

# Municipal Arts & Culture Matching Grant Program

## A partnership between Municipal Governments and Rasmuson Foundation

**Program Description.** The *Municipal Arts and Culture Matching Grant Program* is a partnership between Rasmuson Foundation and Alaska municipalities in cooperation with the Alaska Municipal League. It is designed to fund arts and culture organizations whose local revenue sources are disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Municipal allocations of Direct Municipal Relief (a category of CARES Act funds) to local arts and culture organizations are matched by Rasmuson Foundation.

**Program Need.** Government mandates in response to the COVID-19 pandemic have caused cancellation of performances, festivals and traditional fundraising activities that local arts and culture organizations depend on for revenue. Additionally, loss of personal income has resulted in less revenue from memberships and donations. Through allocation of CARES Act funds, municipal governments can help sustain arts and culture infrastructure.

**Eligibility.** The matching grant program is intended to support arts and cultural organizations whose revenue sources have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Municipalities may set their own criteria for allocation of Direct Municipal Relief funds, however, to receive *Municipal Arts & Culture Matching funds*, beneficiaries should be able to demonstrate real and projected revenue decline due to COVID-19 mandates. It is the responsibility of the municipality to ensure compliance with US Treasury guidelines for use of CARES Act funds.

Additionally, beneficiaries must:

- have been a viable nonprofit entity within the municipality on March 1, 2020; and
- have a mission to advance, support, educate or celebrate arts and culture.

Examples of qualifying entities include arts and culture camps, arts councils, dance organizations, theatre and performing arts organizations; symphonies, choral groups and other music entities; language and literary arts organizations; museums and arts-focused festivals and workshops.

**Municipal Guidelines.** Rasmuson Foundation will match a municipality's allocation of CARES Act funds to arts and culture organizations. The match ratio is 1:1 up to \$20,000 to any entity and 1:2 for allocated municipal funds in excess of \$20,000 to that entity.

Example: Municipality allocates \$40,000 of Direct Municipal Relief funds to the local theatre organization. Rasmuson Foundation will match \$20,000 @ 1:1 and remaining \$20,000 @ 1:2 (\$20,000 + \$10,000 = \$30,000). The theatre organization will receive a \$70,000 *Municipal Arts and Culture Matching Grant* (\$40,000 municipal + \$30,000 Rasmuson Foundation).

Rasmuson Foundation limits the match to \$50,000 per municipality and \$250,000 statewide.

The municipal allocation of CARES Act funds may not replace or supplant historical or budgeted municipal support.

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**How to Apply.** A municipality may administer the *Municipal Arts and Culture Matching Grant Program* directly or delegate it to a local organization tasked with administering municipal CARES Act funds. After making its allocation determinations, an authorized representative of the municipality applies to Rasmuson Foundation using the designated form. Rasmuson Foundation distributes funds to the municipality. The municipality then distributes the total grant award (CARES Act funds + Rasmuson funds) to arts and culture organizations within their community.

**Use of Funds.** *Municipal Arts and Culture Matching Grant* funds may be used for any legitimate operating or program expense incurred by the organization from March 1 through December 15, 2020 in accordance with CARES Act funding guidelines. Entities that have received funds through another CARES Act program such as PPP or EIDL are eligible for funding through the Direct Municipal Relief providing the use of funds does not duplicate or supplant those other funds.

**Reporting.** The municipality may require benefitted entities to report the use or expenditure of *Municipal Arts & Culture Matching* funds in accordance with CARES Act funding guidelines. The municipality shall verify to Rasmuson Foundation distribution program funds to organizations within 30 days of receipt of Rasmuson funds.