



Arts  Access

**Uniting Miami
Through the Power
of Arts Education**

Central Dade Arts Alliance **RFP Guidelines**

Accepting Applications

Nov 3rd – Dec 22nd

artsaccessmiami.org/RFP

POWERED BY



**YOUNG
MUSICIANS
UNITE**

**THE MIAMI
FOUNDATION**



OVERVIEW – ARTS ACCESS MIAMI

Arts Access Miami is a countywide collective impact initiative that unites schools, nonprofits, funders, and civic leaders to build a sustainable, systems-based solution for arts education. By cultivating collective leadership, delivering community-centered programming, and ensuring impact-driven accountability, we guarantee that every child in Miami-Dade—regardless of zip code—has access to free, high- quality arts education.

This work is made possible through the leadership of The Miami Foundation and Young Musicians Unite, and with the support of Dan Lewis, The Frederick A. DeLuca Foundation, The Kirk Foundation, The ELMA Foundation, The Children’s Trust, the Ocean Reef Community Foundation, the City of Miami Gardens, and the City of Homestead.

Instead of competing for resources or duplicating efforts, AAM builds a coordinated ecosystem that aligns schools, nonprofits, funders, and government partners. Together, we are closing access gaps, scaling proven programs, and maximizing impact across the county.

WHAT WE LAUNCHED

Arts Access Miami began in 2020 with a bold idea: **what if we stopped working in silos and started working together?** In response to longstanding inequities in Miami Gardens, eight local organizations came together to form the North Dade Arts Alliance—a coordinated effort to ensure every student in the Carol City feeder pattern had access to consistent, high-quality arts education from K–12.

Within five years, participation in arts programming in that region grew from 27% to 81% across 27 schools. Building on this success, AAM launched the South Dade Arts Alliance in 2023, expanding into Homestead and surrounding communities. In just one year, participation jumped from 15% to 40% across 28 additional schools.

Today, AAM supports over 14,507 students across 70 schools every week. In addition to in-school instruction, the initiative creates meaningful engagement through community events, youth performances, and regional arts festivals.

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WHAT WE DISCOVERED

AAM revealed a clear truth: no single organization can close the access gap alone. Sustainable impact requires coordinated strategy, shared data, and long-term partnership. By bringing schools, nonprofits, and civic leaders to the same table, Arts Access Miami is building a stronger, more equitable arts ecosystem—one that ensures every child, regardless of zip code, has access to the creative opportunities they deserve.

WHERE WE ARE GOING

Our vision is clear: by the end of this decade, every child in Miami-Dade County, regardless of neighborhood, will have consistent access to free, high-quality music and arts education.

Arts Access Miami is entering its next phase: a strategic expansion into Central Dade as part of a five-region, countywide plan.

- **North Dade Expansion:** 2020
- **South Dade Expansion:** 2024
- **Central Dade Expansion:** 2026
- **West Dade Expansion:** 2027
- **East Dade Expansion:** 2028

The Central Dade Arts Alliance (CDAA) will launch in the 2026–2027 school year, and is looking to serve 3,500 students across key neighborhoods such as Brownsville, Allapattah, Liberty City, West Little River, and Gladeview, which includes the Northwestern, Central, and Jackson feeder patterns.

This next chapter focuses on partnering with organizations that deliver both music education and positive behavioral change. CDAA will invest in high-performing, scalable programs that align with school needs and provide measurable impact in and out of the classroom. Two feeder patterns will be identified by the end of January 2026 as the focus for year one of this expansion.

Funded organizations will be expected to:

- Deliver multidisciplinary music and arts education aligned with M-DCPS priorities.
- Support student growth in leadership, confidence, communication, and academic achievement.
- Embed Positive Behavioral Change (PBC) practices into their curriculum and teaching.
- Build strong partnerships with schools, families, and community stakeholders.



- Our goal is to grow a sustainable regional alliance that improves academic outcomes, increases youth engagement, and helps every student reach their full potential through the power of music and the arts.

Areas of need by Grade:

- **Elementary School:** Dance, Drumline, Instrumental Music, Ceramics Art
- **Middle School:** Dance, Drumline, Visual Art, Drama
- **High School:** Instrumental Music, Visual Art

PRIORITIES

Arts Access Miami will prioritize proposals that demonstrate the following:

- **Local Presence:** Organizations based in, or currently delivering programming within, Central Dade neighborhoods such as Brownsville, Allapattah, Liberty City, West Little River, and Gladeview.
- **Strong Leadership:** Clear, experienced leadership at both the executive and programmatic levels.
- **Commitment to Education & Access:** A demonstrated focus on increasing access to music and arts education for traditionally underserved youth through in-school and/or after-school programming.
- **Proven Impact:** A strong track record of reaching priority student populations and delivering measurable outcomes.
- **Operational Capacity:** The ability to implement and sustain high-quality programming, including staffing, scheduling, and infrastructure.
- **Collaborative Approach:** Evidence of active partnerships with schools, other nonprofits, and local stakeholders.
- **Evaluation & Learning:** A clear strategy for measuring progress, tracking student outcomes, and using data to improve program effectiveness.

ELIGIBILITY

Organizations applying for Arts Access Miami funding must meet the following requirements:

- **Nonprofit Status:** Organizations must be a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization or have a formal fiscal sponsorship agreement with a 501(c)(3) organization.
- **Miami-Dade Track Record:** Organization must have successfully implemented at least 3 years of programming in Miami-Dade County and demonstrated successful fulfillment of program outputs.



- **Youth-Focused Arts Programming:** Organizations must provide arts or music education programs designed for students in Pre-K through 12th grade. Programming may take place during or after the school day but must be active during the 2026–2027 academic year. Organizations do not need to serve all grade levels but must clearly define their student age range and delivery model.
- **Direct Service Alignment:** Eligible organizations must have a core mission of providing direct, hands-on music or arts education to youth within Miami-Dade County Public Schools. Organizations considered Supplemental—those whose focus extends beyond arts education or does not include direct service within the public school system—are not eligible.
- **School Partnerships:** Organizations must currently provide programming in M-DCPS schools or have a confirmed plan to establish partnerships within one academic year.
- **Organizational Capacity:** Organizations must employ at least two full-time staff members and have the infrastructure required to deliver consistent, high-quality programming.
- **Financial Stability:** Organizations should demonstrate fiscal health through recent budgets or funding summaries and must provide a 50% funding match for the proposed program (excluding in-kind support).

CONTRACTUAL EXPECTATIONS

All grantees selected through this funding opportunity are required to fully participate in the Arts Access Miami Central Dade Alliance and meet the following expectations:

Alliance Participation: Organizations must actively participate in the Central Dade Arts Alliance, a collaborative cohort focused on shared learning, regional coordination, and collective impact.

Grantees are expected to attend all required meetings and convenings, including:

- **Alliance Orientation** (1 per year)
- **Leadership Circle Meetings** (Interlochen Retreat + 3x meetings during the year)
- **Program Director Meetings** (2x per year)
- **Principal Cohort Meetings** (2x per year)
- **Marketing Director Meetings** (2x per year)
- **Teaching Artist Meetings** (2x per year; a program lead must oversee teaching artist attendance)
- **Youth Music Festival Planning Meetings** (2–3x per year)
- **Data Meetings & Trainings** (4–8x per year)



PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

- Deliver programming as outlined in the grant proposal, aligned with the academic calendar and the goals of the Central Dade Alliance.
- Maintain an active **Affiliation Agreement** with Miami-Dade County Public Schools.
- Ensure all teaching artists working with students are **Level 2 background-checked** or otherwise certified by M-DCPS.
- Host **at least one Fall and one Spring culminating event** (e.g., student concert, showcase, or exhibition).
- Participate in the annual **Central Dade Youth Music Festival** as part of the alliance-wide community engagement strategy.

DATA & EVALUATION

Commitment to Evaluation:

Organization must have a plan to track and share program impact using tools such as attendance records, student assessments, surveys, or other evaluation methods.

- Participate in **collective impact evaluation** efforts, including:
 - Use of **Hello Insight** to collect Positive Behavioral Change data.
 - Submission of **school site data** to help track student impact and reach.
 - Completion of baseline and end-of-year assessments in alignment with alliance evaluation goals.
 - Cooperate with **random school site** visits conducted by Arts Access Miami staff to assess program alignment with grant expectations.

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

- Use only **Arts Access Miami-approved marketing materials** for campaign promotions. While written content may be adapted for tone and audience, the core message must remain intact.
- **Social Media:** Comply with requests for coordinated posts on designated dates. One collaborative post per year will be initiated by Arts Access Miami.
- **Email Marketing:** If requested, distribute event materials through your organization's email channels using approved assets and strategy guidance.
- **Metrics Reporting:** Submit quarterly digital marketing data including email performance, social media metrics, and video analytics, if applicable.



FUNDING TERMS

- Grants are for the **2026–2027 academic year**, with a required **50% match** to the program budget (excluding in-kind donations).
- Organizations must **reapply annually** for continued funding. New organizations may apply each year.

COMPLIANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY

Failure to meet the expectations outlined in this funding opportunity may result in a reduction or loss of grant funding. This includes but is not limited to:

- Incomplete or delayed program delivery.
- Absence from required meetings or convenings without a substitute.
- Failure to submit required evaluation data or marketing reports.
- Poor performance or unresolved issues identified during school site visits.

ADDITIONAL EXPECTATIONS

- **School and Community Alignment:** Programs must be accessible to students across Central Dade communities, with special emphasis on reaching schools and neighborhoods with limited access to consistent arts education.
- **Collective Participation:** Selected organizations are expected to participate fully in the collaborative work of the Alliance, including cohort meetings, joint planning sessions, and shared learning opportunities.
- **Shared Systems:** Grantees must maintain an up-to-date profile on the artlook® Miami map and utilize shared platforms as directed to support regional coordination, transparency, and public visibility.
- **Scheduling Reliability:** Organizations must demonstrate the ability to maintain consistent schedules (e.g., weekly classes, semester-long residencies) that align with school calendars and student needs.
- **Safety Compliance:** All staff working directly with youth must comply with background check requirements, including Level 2 screening or equivalent M-DCPS certification.
- **Qualified Instruction:** Teaching artists must have relevant training or experience in educational and youth arts settings, with the capacity to deliver high-quality, culturally relevant instruction.
- **Commitment to Evaluation:** Organizations must track and report program outcomes using tools such as attendance logs, student assessments, pre/post surveys, or other approved evaluation methods.



EXPECTED OUTPUTS (2026–2027)

All grantees are expected to contribute toward the following collective goals for the Central Dade Arts Alliance during the 2026–2027 academic year:

- 3 Cities
- 3,500 Students
- Partner Organizations (Exact number to be confirmed; estimated 5–10)
- Cross-Sector Collective Impact Framework
- Cohort of Central Dade Principals
- Active Collaboration with Local PTSA and Community Stakeholders
- Central Dade Youth Arts Festival
- Representation in the Interlochen Center for the Arts Learning Exchange

GRANT SIZE & DURATION

Grant amounts will vary based on the scope of proposed activities and the organization's capacity to deliver high-quality programming. Awards are for the 2026–2027 academic school year. All grantees must reapply annually for continued funding. New organizations are welcome to apply each year. Grants will range from \$35,000-\$200,000.

APPLICATION PROCESS & TIMELINE

Applicants must submit their proposal online via Submittable: www.artsaccessmiami.org/rfp
Each organization may submit only one proposal.

TIMELINE:

2025

- November 3, 2025 RFP opens for submissions, information sessions, and office hours
- November 10, 2025 Public Webinar (registration required) - 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm
- November 11, 2025 Office Hours by Appointment
- November 14, 2025 Office Hours by Appointment
- December 22, 2025 Deadline to Apply

2026

- March, 2026 Announcement of award recipients
- April, 2026 Program kick-off celebration with schools and organizations
- April, 2026 Organizations meet with Schools and do walkthroughs and recruitment



- May, 2026 Central Music Alliance Orientation
- June, 2026 Partner organization training
- August, 2026 Program launch across Central feeder pattern

INFORMATION SESSIONS & OFFICE HOURS

Applicants are invited to join us to learn more about the program and get their questions answered. You can register by clicking on the below links or on The Arts Access Miami website.

November 10, 2025 Office Hours by Appointment - 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm

November 14, 2025 Office Hours by Appointment - 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm

For more information visit <https://www.artsaccessmiami.org/rfp>

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is Arts Access Miami?

Arts Access Miami (AAM) is a countywide collective impact initiative that unites schools, nonprofits, funders, and civic leaders to build a sustainable, systems-based solution for arts education. By cultivating collective leadership, delivering community-centered programming, and ensuring impact-driven accountability, we work together to ensure every child in Miami-Dade, regardless of their zip code, has access to free, high- quality arts education.

Eligibility

2. Can individuals apply?

No. Only nonprofit organizations with 501(c)(3) status, or a formal fiscal sponsorship agreement with a 501(c)(3) organization, and a core mission in music and/or arts education are eligible to apply.

3. Do direct impact and supplemental impact organizations qualify?

Only direct impact organizations delivering hands-on arts or music education in Miami-Dade County Public Schools as their core mission are eligible. Supplemental organizations (those focused primarily on youth development without direct in-school programming) are not eligible for this funding opportunity.



4. My organization is new or does not have full-time staff. Can we apply?

To be eligible, organizations must employ at least two full-time staff members and demonstrate the infrastructure required to deliver consistent, high-quality programming. New organizations that meet these requirements are welcome to apply.

5. My organization only has an operating budget of \$X. Can we still apply?

There is no minimum budget requirement. However, applicants must demonstrate financial stability and provide a 50% cash match for the proposed program budget (in-kind support is not eligible toward the match).

About the Central Dade Alliance

6. How is the Central Dade Arts Alliance (CDAA) different from the North and South Dade Alliances?

The CDAA builds on the success of the North Dade (2020) and South Dade (2024) Alliances by expanding into a new geographic region. While all share the same mission, each alliance is tailored to the specific needs, schools, and communities it serves. The Central Dade Arts Alliance is looking to serve 3,500 students across key neighborhoods such as Brownsville, Allapattah, Liberty City, West Little River, and Gladeview, which includes the Northwestern, Central, and Jackson feeder patterns.

Funding & Program Design

7. Is funding one-year or multi-year?

Grants are awarded for a one-year period aligned with the 2026–2027 school year. Organizations must reapply annually for continued funding. Multi-year partnerships may be considered based on performance and alignment with initiative goals.

8. Who reviews applications and selects grantees?

A review committee (including representatives from The Miami Foundation, Arts Access Miami leadership, and community leaders) evaluates proposals based on alignment with initiative goals, organizational capacity, community relevance, and potential for impact.

9. What is the Arts Access Miami Fund?

The Arts Access Miami Fund is a pooled philanthropic fund that supports music and arts education initiatives across Miami-Dade County. It is backed by a coalition of donors and managed by Young Musicians Unite, fiscally sponsored by The Miami Foundation.



10. What types of programs are eligible for funding?

Eligible programs must provide direct, hands-on arts or music education to students in grades K–12 within Miami-Dade County Public Schools. Programming may occur during or after the school day and must be aligned with the academic calendar.

11. My organization is not primarily a music institution. Can we apply?

Yes. While this funding cycle focuses on music education, multidisciplinary programs (e.g., music + dance, theatre, or visual arts) will be considered if they align with AAM’s mission and M-DCPS priorities.

12. Can I request funding for capital projects?

No. Funding must be used for direct program delivery, including instruction, staffing, supplies, and student support. Capital projects (construction, renovations, or unrelated equipment purchases) are not eligible.

13. Can my organization submit multiple applications?

No. Each organization may submit only one application for this funding cycle. If your organization operates multiple programs, please include them in a single, comprehensive Proposal.

14. If my organization received funding from The Miami Foundation, North Dade Alliance, or South Dade Alliance in the past, can we apply?

Yes, as long as you remain in good standing and meet all eligibility requirements outlined in this RFP.

Partnerships & Geography

15. Are schools already selected, or should we bring our own partnerships?

Arts Access Miami has identified a list of Central Dade schools that are part of this initiative. Applicants should already be working in one or more of these schools (or have a clear plan to establish partnerships) during the 2026–2027 school year. Support may be available to facilitate introductions where appropriate.

16. What is the expected duration or schedule of programming?

Programs must align with the 2026–2027 academic year and follow a consistent weekly schedule (e.g., semester-long residencies or year-round instruction). Proposals should clearly outline frequency, duration, and structure of engagement.



Reporting & Accountability

17. What are the reporting requirements if we are awarded?

Grantees must participate in AAM's collective evaluation and reporting process, including:

Pre-Grant Requirements

- Program work plan, staffing list, and school partnership confirmations prior to launch.
- Pre report
- Budget template
- Scorecard

Mid-Year Reporting

- Attendance data, student engagement updates, preliminary outcomes, and any adjustments.
- Midterm report report
- Budget template
- Student rosters
- Scorecard

End-of-Year Reporting

- Program highlights, student impact data, final assessments, media, and lessons learned.
- End of the year report
- Budget template
- Student rosters
- Scorecard

Ongoing Expectations

- Track student attendance and participation throughout the year.
- Complete baseline and end-of-year student assessments.
- Participate in Hello Insight surveys to measure positive youth development outcomes.
- Submit quarterly program and marketing reports, including digital metrics.
- Cooperate with site visits conducted by AAM staff to assess program alignment.



Meeting & Convening Requirements

- Orientation (1x per year)
- Leadership Circle Meetings (Interlochen Retreat + 3x per year)
- Program Director Meetings (2x per year)
- Principal Cohort Meetings (2x per year)
- Marketing Meetings (2x per year)
- Teaching Artist Meetings (2x per year; program lead required)
- Youth Music Festival Planning Meetings (2–3x per year)
- Data Meetings & Trainings (4–8x per year)

These reporting and participation requirements are designed to support shared learning, accountability, and continuous improvement across the Alliance.

Contact

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