



| CreativeCape Arts Incentive Program

Program Overview

The creative economy contributes to the economic vitality of a community. According to Citizens for Florida Arts, Inc., a vibrant arts community not only keeps residents and their discretionary spending close to home, but it also attracts visitors who spend money and help local businesses thrive. The CreativeCape Arts Incentive Program seeks to foster cultural development in the city, but more specifically, within the City of Cape Coral Community Redevelopment Area. The City, and CRA should the CRA adopt this Program, may provide incentives to individuals, nonprofit cultural organizations, and other entities to support arts and culture businesses operating in or relocating to the city.

Eligibility Criteria

- (1) Applicants must be either:
 - (a) a for-profit business or non-profit organization primarily engaged in music, dance, drama, theater programs, films, festivals, creative writing, literature, painting, sculpture, folk arts, photography, crafts, public media, and the execution and exhibition of other cultural art forms; or
 - (b) a developer seeking to build or renovate buildings specifically designed to house businesses in the creative industries listed in paragraph (a) above.
- (2) Adult entertainment facilities and/or businesses, gaming rooms, body piercing establishments and tattoo parlors are ineligible.

Eligible Expenditures

- (1) Acquisition, development, construction, renovation, expansion, or improvements of real property within the Community Redevelopment Area, including live/workspaces.
- (2) Assistance and support to individual artists and organizations with expenses associated with one or more specific cultural art programs, activities, events, or performances on a specified date(s) or time frame(s).

Ineligible Expenditures

- (1) Inventory
- (2) Office equipment and furniture
- (3) Payment of delinquent taxes or debts
- (4) Payments to owners
- (5) Purchase a part of a business
- (6) Refinancing of existing debt

Award and Funding Limits

Minimum: \$5,000

Maximum: \$250,000, but in no event shall the incentive amount exceed 25 percent of total project

To review full program details and requirements, refer to the City of Cape Coral Code of Ordinances / Chapter 29 – Economic Development and Business Incentive Programs.

All incentive applications must be received and reviewed prior to project completion to be eligible for a grant award. Submission of an application or the determination of program eligibility does not guarantee an incentive award. Projects must receive formal approval from the City Manager, City Council, or the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) if located within the CRA district.