



2027 Levitt Festival Grants Application and Instructions

The Levitt Family Foundation is offering grants of up to \$5,000 to U.S.-based 501(c)(3) nonprofits presenting free outdoor music festivals in 2027. **Applications are due by Friday, November 20, 2026, at 3:00 PM ET / 12:00 PM PT.**

Festival Definition

For the purpose of this grant, a festival is defined as:

- An event or celebration around a theme or programmatic focus, featuring varied and curated performances and activities; and
- Taking place within a condensed timeframe of a minimum of four hours, and occurring on a single day, over multiple consecutive days, or two consecutive weekends.

Seasonal and long-running events presented over a designated period of time, as well as single performances, are ineligible for this grant opportunity—for example: summer concert series, First Friday events, standalone concert presentations, etc., are ineligible.

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 for social connections among people of all ages and backgrounds.
- **Festival must be free to the public with no reserved ticket, donation of a specific amount upon entry, pre-registration, “pay what you can” entry, or RSVPs 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.
- **Festival has a theme and/or programmatic focus, with live music and performance as a significant component—for example: music genre, visual arts, food/agriculture, local tradition, cultural heritage, neighborhood/business district, etc.**

A festival with a clear, identifiable focus fosters community pride, celebrates cultural expression, and creates opportunity for connection, with live music and performance bringing people together for a shared experience.

- **Programming must feature professional musicians who are compensated for their performances.**

Professional musicians ensure a level of artistic excellence for the audience to enjoy and paying artists supports a vibrant live music ecosystem.

- **Festival must take place for a minimum of four hours on a single day, over multiple consecutive days, or two consecutive weekends.**

The festival event must take place over a concentrated period of time, rather than an ongoing series of events occurring regularly over a designated or long-running period of time.

Due to the significant number of grant applications received annually, starting with the 2028 grant cycle, organizations that have previously received three or more years of funding will not be prioritized when determining Festival Grants recipients.

What makes a compelling application?

- Festival is accessible to people of all ages and backgrounds and is welcoming to everyone.
- Festival helps drive dynamic social impact and/or economic impact.
- Festival is a unique offering in the community.
- Programming features live music and performance.
- A proven track record of producing festivals or community events.
- A festival budget with displayed community support and the Festival Grants funding (up to \$5,000) provides less than 30% of overall festival expenses.

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)
- Two to three images of the festival from different vantage points. If your festival will be new in 2027, upload images of the festival location, potential performers, and other community events produced by your organization.

Contact Information

First Name / Last Name

Enter the first and last name of the individual who will be the main point of contact throughout the Levitt Festival Grants application process.

Phone / Email

Enter the phone and email address of the main point of contact.

Organization Name and Address

Organization Name

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

Enter the mailing address of the applicant organization.

How did you hear about the Festival Grants opportunity? Select all that apply.

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

- ☐ Levitt Family Foundation website
- ☐ Levitt Family Foundation social media
- ☐ Levitt Family Foundation email
- ☐ My organization is a previous or current Levitt Family Foundation grantee
- ☐ There is a Levitt Pavilion, Levitt Shell, or Levitt Music Series site in my region
- ☐ Americans for the Arts
- ☐ Creative Placemaking Communities
- ☐ Folk Alliance International
- ☐ Main Street America
- ☐ Make Music Alliance
- ☐ National Independent Venue Association/National Independent Venue Foundation
- ☐ National League of Cities
- ☐ Project for Public Spaces
- ☐ Other, please specify

Eligibility Confirmation

Confirm that your organization is a nonprofit with 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status as recognized by the IRS. You will be asked to upload your organization's 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 event or celebration around a theme or programmatic focus, featuring varied and curated performances and activities, and taking place within a condensed timeframe of a minimum of four hours on a single day, over multiple consecutive days, or two consecutive weekends. A concert series is defined as a curated series of live performances presented over a span of time on designated dates (weekly, monthly, etc.); a concert series is not eligible for this grant opportunity.

- ☐ 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, donation of a specific amount upon entry, pre-registration, "pay what you can" entry, or RSVPs required.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Confirm that live music and performance are the focus or a significant component of your festival.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

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

The Levitt Family Foundation is a musician-friendly organization and believes that artists should be compensated for their performances.

- ☐ Yes, all
- ☐ Yes, some
- ☐ No

If some, please explain. [200 suggested max characters, incl. spaces]

Organization Information

Organization Legal Name

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 grant funding be awarded.

Organization EIN

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

Organization Website

Enter the website of the applicant organization.

Organization Type

Choose from the list below the type of organization that best describes the applicant.

- ☐ Arts & Culture – Cultural Center
- ☐ Arts & Culture – Museum/Visual
- ☐ Arts & Culture – Music
- ☐ Arts & Culture – Performing Arts Center
- ☐ Arts & Culture – Theater
- ☐ Arts & Culture – Other (specify)
- ☐ Arts Center
- ☐ Arts Commission/Arts Council
- ☐ Business District/Downtown Assoc./Main Street
- ☐ Community Foundation
- ☐ Economic & Community Development
- ☐ Education – College/University
- ☐ Education – Other (specify)
- ☐ Environmental
- ☐ Festival – Arts
- ☐ Festival – Cultural
- ☐ Festival – Food & Beverage
- ☐ Festival – Issue/Cause Awareness
- ☐ Festival – Theme (specify)
- ☐ Health/Wellness
- ☐ Historic Preservation
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Media – Radio/Public Broadcasting
- ☐ Parks Department/Parks Foundation
- ☐ Science/Technology
- ☐ Social & Human Services
- ☐ Tourism/CVB
- ☐ Youth
- ☐ Other (specify)

Organization Mission

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

Organization Annual Operating Budget

Select the category that reflects the current fiscal year operating budget of the applicant organization.

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

Is the applicant organization a previous recipient of Festival Grants funding from the Levitt Family Foundation?

Indicate whether the applicant organization or festival has been a recipient of Festival Grants funding from the Levitt Family Foundation in a prior year(s). *Please note: Due to the significant*

number of grant applications received annually, starting with the 2028 grant cycle, organizations that have previously received three or more years of funding will not be prioritized when determining Festival Grants recipients.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

If yes, indicate year(s). Select all that apply.

- ☐ 2023
- ☐ 2024
- ☐ 2025
- ☐ 2026

Fiscal Sponsor Information (If applicable)

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

Fiscal Sponsor Legal Name

Enter the legal name of the fiscal sponsor. The fiscal sponsor must be a U.S.-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Fiscal Sponsor EIN

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

Fiscal Sponsor Website

Enter the website of the fiscal sponsor.

Fiscal Sponsor Address

Fiscal Sponsor Mission Statement

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

If awarded a grant, will your fiscal sponsor receive a percentage of the grant funds?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

If yes, please indicate the percentage of grant funds the fiscal sponsor will receive.

Festival Information

Festival Name

Primary Festival Type

Choose from the list below the type of festival that best describes the theme and/or purpose of your festival.

- ☐ Cultural (specify)
- ☐ Community Celebration

- Economic Development
- Environment/Earth Day
- Film
- Food & Beverage (specify)
- Health/Wellness (specify)
- Historical
- Issue/Cause Awareness (specify)
- Multi-Disciplinary Arts
- Music – Genre-focused (specify)
- Music – Multi-genre
- Porch Fest
- Visual Arts
- Youth
- Other (specify)

Secondary Festival Type (optional)

Refer to the list above to choose the type of festival that best describes the theme and/or purpose of your festival.

Is the festival an existing festival—having taken place in a prior year(s)—or will it be new in 2027?

- Existing Festival
- New Festival

Festival Website

Enter the festival website. If there is no dedicated website for the festival, enter the web page where the festival will be promoted. Enter N/A if not applicable.

Festival Instagram

Enter the festival Instagram profile. If there is no dedicated account for the festival, enter the Instagram profile where the festival will be promoted. Enter N/A if not applicable.

Festival Facebook

Enter the festival Facebook profile. If there is no dedicated account for the festival, enter the Facebook profile where the festival will be promoted. Enter N/A if not applicable.

Other Social Media Handles

Enter any other social media handle(s) dedicated to the festival. Enter N/A if not applicable.

Festival Site

Enter the name of the outdoor public space and/or general area where the festival will take place. The festival should take place in one location or within one main area—for example: a downtown district, a Main Street corridor, a public park, etc.

Festival Site Address

Enter the physical address of the outdoor public space. If a street number has not been assigned to the public space, enter the nearest cross streets or border streets.

City/Town Population

Enter the population of the city or town where the festival will take place.

Projected Festival Expenses

Enter the total projected amount of expenses for your festival. Estimate to nearest dollar amount.

Projected Festival Income

Enter the total projected amount of income for your festival. Estimate to nearest dollar amount.

Anticipated Festival Attendance

Enter the anticipated number of people, including adults and children, expected to attend the festival. This number may be based on attendance at the festival in prior years, attendance at other community events, and/or expected results of your marketing and targeted outreach efforts.

Festival Attendance Explanation

Provide an explanation for the anticipated attendance of your festival. [300 suggested max characters, incl. spaces]

Festival Timeframe

For the purpose of this grant, a festival is defined as:

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Proposed Festival Timeframe

- Single-day festival
- Multiple-day festival (consecutive days)
- Two-weekend festival (consecutive weekends)

Has your festival date(s) been determined?

- Yes
- No

If your festival date(s) is not yet confirmed, briefly describe when the festival is being planned to occur—for example: mid-May, two weekends in June, late October, etc. [200 suggested max characters, incl. spaces]

Festival Dates

Enter the date(s) and proposed start and end time(s) below.

Narrative Questions

Describe the purpose and intended impact of your festival.

Describe the theme and purpose of your festival, including how the festival will expand access to the arts, celebrate community, and create positive social and/or economic impact. [500 suggested max characters, incl. spaces]

Describe how music is a significant component of your festival.

Describe how high-quality live music performances will be a focus of the overall festival experience for people of all ages and backgrounds, including: where the live music performances will take place in relation to the layout of the festival; whether there will be one central stage, two or multiple stages; music genres that will be presented; any confirmed or proposed artists; and estimated number of acts. [500 suggested max characters, incl. spaces]

Describe how your festival aligns with the mission and core values of the Levitt Family Foundation.

[500 suggested max characters, incl. spaces]

The Levitt Family 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.

If the festival will take place for the first time in 2027, provide context on the origins of the new festival and describe any local support received and/or displayed for this new event. [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 other festivals.

Explain how your festival is different from or similar to other festivals in your community by theme and purpose, activities and offerings, audience/attendees and reach, free vs. ticketed, music performances, overall impact, etc. [500 suggested max characters, incl. spaces]

Application Uploads

To complete your application, upload the following required documents.

IRS 501(c)(3) Determination Letter – Applicant Organization or Fiscal Sponsor Organization (if applicable)

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

2 - 3 images of Festival

Upload two to three images of the festival from different vantage points. If your festival will be new in 2027, upload images of the festival location, potential performers, and other community events produced by your organization. (High-res .jpg or .png preferred. File name should include the festival name, city, and brief description of image—for example: Blues Fest_Kansas City_Main Stage Performance. Please note: maximum file size is 5 MB.)