



## 2026 Levitt Festival Grant Application and Instructions

The Levitt Foundation is offering grants of up to \$5,000 to U.S.-based 501(c)(3) nonprofits presenting free outdoor music festivals in 2026. **Applications are due on Friday, January 30, 2026, at 3:00 PM ET / 12:00 PM PT.**

### Eligibility Criteria

- Applicant must be a U.S.-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.  
*If applicant does not have 501(c)(3) nonprofit status, the applicant may apply with a fiscal sponsor.*
- Festival must take place outdoors in a public space.  
*An outdoor public space creates opportunities social connections among people of all ages and backgrounds.*
- Festival must be free to the public with no reserved ticket, suggested donation, online registration, or RSVP required.  
*A free festival, with no prior steps or requirements to attend, minimizes barriers to participation and offers a more inclusive atmosphere for people of all socioeconomic circumstances.*
- Programming must feature professional musicians who are compensated for their performances.  
*Professional musicians ensure a level of artistic excellence for the audience to experience and support the live music ecosystem.*

### What makes a compelling application?

- Festival is accessible to people of all ages and backgrounds.
- Festival helps drive dynamic social impact and/or economic impact.
- Festival is a unique offering in the community.
- Programming that features music and performance and is welcoming to all.  
*Refer to current festival grantees at [levitt.org/festivals](https://levitt.org/festivals) for examples.*
- A proven track record of producing festivals or community events.

### **Application Instructions**

All applications must be completed online. Our online application system allows you to save your information and resume completing your application at a later time. For your reference, there is a suggested character count for each narrative question. The character count may be used as a guide to adequately answer each question, though your answers may consist of more or less than the number of characters suggested.

In addition to completing each application field, please be prepared to upload the following in order for your application to be considered complete; the maximum file size for each upload is 5 MB. You will not be able to submit an incomplete application.

- IRS 501(c)(3) determination letter of the applicant organization or fiscal sponsor (PDF)
- 2-3 images of the festival. File name should include the festival name, city, and a brief description of the image. (high-res jpg or png) *For example: Music Days Festival\_Omaha\_Main Stage Performance*

## Contact Information

### Primary Contact

*Instructions: Enter the name of the individual who will be the main point of contact throughout the Levitt Festival Grant application process and grant period, if applicable.*

### Primary Contact Email

*Instructions: Enter the email address of the primary contact person.*

### Primary Contact Phone

*Instructions: Enter the phone number of the primary contact person.*

## Organization Name and Address

### Organization Name

*Instructions: Enter the public name of the organization that is typically used for marketing and outreach—for example: an organization's legal name may be "Downtown Partnership of Fremont, Inc." and the organization's public name may be "DP Fremont."*

### Organization Address

*Instructions: Enter the mailing address of the applicant organization.*

### How did you hear about this festivals grant opportunity? Select all that apply.

*Instructions: Select all that apply regarding how you learned about the Levitt Festival Grant.*

- Levitt Foundation website
- Levitt Foundation social media
- Levitt Foundation email
- There is a Levitt Pavilion, Levitt Shell, or Levitt AMP/VIBE/BLOC site in my region
- Folk Alliance International
- National Independent Venue Association/National Independent Venue Foundation
- Other, please specify

## Eligibility Confirmation

**Confirm that your organization is a nonprofit organization with 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status as recognized by the IRS. You will be asked to upload your IRS determination letter in the Application Uploads section.**

- Yes
- No

**Do you have a fiscal sponsor for this grant?** *If yes, you will be asked to upload your fiscal sponsor's 501(c)(3) tax-exempt IRS determination letter in the Application Uploads section.*

- Yes
- No

**Confirm your event is a festival and not a concert series.**

*For the purposes of this application, a festival is defined as an extended event occurring throughout a single day or over consecutive multiple days; while a concert series features concerts presented over a defined period of time.*

- Yes
- No

**Confirm that the location of your festival is an outdoor public space.**

- Yes
- No

**Confirm that admission to your festival is free to the public with no reserved ticket, suggested donation, online registration, or RSVP required.**

- Yes
- No

**Confirm that music and performance is the focus or a significant portion of your festival.**

- Yes
- No

**Confirm that all musicians and performers at your festival will be paid.**

- Yes
- No

**If No, please explain.** [200 suggested max characters, incl. spaces]

## Organization Information

### Organization Legal Name

*Instructions: Enter the legal name of the applicant organization. This organization should be the producer of the festival and will serve as the primary administrator should a Levitt grant be awarded.*

### Organization EIN

*Instructions: Enter the applicant organization's nine-digit employer identification number as assigned by the Internal Revenue Service.*

### Organization Website

*Instructions: Enter the website of the applicant organization.*

### Organization Mission

*Instructions: Enter the mission statement of the applicant organization.  
[500 suggested max characters, incl. spaces]*

### Organization FY 2026 Operating Budget

*Instructions: Select the category that reflects the 2026 fiscal year operating budget of the applicant organization.*

- Under \$500K
- \$500K – \$1M
- \$1M – \$2M
- \$2M - \$5M
- Over \$5M

### Received previous festival grant from the Levitt Foundation?

*Instructions: Indicate whether the applicant organization or festival has received a Levitt festival grant in a prior year. Select all that apply.*

- No
- 2023
- 2024
- 2025

## Fiscal Sponsor Information (If applicable)

Please provide the following information pertaining to your fiscal sponsor, if applicable.

### **Fiscal Sponsor Legal Name**

*Instructions: Enter the legal name of the fiscal sponsor. The fiscal sponsor must be a nonprofit with 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status.*

### **Fiscal Sponsor Website**

*Instructions: Enter the website of the fiscal sponsor.*

### **Fiscal Sponsor EIN**

*Instructions: Enter the fiscal sponsor's nine-digit employer identification number as assigned by the Internal Revenue Service.*

### **Fiscal Sponsor Address**

### **Fiscal Sponsor Mission Statement**

*Instructions: Enter the mission statement of the fiscal sponsor. [500 suggested max characters, incl. spaces]*

**If awarded a grant, will your fiscal sponsor take a percentage of the grants funds?**

- Yes
- No

**If Yes, please indicate the percentage of grant funds the fiscal sponsor will take.**

## Festival Information

### **Festival Name**

### **Festival Website.**

*Instructions: Enter the website of the festival. Enter N/A if not applicable.*

### **Festival Social Media Handles**

*Instructions: Enter all social media handles for the festival. Enter N/A if not applicable.*

### **Festival Date(s)**

*Instructions: The festival must take place in 2026. Indicate the date(s) of the festival, including the day(s) of the week and timeframe.*

### **Festival Site Name**

*Instructions: Enter the name of the outdoor public space where the festival will take place. If the festival will take place at more than one site, include the names of all sites below.*

### **Festival Site Address**

*Instructions: Enter the physical address of where the festival will take place. If a street number has not been assigned to the festival, enter the nearest cross streets.*

### **Festival Budget**

### **Anticipated Festival Attendance**

*Instructions: Enter the anticipated number of people, including adults and children, expected to attend the festival. This number may be based on attendance at previous festivals and/or community events and/or expected results of your marketing and targeted outreach efforts. [500 suggested max characters, incl. spaces]*

## Narrative Questions

**Describe the purpose and intended impact of your festival.** [500 suggested max characters, incl. spaces]

**Describe how your festival aligns with the mission and core values of the Levitt Foundation.** [500 suggested max characters, incl. spaces]

*The Levitt Foundation's mission is to strengthen the social fabric of America. We partner with changemakers and nonprofits to activate underused outdoor spaces, creating welcoming, inclusive destinations where the power of free, live music brings people together and invigorates community life. Our core values guide our grantmaking to support projects that are inclusive, catalytic, and dynamic, and create connectedness and joy.*

**Provide a brief history of your festival, including the year it was founded, how it has evolved, and its context within the larger community.** [500 suggested max characters, incl. spaces]

**Tell us about other festivals that take place in your community and how your festival is different from these festivals.** [500 suggested max characters, incl. spaces]

## Application Uploads

To complete your application, you must upload the following documents.

### **1. IRS 501(c)(3) Determination Letter – Applicant Organization (IF APPLICABLE)**

*Instructions: Upload a PDF of the applicant organization's IRS determination letter indicating that the organization has been recognized as exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.*

### **2. IRS 501(c)(3) Determination Letter – Fiscal Sponsor Organization (IF APPLICABLE)**

*Instructions: Upload a PDF of the fiscal sponsor organization's IRS determination letter indicating that the organization has been recognized as exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.*

### **3. 2-3 images of the festival (REQUIRED)**

*Instructions: Upload two to three images in high-res JPEG or PNG format. File name should include the festival name, city, and brief description of image. Please note: maximum file size is 5 MB.*