



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS.....

1. *Am I required to have non-profit status?* Yes, evidence of non-profit status is required. However, if you are a start up organization and have filed for 501(c)3 status and are waiting for confirmation, you may apply for a grant for the current year only. If you apply in subsequent grant cycles, you will be required to provide evidence of 501 (c)3 status.
2. *Do I have to produce my project at the Corner Theatre?* No, that is optional. Other locations in DeSoto are acceptable assuming they are open to the general public. However, you must produce your program within the city limits of DeSoto. Grants for projects that are based outside of our city limits will not qualify for funding.
3. *How are the grants reviewed and scored?* Seven DeSoto Arts Commissioners review each grant application and the supporting documentation and score them on a scale from 1-5 with 5 being the highest score. Each application is scored for artistic merit, service, involvement, capability and other funding sources (a detailed description of what is included in each of these categories can be found in the Grant Guidelines Document). These scores are placed into a matrix and grant funding is awarded to the top scoring organizations.
4. *What is the total amount of funding available to be awarded in grants?* In recent years, a total of \$60,000 was granted to ten different arts organizations. Funding levels are determined by the city's municipal budget which is approved by the City Council each September and is subject to availability of Hotel Occupancy Funds.
5. *How much should I request?* The Arts Commission encourages applicants to request the actual funding amount required for the project. However, the Arts Commission rarely awards the full amount requested. The possible exception would be for grants of \$2,500 or less. The Arts Commission attempts to spread the available funds among as many qualified applicants as possible and requires that applicants seek funding for other sources. As a result, they also assume that if a lower grant amount is awarded, that the applicant will still be able to produce their project by seeking additional funds from other sources.
6. *What kinds of projects has the DeSoto Arts Commission funded in the past?* We have funded professional and community theater, visual art shows, live classical and jazz music performances, gospel concerts, professional dance performances and traveling museum exhibits.