



FY25 Fiscal Sponsor Resource Guide

The following organizations have indicated to Metro Arts their willingness to potentially serve as a Fiscal Sponsor for Thrive applicants. Please read the information below, provided by the organization representative, to see if any organizations may be a good fit for your project.

This document was last updated on 2/4/2025. If you are looking at it on a later date, feel free to contact arts.grants@nashville.gov to inquire as to whether there are any updates to the list. You can also find supporting forms and templates, like a fiscal sponsor request email, on the [Partner Tools](#) page of the Metro Arts website.

Organizations include:

- International Black Film Festival
- Excellence in Motion
- Nashville Bel Canto Foundation
- DancEast Collective
- Music City Review
- Creative Girls Rock
- Healing Arts Project Inc. (HAPI)
- Belcourt Theater
- Street Theatre Company
- Actors Bridge Ensemble
- *This list will be updated as more organizations sign on*

International Black Film Festival

<https://www.ibffevents.com/>

810 Dominican Avenue Nashville TN 37228

Our mission is to provide access and support to emerging and veteran artists. Our focus is film and TV, but we provide a vehicle for exposure to all types of content creation and artistry. We celebrate 20 years in 2025.

- **Area of Specialty:** Film TV Music, Technology
- **Years of Existence:** 20 Years
- **Number of Awardees Willing to Sponsor:** 5
- **Do the artist(s) need to be of a specific artistic discipline or demographic?** No
- Please Contact Below if you are interested in learning more about this Fiscal Agent.

Ingrid Brown, Chief Operations Officer
ingridbrownenterprise@gmail.com
(615) 974-1282

Excellence In Motion INC

1723B 23rd Ave N Nashville, TN 37208

Our mission is to help youth of all ages achieve personal and professional excellence. We have successfully managed several arts grants in the past. We also have experience as a Fiscal Agent and have passed funds through in the past.

- **Area of Specialty:** Community Outreach
- **Years of Existence:** 9 Years
- **Number of Awardees Willing to Sponsor:** No Limit Stated
- **Do the artist(s) need to be of a specific artistic discipline or demographic?** No
- Please Contact Below if you are interested in learning more about this Fiscal Agent.

Carlton Boleyjack
carlton@excellenceinmotion.org

Brianna Latham
Brianna@excellenceinmotion.org

Nashville Bel Canto Foundation

405 Hyde Park Nashville, TN 37215

The Nashville Bel Canto Foundation was established to support young opera singers in their transition from academia to the professional world. Led by directors who hold esteemed teaching positions at institutions such as The Juilliard School, The Curtis Institute, and Belmont University, and who actively work in renowned opera houses like the Metropolitan Opera and Sarasota Opera, we are deeply rooted in the professional opera community.

Though a young nonprofit, we have experienced significant growth over the past four years. Our two successful fundraisers in 2023 and 2024, held at the BMI building in Music Row, showcased our ability to unite the community around our mission. In May 2025, we will launch our first Bel Canto Opera Scenes Intensive at 2nd Presbyterian Church, further expanding our impact on emerging artists.

As a fiscal agent, we aim to support artists with tight budgets by providing accessible and trustworthy resources, ensuring they are not taken advantage of by larger companies. It's our way of giving back to the artistic community and fostering a collaborative, empowering environment for creative growth.

- **Area of Specialty:** Performing arts, education, classical music
- **Years of Existence: 4 Years**
- **Number of Awardees Willing to Sponsor: 1 (Open to more potentially)**
- **Do the artist(s) need to be of a specific artistic discipline or demographic? No**
- Please Contact Below if you are interested in learning more about this Fiscal Agent.

Stefano Baldasseroni
Executive director
Sbaldasseroni@nashvillebelcanto.com
(917) 874-6236

DancEast Collective

805 Woodland Street, Unit 314 Nashville, TN 37206

Our Mission: To cultivate a community of students, artists, and audiences by offering high-quality and accessible dance education, creation, performance, and engagement opportunities.

Our Vision: DancEast Collective will be widely known as a premier contemporary dance center; a facilitator of dance artistry and collaboration; and a support system for dance lovers, learners, creators, and practitioners.

Our Values: Inclusivity, Creativity, Accessibility, Outreach, Quality, Supportiveness, Positivity, Collaboration, Community, Joy!

DancEast Collective, established in 2008 by Emily Masters, began as Studio 1406 in East Nashville's Riverside Village. Emily's vision was to create a space where individuals of all ages could explore dance and movement beyond traditional recital constraints. Collaborating with many accomplished dance artists, the studio quickly gained community recognition, being voted "Best Place to Learn to Dance" in the 2009 Nashville Scene Reader's Poll.

Over the years, DancEast evolved, relocating to larger spaces to accommodate our growing student base and expanding offerings to include diverse dance styles and creative movement classes. In 2011, we renamed DancEast to reflect our deep connection to the East Nashville community. Despite challenges, including ownership transitions and the impacts of the 2020 tornadoes and the COVID-19 pandemic, DancEast remained resilient, continuing to provide a nurturing environment for dance education.

In 2021 Emily Masters partnered with Elizabeth Wilkinson, a Nashville native with extensive professional dance experience, to reform DancEast into the nonprofit, 501(c)3 DancEast Collective - with a

reinvigorated emphasis on inclusivity, creativity, and community engagement. The organization is dedicated to offering unique dance experiences that foster personal growth and artistic expression.

Significant achievements include the establishment of the DancEast Youth Ensemble (DYE), led by Lauren Melancon, a certified Progressing Ballet Technique Instructor and a member of the National Dance Education Organization. DYE provides unique and engaging performance opportunities for young dancers. DancEast is also home to a professional company that is already making meaningful contributions to Nashville's vibrant arts scene. DancEast's commitment to community outreach and education has solidified our reputation as a cornerstone of Nashville's cultural landscape.

For Thrive awardees seeking a fiscal agent, DancEast Collective offers a rich history of artistic excellence, community involvement, and a supportive environment that nurtures creative endeavors. Our experience in managing successful programs and events makes us a reliable partner for artists aiming to make a meaningful impact through their work.

- **Area of Specialty:** Dance education, creation, performance, and engagement
- **Years of Existence:** In existence since 2008. 501(c)3 4 Years
- **Number of Awardees Willing to Sponsor:** 6
- **Do the artist(s) need to be of a specific artistic discipline or demographic?** Yes, Dance Related
- Please Contact Below if you are interested in learning more about this Fiscal Agent.

Emily Masters, Founder, emily@danceast.org
and/or
Lauren Melancon, lauren@danceast.org

Music City Review

6313 Wildgrove Dr. Antioch, TN 37013

We are a media organization that specializes in creating discussion and community around the arts in Nashville primarily through www.musiccityreview.com Partnering with us would ensure coverage and we can help with community engagement.

- **Area of Specialty:** Most experience in music, drama, and performing arts, but very interested in painting and other possible artistic expression.
- **Years of Existence:** In existence 6 years, 501c3 for three years.
- **Number of Awardees Willing to Sponsor:** 2-3
- **Do the artist(s) need to be of a specific artistic discipline or demographic?** No
- Please Contact Below if you are interested in learning more about this Fiscal Agent.

Joseph Morgan, Director

joseph.morgan@musiccityreview.com
857-719-7034

Creative Girls Rock

Our mission is to educate and empower young girls and women to utilize their creative talents to enhance their lives and the world around them.

At the heart of Creative Girls Rock® lies our core program, The CGR Master Class. Tailored specifically for young girls and women aged 6 and up, this platform is crafted to provide a nurturing environment where creativity thrives, self-expression flourishes, and vital life skills are cultivated. From immersive arts and crafts sessions to empowerment workshops, our initiatives transcend geographical boundaries, embracing participants from Nashville to every corner of the globe. Together, we cultivate self-awareness, resilience, and a profound sense of belonging, igniting the flames of creativity and empowerment in all who join our community.

- **Area of Specialty:** creative arts, women empowerment, youth development and mental health and wellness
- **Years of Existence:** In existence 6 years, 501c3 for three years.
- **Number of Awardees Willing to Sponsor: 1**
- **Do the artist(s) need to be of a specific artistic discipline or demographic? No, we are open to all disciplines**
- Please Contact Below if you are interested in learning more about this Fiscal Agent.

Charmin Bates
Founder & CEO
info@creativegirlsrock.org
615-679-8939

Healing Arts Project Inc. (HAPI)

Healing Arts Project Inc. (HAPI) has been an integral part of the artistic community for over twenty years. We are dedicated to supporting artists and fostering opportunities for individuals in recovery from mental health and addiction disorders. Our mission revolves around empowering these artists by providing them with a platform to showcase their work and equipping them with the necessary resources to thrive.

Since our inception, we have made significant strides in building supportive relationships with artists in recovery by engaging with them in safe spaces such as peer recovery centers, addiction programs, and community mental health organizations. Our unique approach

includes personalized support for artists, guiding them through submissions for exhibits, art shows, and grants, supplying materials, and facilitating participation in vending events to enhance their income.

HAPI stands out for its advocacy efforts, highlighted through key events such as our annual "Art for Awareness" initiative, where artists connect with their legislative representatives, and our first Arts & Advocacy Mini-Conference, which merges creativity with activism. Additionally, our "Service of Hope" shares inspiring recovery stories from individuals, family members, and veterans, uniting diverse faiths and communities under a common theme of hope.

Our commitment to promoting and exhibiting artists' work through curated art exhibits has led to numerous impactful collaborations and outcomes. A partnership with HAPI offers a chance to support a cause that empowers individuals, promotes creativity, and advocates for recovery and mental health awareness. Thus, it is a meaningful collaboration for any Thrive awardee considering impactful community engagement in the Middle Tennessee area.

- **Area of Specialty:** Healing Arts Project Inc. (HAPI) specializes in supporting a diverse range of artistic disciplines. Primarily focused on visual arts, HAPI also extends its support to written works, spoken word artists, teaching artists, and community outreach initiatives. This broad approach allows HAPI to foster creativity and healing across multiple art forms.
- **Years of Existence: 20**
- **Number of Awardees Willing to Sponsor: 10**
- **Do the artist(s) need to be of a specific artistic discipline or demographic? No, we are open to all disciplines**
- Please Contact Below if you are interested in learning more about this Fiscal Agent.

Lynece Benton-Stewart
Executive Director
lbstewart@healingartsprojectinc.org
615-761-6126

Belcourt Theater

The Belcourt Theatre is a non-profit film institution dedicated to presenting the best of independent, documentary, world, repertory and classic cinema. The Belcourt provides opportunities for people of all ages to discover, explore and learn through the power of film. We cultivate and build on the powerful sense of shared experience that audiences can achieve - taking advantage of our building's physical character and location in the heart of a lively Nashville neighborhood. At the same time, we work with community partners throughout Nashville and Middle Tennessee to bring inspiring films to children, young people and adults with our Mobile Movie Theatre.

The Belcourt underwent a renovation and preservation project in 2016, the building's first major work in 50 years. The Belcourt is recognized as one of Nashville's most vibrant arts organizations and as a leader among the country's art houses regionally and nationally. The Belcourt attracts audiences from throughout Middle Tennessee and the Southeast region, as well as visitors from all 50 states and many other countries - a total of approximately 200,000 visitors annually. We program over 300 films a year, with more than 4,500 screenings. Over 20,000 people participate in our yearly in-theatre engagement programs, including Q&As with filmmakers and conversations with experts, scholars and community commentators. More than 2,000 youth and adults in our community benefit from film programming and visual literacy activities through our Mobile Movie Theatre visits in conjunction with 43 partner schools or organizations.

- **Area of Specialty:** Film
- **Years of Existence:** 25
- **Number of Awardees Willing to Sponsor:** Unsure, but maybe 5-10
- **Do the artist(s) need to be of a specific artistic discipline or demographic?** Film Projects
- Please Contact Below if you are interested in learning more about this Fiscal Agent.

Stephanie Silverman, Executive Director

stephanie@belcourt.org

615-846-3150, ext. 10

Street Theatre Company

314 Tanksley Ave, Nashville, TN

Founded in 2005, Street Theatre Company is a professional non-profit arts organization dedicated to pioneering innovative modern theater in Nashville. Our aim is to engage our audience with universal stories that speak to the human experience and challenge conversation, to support local artists, to provide arts education to children of all ages, and to foster a new generation of theater arts participants and supporters.

Recent awards from Nashville Scene's Best of Nashville include Best Theater Production (1st place for Fun Home), Best Theater Company (3rd place), Best Performing Arts Group (3rd place), and Best Musical Theater Programming for Pride Month (Writer's Choice).

- **Area of Specialty:** Performing Arts
- **Years of Existence:** 20
- **Number of Awardees Willing to Sponsor:** 1-2
- **Do the artist(s) need to be of a specific artistic discipline or demographic?** Theatre/Performing Arts

- Please Contact Below if you are interested in learning more about this Fiscal Agent.

Alex Hopper
President
615-584-5654
alex@streettheatrecompany.org

Actors Bridge Ensemble

Actors Bridge Ensemble is a woman-led professional theater company and acting school specializing in the Meisner Technique.

Our mission is to tell the stories Nashville needs to hear. We help Nashvillians find their voices and speak their truths. We are the home of Act Like a GRRRL, the Directors Inclusion Initiative and First Time Stories.

- **Area of Specialty:** Performing Arts, Theater. Personal Narrative Writing and Performance, Storytelling.
- **Years of Existence: 30**
- **Number of Awardees Willing to Sponsor: 2**
- **Do the artist(s) need to be of a specific artistic discipline or demographic? No, we are open to all disciplines**
- Please Contact Below if you are interested in learning more about this Fiscal Agent.

Vali Forrister
Producing Artistic Director
vali@actorsbridge.org
615-498-407