

**Purpose**

The purpose of the Creative District Development Grant is to provide funds to the Creative Districts of Nebraska. This program is designed for projects that focus on significant cultural tourism and economic development projects. Projects can fall into the following categories:

- **Construction:** Building, renovation, and/or expansion of existing buildings
- **Marketing:** Promotion of the district; this may include the district's website, branding, and marketing. Can also include improved signage and wayfinding for the district.
- **Operational Support:** Organizational support for the management and operations of the district (only for designated District Administrator organizations in certified Creative Districts)
- **Physical Enhancements:** Enhancements to the Creative District to make it more accessible, attractive, cohesive-looking, and safe for visitors
- **Planning:** In-depth strategic planning and/or planning related to the development or rehabilitation of eligible projects such as engineering or technical studies.
- **Programming:** High quality arts programming that will attract a significant number of visitors to the Creative District

**Eligibility Information**

Nonprofit or local government agency that is the District Administrator for the certified Creative District. All certified districts will receive instructions and an access code to use when applying in the online grant system.

The applicant must:

- Have a minimum \$10,000 annual operating budget.
- Be an incorporated nonprofit organization, physically located in the State of Nebraska, with articles of incorporation current and on file in the Nebraska Secretary of State's office; or a subdivision of government.
- Have a Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN).
- Have a Federal Unique Entity Identifier Number (UEI).
- Have received federal tax-exempt status. Divisions of government must submit a copy of the sales tax exemption certificate from the State Department of Revenue.
- Priority will be given to organizations in districts that have not received a Creative District Development Grant in the past.

For more clarification, contact NAC staff at [nac.grants@nebraska.gov](mailto:nac.grants@nebraska.gov). NAC reserves the right to verify all eligibility requirements.

**How to Apply**

Applicants must apply through NAC's online grant system, which can be accessed by following [www.artsCouncil.nebraska.gov/grants/](http://www.artsCouncil.nebraska.gov/grants/). If you have not received NAC funding in the last two years, you will need to create an account. If you have any questions about setting up your account, please contact NAC by email at [nac.grants@nebraska.gov](mailto:nac.grants@nebraska.gov).



**Timeline:**

Applications are due November 1 for projects that start on or after March 1<sup>st</sup> of the following year.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Item</b>
November 1 <sup>st</sup>	Creative District Development Applications are due in the online grant system.
January 1 <sup>st</sup> of the following year	Review panel will be held
March 1 <sup>st</sup>	Projects must start on or after this date

**Grant Amounts and Period of Support**

The maximum grant request is \$100,000. The grant request does not require a cash match. Grant funds must be expended within two years after the funds are awarded.

For examples of how grant funds can be used, please visit [our website](#).

**Project Narrative**

**Visitor Impact Narrative**

Describe the anticipated impact on tourism and visitor attraction. Likelihood of the project enhancing or creating an attraction that would increase the potential of visitors to the community where the project is located from inside and outside the state.

*Tip: Describe the unique and/or specific services or function to be provided as a result of project completion otherwise not available, specifically related to attracting visitors and/or tourists into the area.*

**Economic Impact**

What impact will the project have on new jobs being created and/or current jobs being sustained? What other economic benefits will be realized due to this project, such as leveraged private and public funding, tax credits, tax increment financing (TIF), etc.?

*Tip: Describe the number and type of jobs that will be created or supported. If any of the positions created are in a specialty field, please include this information. Describe what other funding sources will be utilized to accomplish this project.*

**Arts Impact**

Describe the impact on the arts and creative industries in the community. Does the project support or create new creative businesses? What artists are involved in the project, and what are their qualifications?

*Tip: Describe how this project will support the arts and creativity. Explain why the artists selected are important to the community.*

**Retention Impact**



Provide data and/or an explanation of how the proposed project shall retain existing residents. Discuss the likelihood of the project retaining existing residents in the community where the project is located. Include what activities you are doing to develop, sustain, and foster community connections. Discuss how the project enhances the potential for economic growth in a manner that will sustain the quality of life and promote long-term economic development.

*Tips: Describe how the proposed project fulfills a known local need, based on a formal or informal assessment of current conditions.*

### **New Resident Impact Narrative**

Describe the anticipated impact on new residents. Likelihood of the project attracting new residents to the community where the project is located.

*Tips: Describe the unique and/or specific services or functions to be provided as a result of project completion otherwise not available, specifically related to attracting new residents, include what services or functions would become available should the project be completed.*

### **Readiness and Local Public Support**

Describe and provide evidence of local public support. The fiscal, economic, and operational capacity to finance and manage the project and ability of the applicant to proceed and implement its plan.

*Tips: Identify who will handle the day-to-day operation and management of the project, project roles, and established or potential partnerships, as well as any volunteer efforts. Include a summary and description of past and future projects and activities carried out at the local level and identify partnerships and volunteer efforts. Provide a summary or other evidence of public support in the form of public meetings, design charrettes, fundraising campaigns, etc.*

*Tips: Describe project viability, leverage, and financial resources, as well as efforts to secure other monies from other state, federal, foundation, business, or individual sources if needed.*

### **Project Planning Narrative**

Describe and provide evidence of planning efforts in support of the project. Projects with completed technical assistance and feasibility studies shall be preferred to those with no prior planning. Who was involved in the planning process? Explain any community engagement efforts that were done.

*Tips: Describe the level of design or conceptualization of the project, who was involved, historical preservation consideration (where appropriate), etc. Include a planning process timetable that would further illustrate the planning process, as well as a timeline for project implementation, including securing matching funds. Provide any information about initial planning, stakeholder and/or public meetings, as well as a brief summary of comprehensive planning conducted at the project area or community level.*

### **Required Materials**



- Artists bios for the artists involved in the project.
- Letters of support that are specific to the projects in this grant. You must submit one, but no more than three.
- A technical assistance or feasibility review if the district or community has one.
- CD Development Budget Template that is provided as part of the application.

**Review Criteria**

Panelists review NCD Development Grants based on the following weighted criteria on a 100-point scale.

Visitor Impact (up to 20 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will the projects described in the application impact tourism and visitor attraction?</li> <li>• Will the projects increase the number of visitors to the district?</li> <li>• Will the projects described enhance the visitor experience to the district?</li> </ul>
Economic Impact (up to 20 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will the projects described in the application create jobs in the district?</li> <li>• Will the projects described in the application sustain jobs that already exist in the district?</li> <li>• Is the applicant leveraging other economic benefits in order to complete the projects?</li> </ul>
Arts Impact (up to 20 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The arts have a clear impact on the projects included in the application.</li> <li>• The projects described clearly support creative industries in the district or create new ones.</li> <li>• Any artists identified are qualified and have an impact on the community.</li> </ul>
Retention Impact (up to 10 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do the projects described in the application keep exiting residents in the community?</li> <li>• Is the district developing activities that will keep their residents connected?</li> <li>• Do the projects described improve the quality of life for residents?</li> </ul>
New Resident Impact (up to 10 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will the projects described in the application attract new residents to the district?</li> <li>• Do the projects described provide a specific service or function to new residents?</li> <li>• As an outcome of the project, will new services be available to new residents?</li> </ul>
Readiness and Local Public Support (up to 10 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is clear who will handle the day-to-day operation and management of the project?</li> <li>• Do the projects in the application have local public support that is evidenced by public meetings, design charrettes, fundraising campaigns, etc.?</li> <li>• Are the letters of support from various partners and specific to this project?</li> </ul>
Project and Planning (up to 10 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is the planning process comprehensive?</li> <li>• Is it clear who was involved in the planning process?</li> <li>• Is the budget clear and realistic?</li> <li>• Will the applicant be able to complete the project(s) within the timeframe identified?</li> </ul>



### **Special Policies – Historic Properties**

For the purposes of the Development Grant, NAC observes the standard followed by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO): a property may be considered historic if it is 50 years old or older; and are either already listed or are potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Where a Development Grant application involves a historic building or property, special policies apply. For any application for a grant of assistance to assist in the preservation, restoration, conversion, rehabilitation, or reuse of a historic building or district, the Applicant is required to submit verification of the evaluation and determination by the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). The SHPO shall evaluate the work as proposed in the application to determine whether it conforms to the United States Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, such determination is formalized on the SHPO Compliance Form (the form is linked in the application). Applicant must include this form, and any attachments thereof to notify DED of the determination. Subsequent to SHPO's determination, if the work does not conform to such standards, the project is not eligible for state aid.

### **Final Reporting**

Annual reports will be required for all applications.