



Cultural Grant Program Guidelines

250Lex Cultural Grants Guidelines

The 250Lex Cultural Grants Program will support Fayette County residents and organizations in creating or enhancing programming around the celebration of Lexington's 250th anniversary. Grants provided by the 250Lex commission will assist individuals or organizations to produce high quality, meaningful programming in 2025 related to Lexington's anniversary and the goals of the 250Lex Commission, including:

- Increasing tourism
- Broadening, deepening, and diversifying participation and engagement amongst residents and visitors
- Facilitating deeper knowledge and appreciation of Lexington's past and potential for the future
- Showcasing Lexington's unique stories, businesses, people, cultural, and social organizations
- Creating and/or enhancing meaningful events that will continue beyond 2025

Who is eligible to apply for grant funds?

Fayette County residents and organizations, including galleries, libraries, archives, museums, arts and cultural groups, non-profits, and faith-based groups. Funds will **not** be awarded to for-profit businesses. Only one application per organization or individual will be accepted.

Grant Ranges and Types

Grant awards will range from \$5,000-\$20,000. Grantees will be paid via invoice, upon completion of grant agreements. 20% of all grant awards will be withheld until completion of grant project and will be paid when final reporting is received.

For individuals requesting \$10,000 or more in grant funds, a fiscal agent/sponsor or partnering organization is required. A fiscal agent is a non-profit organization that attends to financial and administrative issues on behalf of the applicant.

Grant projects may include:

- Enhancements for existing programming to include 250Lex content. For example: a museum could apply for funds to enhance their annual summer programming
- Creation of new programming related to 250Lex. For example: an existing organization may apply to create a new public history fair for young adults, or a performing arts series
- Creation or enhancement of public art
- Creation or enhancement of public programming
- Reduction, or elimination, of entrance fees for programming pertaining to 250Lex themes
- Increasing access to publicly held history-related materials



Funds may **not** be used for:

- Brick and mortar historic preservation projects
- Purchasing or refurbishing collection materials (artifact or archival)
- State historical markers
- Building maintenance, utilities, grounds keeping, insurance costs, interest or debt payments, or other expenses that fall under an organization's day-to-day operations
- Fundraising events

How to Apply

Please fill out the following grant application. Your application should show that *your project aligns with the goals and expectations of the 250Lex Commission and will add to the city-wide celebration of Lexington's 250th anniversary.*

As you plan your project and write the grant, think about and include information on these topics as you respond to the application questions:

- How will this project improve our organization's outreach or program quality?
- Will this project provide a lasting benefit to the community beyond 2025?
- How will the public benefit from this project?
- How does this project align with the goals of 250LEX?
- How does this project showcase Lexington's history and potential for the future?
- How will this project be presented to ensure that it is accessible to diverse audiences?
- How will the project be promoted?
- How does this project demonstrate a measurable impact on our organization and Lexington?
- What is our experience and capacity for successfully planning and implementing this project?

Be sure to submit all required supplemental materials. Each uploaded file should be named with the name of the applicant and the purpose of the file. For example: *MSmith Work Sample* or *MSmith Letter of Recommendation*.

Applications must be received by **Wednesday, April 24, 2024, at 11:59 pm**. Incomplete applications or applications received after the deadline will not be considered. Applicants will be notified of their status by the end of May, 2024. Following notification, grant managers will receive a grant agreement with additional information about funding requirements, deadlines, and final reporting.

For questions regarding your grant application, please contact Dr. Mandy Higgins at mandy.higgins@lexhistory.org or Heather Lyons hlyons@lexingtonky.gov.