

General Principles and Criteria for Discretionary Art and Culture Grants

Concepts:

1. ***Discretionary Art and Culture Grants are a type of financial aid.***
2. ***Culture partnerships, activity aids, targeted aids, facility aids, support grants, event partnerships and small-scale grants are types of financial assistance.***
3. ***Professional artists mean people who create, perform, or interpret art as their primary or secondary job. Professional artists have education in their field of art or professional skills acquired in some other way. Professionally led art creation is goal-oriented creation of art products, the creators of which can be other professionals than professional artists. An assessment team evaluates whether or not a person is a professional artist or does professionally led art creation.***

General principles of discretionary art and culture grants that concern all types of aid

1. Aid is granted as culture partnerships, activity and targeted aids, event partnerships, support grants (*Valistustalorahasto* Grant), facility aids and small-scale culture event aids.
2. Culture grants primarily support professional art creation. Event partnerships support nationally significant and unique growth-oriented events that can include more than just art and culture.
3. Grants are discretionary.
4. The applicant must be a legal person or an adult.
5. The applicant must be from Oulu or the supported activity must take place in the Oulu region.
6. When grants are offered, the following matters are considered: the quality of the activity, deliberateness, share the applicant funds independently, the fulfilment of aids granted by the city the previous year, need of support, and how the activity supplements Oulu's culture and event offerings and supports the city's strategic goals, vitality and visibility.
7. The grantor reserves the right to evaluate the granted association's administration and economy if needed. The grantor may claim the granted aid back if the granted party does not follow the given instructions or provide the requested information by deadline.
8. Activity aid can be applied for all-year art and culture activities of registered associations or communities.
9. Targeted aid can be applied by registered associations and communities producing activities in Oulu, as well as work and activity groups. Event partnerships can be applied by businesses as well.

10. The application must primarily be admitted through the online service by deadline. Late applications will not be processed.
11. The applicant can be guided to apply for, or the application may be redirected to a more relevant type of aid, if possible within the application period.
12. If the applicant receives other support or aid from the city, such as free of charge facilities, these may be considered in the decision.
13. The city of Oulu only grants activity aid to associations or communities from one type of aid.
14. Aid recipients must announce public events organized with received aid in the city of Oulu's Event Calendar.
15. The city of Oulu must be mentioned in connection with the event or publication if the city participates as a funding party. [Oulu City Brand | Communications | City of Oulu.](#)
16. Art and culture activities organized with aid must consider accessibility and sustainability questions.

Criteria of discretionary art and culture grants that concern all types of aid

1. Targeted aid can be applied for a targeted event, activity, or project.
2. The applicant (legal person) must provide proof of their activity for one full activity year or season before the year they apply.
3. The applicant must self-finance a share or handle another methodical role in implementing the funded activity.
4. If the aid is used to pay salary or rewards, the aid recipient must handle other indirect expenses and legislated employer contributions.
5. Aid is not granted retroactively for past events, projects or costs.
6. The aid must only be utilized for the purpose it was granted for. If the use purpose changes, you must contact the grantor beforehand.
7. Grants are year-specific, meaning that the aid must be used within the year the aid was granted for. *Valistustalorahasto* Grants must be used within 12 months after the final decision.

Discretionary art and culture grants are not granted for:

1. Commercial activities. Event partnerships can be used to support profit-making businesses.
2. Investments or acquiring fixed or movable property.
3. Commercial publication or publishing operations.
4. Private individuals, when other than the representative of the applicant group (the applicant is the working group) and work support or facility support for professional artists.



5. To be distributed as grants and stipends.
6. Basic education, vocational education, thesis or doctoral thesis.
7. Recreational trips.
8. Alcohol costs.
9. Foodstuff, coffee service or food costs as the primary subject of the application.
10. Recreational hobby activities.
11. Village, local history society, or friendship association activity aids.
12. Services produced by the city.
13. Subjects where the city or some other party (such as wellbeing services county) already procures outsourced services.
14. Activities that contradict the city's values. Aid is not granted to unethical, racist or illegal activities.

Who the types of aid are directed to:

Culture partnership

Culture partnerships are meant for professionally operating communities in the culture field. Contracted activities reinforce the culture operator's long-term development work and cooperation with the city of Oulu. Culture partners form a wide cooperation network of specialists with a significant role in the city's art and culture activities. Partnerships are temporary.

Activity aid for associations and communities

Activity aid for associations and communities is meant for operational and fixed professional or professionally led art/community operations. The city of Oulu funds a reasonable share of activity costs, and the applicant must receive other systemic funding or personal profit. The activity must be accessible to the public and attendees.

Targeted aid

1. Targeted aid for professional activities

Targeted aid is meant for art and culture professionals, their working groups, associations, and communities. Aid can be granted to the production costs, materials, working costs and other justifiable costs of projects and events.

2. Targeted aid for hobby activities

Targeted aid for hobbyists is meant for associations and communities as well as working groups in Oulu producing non-profit art or culture events and other culture activities. Aid can be applied for by art and culture hobbyists.

Facility aid for professionals

Discretionary facility aid is meant for professional artists and working groups formed by them. The grant requires a work plan for the year the aid is used for and a rental contract. The aid's maximum amount is 2000 € annually. A facility is a space specifically meant for art creation separate from your home or yard. Facility aid will not be granted for facilities rented from oneself or for mutuals.

Event partnership

Event partnerships are meant for supporting internationally or nationally attractive and unique events organized in Oulu. The aid is discretionary. Businesses, associations and communities organizing events in Oulu may apply for event partnerships throughout the year.

Small-scale support for culture events

Small-scale support is meant for organizing culture events in Oulu. The amount of small-scale support for culture events can be 500 € at most. The events must be one-time open public events, and accessibility and sustainability questions must be considered.

***Valistustalorahasto* Grant**

Valistustalo's grants are meant for professional or professionally led art or production costs. The aid can be targeted to the initial production of artworks, such as scripting or other concept work. The aids also support the networking, performance, exhibition, and travel costs of individual artists or work groups.