

AAAC Fiscal Sponsorship Application

We want artists to spend time making art, not filing paperwork. With AAAC's Fiscal Sponsorship, you can solicit tax-deductible donations and apply for grants without going through the onerous process of launching a 501(c)(3). The sponsored "project" might be an event or a series of events, a one-time collaboration or independent artistic project, or even an arts organization that does not have its own 501(c)(3) status. AAAC's Fiscal Sponsorship program is open and accessible to artists and arts organizations in the Athens, Ga., area and in every artistic discipline. We won't judge the artistic quality or merit of your work. That's not our job. Our job is to give you the tools you need to raise the money to make it happen.

About This Program

AAAC's Fiscal Sponsorship is a relationship in which our tax-exempt entity (AAAC) serves as the official recipient of charitable donations for your organization that is not yet recognized as tax-exempt. In this relationship, the AAAC is the "fiscal sponsor" and the organization that is applying for the Fiscal Sponsorship does not have tax-exempt status.

As the fiscal sponsor, AAAC's role is solely to accept charitable contributions on behalf of the sponsored organization. By signing this application and being accepted into our Fiscal Sponsorship Program, the sponsored organization agrees to undertake activities only in accordance with the express purposes stated in the application, as approved by our Executive Committee. Any substantive changes in project activity or purpose will be subject to re-evaluation. You also acknowledge and agree that AAAC shall not be held liable during the undertaking of the sponsored event or project. Also, AAAC is not liable for any debt incurred by the sponsored organization during the course of the event or project.

How Donations Work

Donations are made directly to AAAC, which then provides funds to the sponsored program. This arrangement enables donors to — in essence — make tax-deductible contributions to support the activities of the sponsored organization. As part of the agreement, AAAC charges an administrative fee of 10% for its services.

According to the National Council for Nonprofits, Using a fiscal sponsor satisfies IRS requirements as long as the fiscal sponsor (the AAAC) maintains the right to decide, at its own discretion, how it will use the contribution, and in fact uses it consistently with its own tax-exempt status (Connecting arts to the community through promotion, education, and funding).

Generally there is no question that the fiscal sponsor will grant the contribution (minus an administrative fee if one applies) to the sponsored organization — but note that it could decide to use the funds elsewhere. Maintaining such control over the donated funds is a requirement of any legitimate fiscal sponsor arrangement.

Is a Fiscal Sponsorship Right for You

By taking part in AAAC's Fiscal Sponsorship program, you acknowledge that AAAC's role is simply to support your organization by accepting tax-deductible donations. AAAC will not manage your organization or be held responsible for implementing your project or event. AAAC also reserves the right to revoke this agreement at any time pursuant to the following guidelines:

- The project must solicit donations totaling at least \$10,000 annually.
- The project must submit a budget yearly to the AAAC Treasurer. (treasurer@athensarts.org)
- The AAAC Treasurer should be invited and granted admittance to at least two meetings of your Board of Directors yearly.
- The agreement can be terminated immediately on the AAAC Treasurer's recommendation.
- This agreement must be renewed every two years and signed by a member of the sponsored organization.

That said, an AAAC Fiscal Sponsorship saves time and money, and offers efficiencies to a new arts-based organization, project or event, such as:

- The project can solicit unlimited charitable funding.
- Working with an established 501(c)(3) can be a valuable learning experience for a new organization seeking tax-exempt status.
- Donors can be assured that the funds they contribute will be used for the expressed purpose under the oversight of the AAAC.

To Apply

Please complete the following questionnaire and submit it to us at AAAC, PO Box 122, Athens, GA 30603 or e-mail the form to vp@athensarts.org. Applications are due by the 1st of February and the 1st of August. They will be reviewed in our September and March meetings.

Every space must be completed.

Date: _____

Name of your producing organization:

Organization's mission statement:

Explain how your project supports AAAC's mission statement: Connecting the arts to the community through promotion, education and funding.

Names and contact information of all organization's officers (Please * any officers who are currently AAAC members. At least one officer must be or become an AAAC member.):

Detailed history of your organization (please attach any additional narrative as necessary):

Federal Tax ID#: _____

Name of the proposed arts-based project or event:

Detailed description of your event, its participants and/or date(s):
(Attach additional narrative as necessary)

List at least three ways your organization will help promote Athens area arts.

1)

2)

What specific means of fundraising do you plan on pursuing?

What will you do if these fundraising activities fail or come in less than expected?

List projects completed:

(If a new organization, list previous affiliations and accomplishments)

List two references that are familiar with your work so that we may contact them:

Please attach an itemized budget for this proposed project/event. Your organization is responsible for providing detailed records delineating how all received funds are spent after the event is completed or the fiscal year is finished, whichever applies.

NEXT STEPS

The Executive Committee of AAAC will meet in March and September to review applications. The committee will present their recommendations to the full board at AAAC's April and October meetings. If your organization is selected to participate in the program, AAAC will provide a document stating that your organization is using the AAAC status which includes the AAAC address for when donors wish to donate directly and give the credit to your organization. It will also include the AAAC IRS Federal Identification Number. In addition, the AAAC will also send you a year-end letter summarizing all transactions between your organization and us and send all donors a formal receipt for their donations. By signing this application below, you are certifying that you intend to use the donations submitted to the AAAC only as indicated above and that you understand the stipulations of a fiscal sponsorship with the AAAC.

Officer 1 Name Printed:

Officer 1 Signature: _____ Date _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Officer 2 Name Printed:

Officer 2 Signature: _____ Date _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Officer 3 Name Printed:

Officer 3 Signature: _____ Date _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____