRIC](#)

## **FACTORS CONSIDERED PROGRAMMING SELECTION**

The selection process is transparent and emphasizes the providers' ability to reflect and respond to resident input, reinforcing Culture Blocks' commitment to fostering community-driven cultural experiences.

- **Equitable Access:** Ensuring all Blocks have equal opportunities to experience arts, science, and history programs.
- **Facility Utilization:** Guaranteeing programming is presented at every public library and recreation center.
- **Audience Inclusivity:** Providing programming that caters to all age groups in each Block.
- **Program Diversity:** Offering a wide variety of experiences to reflect the unique interests and needs of each Block.
- **Population Alignment:** Adjusting the quantity of experiences to align with the population size in each Block for maximum engagement.

The review panel, consisting of representatives from Mecklenburg County, Public Library staff, key community advisory members, and artists, brings a wealth of expertise to the table. Panelists evaluate and score applications using the [CULTURE BLOCKS REVIEW RUBRIC](#) and selection criteria, including funding guidelines, ensuring a thorough and fair evaluation process. ASC staff calculates the average score of all panel evaluations to rank applications and ensure selected experiences are equitably distributed across all Blocks and partner facilities. This transparent process, guided by the panel's expertise and rubric, ensures a fair evaluation. The rankings are then used to identify funding recipients, with final decisions submitted for Board approval.

#### **SELECTION CRITERIA**

- **FEASIBILITY:** There is compelling evidence that the organization and/or creative individuals can carry out this program effectively. The applicant has provided sufficient detail for the panel to determine that the applicant can deliver this program to the public if their application is selected.
- **MISSION ALIGNMENT:** There is compelling evidence that this proposal aligns with the spirit of the funding opportunity, namely, providing engaging arts, science, and history programming to Charlotte-Mecklenburg residents.
- **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:** There is compelling evidence that this proposal aligns with the interest of the community the applicant seeks to engage in; the proposal specifically leverages the community feedback provided in the guidelines.
- **MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS:** There is compelling evidence that this applicant has a clear marketing plan to reach the community their program intends to serve; relevant marketing expenses are specified in the budget.