

Walker Arts Grant

A program of the Alaska Arts and Culture Foundation
Administered by the Alaska State Council on the Arts

About the Program

The **Helen Walker Performing Arts Fund Grant** is named for Helen A. Walker, a major arts advocate in the state until her death in 1996. Ms. Walker was a recipient of the Governor's Award for the Arts in 1984, a founder of the Fairbanks Arts Association and the Sitka Summer Music Festival, as well as Arts Alaska. She served as a board member for numerous cultural groups, including the Alaska Repertory Theater, the Fairbanks Library Foundation, the University of Alaska's KUAC Advisory Board, and Fairbanks Commissions for Urban Beautification, Parks and Recreation, and the Library.

Arts Alaska provided professional management services for the state's performing arts tours and other programs from 1975 to 1988. Since that time, the Arts Alaska Endowment Fund awarded over \$100,000 to qualifying sponsors/presenters for performing arts projects in small Alaskan communities.

In 2006, the Arts Alaska Board of Directors voted to dissolve the organization and invest the funds through the Alaska Arts and Culture Foundation. Each year, interest from this fund will provide grants to support the performing arts in Alaska.

How to Apply

The Walker Performing Arts Grant is administered by the Alaska State Council on the Arts and funded through the Alaska Arts and Culture Foundation. Applications are available online at www.eed.state.ak.us/aksca or by request.

Who May Apply

- Alaska nonprofit organizations with 501c3 status, in business for at least three years;
- Units of government, tribal entities and schools if the project is not part of school curriculum or for credit;
- Each organization is limited to one grant per state fiscal year (July 1-June 30)

Grant Amounts

Any amount up to \$5,000 may be requested. However, the average grant amount will be between \$500 and \$1,000. Funding will be based on the quality of the project and the cash/inkind match provided by the applicant.

Deadline

Application deadlines are quarterly: June 1, September 1, December 1 and March 1. All projects must begin the month following the application deadline (example: July for the June 1 deadline). We encourage applying well ahead of the event. US Mail or emailed applications only. See submission instructions at end of application. Grant awards will be announced at the end of the month of application.

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Eligible Projects

1. Presenting/touring presentations including: theater, dance, opera/musical theater, music, performances for young audiences, literary readings/storytelling, folk & traditional arts, and media arts. Funds can be used for any expenses directly related to the project.
2. Presentations specifically designed to attract new audiences, reach underserved populations (geographic, economic or individuals with disabilities) or underserved performing arts disciplines.
3. Attendance at workshops, conferences and other professional development opportunities for performing arts organizations volunteer and/or paid staff.

This grant program will not fund:

- Free community performances
- Funds to support a performing arts company's regular scheduled season
- Capital expenditures

Statewide Tour Support of Alaska productions

If a statewide tour is proposed with many different community presenters, it is strongly advised that a letter of intent be submitted to the Walker Performing Arts Fund. The letter should include: list of community presenters; cost of travel; activities within each community and dates of the tour. The letter may originate with the presenter or with the producing company after agreements have been reached with the community presenters. The letter should be submitted at least 90 days prior to the tour. A conversation with Arts Council staff is also highly recommended.

Review Criteria for all grants

- 1) Extent to which community (geographic or cultural) lacks access to the arts;
- 2) The artistic quality of the proposed project;
- 3) Impact of the project on the organization and/or the community;
- 4) Education opportunities and outreach to the community;
- 5) Financial health of applicant organization.

If you are not sure if your organization qualifies for this program, please contact us prior to completing an application.

Charlotte Fox, Executive Director

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