

CULTURAL SPACES CAPITAL SUPPORT FUND

GO BOND SUPPORT FOR BALTIMORE CITY CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS
FY 2026 & 2027



Overview

- The City of Baltimore provides limited support to cultural organizations each fiscal year (FY) through the capital budget.
- Every two years, organizations can apply for General Obligation (G.O.) bonds for eligible capital improvements to their facilities.
- Funds are intended to provide capital support for organizations that promote arts and culture in Baltimore City and contribute to the City's unique identity, ensuring opportunities to experience arts and culture
- In previous years, funds have supported:
 - improvements to building systems, such as elevators and roofs
 - improvements to public access, particularly for those with limited mobility
 - building expansions or renovations



Eligible Applicants

- The process is open to museums, galleries, and theaters, as well as all arts or cultural venues within designated arts and entertainment districts.
- Any organization that wishes to apply must be a registered non-profit in good standing with the State Department of Assessment and Taxation.
- Organizations must have a physical location in Baltimore City.
- Must own the facility or have a minimum of a fifteen-year lease with responsibility for capital improvements.
- The facility must be open to the general public.



Sample Organizations

- American Visionary Art Museum
- B & O Railroad Museum
- Baltimore Museum of Art
- Baltimore Streetcar Museum
- Baltimore Symphony Orchestra
- Black Arts District Sanna Center
- Center Stage
- Creative Alliance
- Eubie Blake Center
- Everyman Theater
- Fells Point Corner Theater
- Le Mondo
- Lumina Theater
- Maryland Art Place
- Maryland Science Center
- Mt. Clare Museum House
- National Aquarium
- National Great Blacks in Wax Museum
- Peale Center
- Port Discovery
- Reginald F. Lewis Museum
- Star-Spangled Banner Flag House
- Strand Theater
- The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore
- The Modell Lyric
- The Walters Art Museum



Available Funding

- \$1 million available per fiscal year for FY26 and FY27
- FY26 starts July 1, 2025 and FY27 starts July 1, 2026
- Awards will typically be between \$50,000-\$100,000 per project
- Requests should not exceed \$200,000
- Projects may be funded at lower levels than requested



Cultural Organization Application Process

<u>Timeframe</u>	<u>Activity</u>
February 18, 2025	Application period opens
March 6 at 10am March 18 at 2pm	Information Sessions
April 30, 2025	Applications Due
May 2025	Inter-agency review panel reviews applications
June 23, 2025	Organizations notified of award
July 1, 2025	FY26 funds available for selected projects
July 1, 2026	FY27 funds available for selected projects



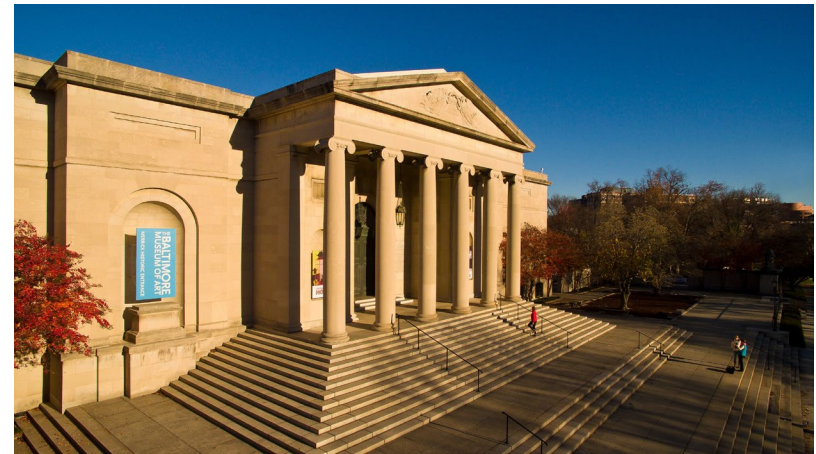
Eligible Use of Funds

- Funding can be used to fund a variety of capital projects, such as:
 - Building systems: roof, HVAC, windows, etc.
 - Interior renovation
 - Exterior renovation
 - Fire protection
 - ADA improvements
- Projects should have a minimum 15-year service life.



Sample Projects

- Creative Alliance - Education Center Renovation
- Maryland Zoo - Parking Lot Enhancements
- Maryland Science Center - Kids Room Improvements
- National Great Blacks in Wax Museum - ADA/Accessibility Improvements
- Baltimore Museum of Art - Fire Suppression System and Related Improvements



Ineligible Use of Funds

- Projects or improvements costing less than \$50,000
- Vehicular equipment
- Repair or maintenance items costing less than \$100,000 or which are of an emergency nature
- Salaries other than those which are properly capitalized as part of the project cost
- Operating Support
- Relocation
- Repayment of existing loans or liens
- Projects that support specific religious or other affiliations, and/or that support political actions, causes, advocacy, or parties



Planning Commission Evaluation Criteria

- Necessary to protect public health and safety
- City funding will leverage other fund sources
- Capital investment will result in operating savings
- Fulfills a state or federal mandate
- Necessary to implement a priority housing or economic development project
- Promotes private-public partnerships
- Implements the City's Comprehensive Master Plan, area master plans and/or agency/institution's master plan
- Implements the City's Sustainability Plan
- Agency has prioritized the project
- Promotes equity



Additional Considerations

- City-owned property
- Historic property
- Feasibility of project
- Organizational capacity
- Programs for Baltimore City Public School students
- Timely expenditure of previous General Obligation bonds



Full applications due April 30, 2025

- Sections:
 - Contact Information
 - Primary and secondary person's name, title, email, and phone number
 - Attach a copy of your certificate of good standing with the State Department of Assessment and Taxation.
 - Project Information
 - Name and address
 - Description - details about the proposed project, current challenges and consequences, and benefits of proposed project
 - Project Schedule
 - Start and completion dates for design, bids, and construction



Application (continued)

- Cost Estimates
 - Design cost estimate
 - Construction cost estimate
 - Total project cost estimate
 - How much funding does your organization currently have?
 - How much bridge funding is needed?
- Funding Sources
 - Private funds
 - State funds (what fiscal year were they appropriated)
 - Federal funds (what fiscal year were they appropriated)
 - City funds (what fiscal year were they appropriated)



Application (continued)

- Facility Information
 - Is your facility a historic building?
 - Is the property City owned?
 - Does the property meet the criteria of landmark designation?
- Organization Financials
 - Financial statements and audits (if available) for the past three years
 - Prior allocations of Baltimore City G.O. Bonds and expended their use
 - Explanation of prior unspent allocations of Baltimore City G.O. Bonds
- Population Served
 - Provide quantitative data on attendance and demographics (race, gender, age, etc.)
- Other Information



Tips for Applying

As you proceed with your application, here are a few suggestions on what to include:

- Short and/or long-term initiatives your organization is undertaking to enrich the arts community in Baltimore City
- Significant accomplishments and the results on the community
- How the proposed capital project will aid in achieving your organization's goal(s), and the consequences that may be faced if the project is not fulfilled
- Other highlights you wish to share - use this opportunity to brag about your organization



If Awarded - Accessing the Funds

- Grant agreements must be signed by grantee, Department of Planning, and Law Department and approved by the Board of Estimates
- Funds are provided on a **reimbursement basis**
 - Invoices, etc. are submitted to the Department of Planning and processed by the Department of Finance - Bureau of Accounting and Payroll Services
 - Detailed instructions are available by emailing Department of Planning



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

