



St. Croix Foundation for Community Development

Request for Proposals: Healing Humanities Cultural Place-Keeping Grant

St. Croix Foundation for Community Development (SCF) is pleased to announce a transformative investment in St. Croix's rich cultural landscape from the Mellon Foundation's Humanities in Place program. Through SCF's new Healing Humanities Cultural Place-Keeping Grant, more than half a million dollars will be awarded to St. Croix nonprofit organizations engaged in cultural place-keeping, arts, and humanities projects, allowing St. Croix Foundation to deepen our investment in preserving and celebrating our rich Crucian history, traditions and visions. The grant cycle is set to open on March 21, 2025, providing funding opportunities for eligible nonprofits working to strengthen the cultural fabric of our community.

2025 Healing Humanities Cultural Place-Keeping Grant Program

St. Croix Foundation's 2025 Healing Humanities Cultural Place-Keeping Grant Program is a partnership between St. Croix Foundation and the Mellon Foundation that seeks to restore, amplify, and mobilize the humanities as a vehicle for healing and social transformation in St. Croix. Designed to empower arts and cultural initiatives that celebrate St. Croix's rich heritage and foster cultural education, the program will support project-based grants, as well as general operating grants for organizations whose mission and programming explicitly center arts, culture, and heritage.

Grant Program Objectives

This grant is for arts and culture projects and organizations that contribute to **place-keeping**. SCF envisions place-keeping as the ongoing care, preservation, and celebration of a community's cultural and historical identity, ensuring that local traditions, stories, and spaces remain relevant and accessible to current and future generations. Through this grant program, SCF aims to cultivate collective place-keeping impact by:

- Supporting innovative multi-generational projects that promote and preserve the arts, culture, heritage and natural environment – rooted in our place.
- Nourishing and emboldening St. Croix institutions dedicated to culture, heritage, and the natural environment.
- Fostering a diverse range of initiatives that exemplify the significance of place and community narratives.

Program Overview

St. Croix Foundation's 2025 Healing Humanities Cultural Place-Keeping Grant Program will begin accepting applications on **March 21, 2025**, with all submissions due by **April 25, 2025**, by 11:59 p.m. AST. Final award decisions will be announced by **May 23, 2025**. This grant opportunity will provide funding to **7-15 eligible nonprofit organizations** in the St. Croix community.

- A total of **\$534,000 will be awarded** through this grant program.
- Applications are invited for grants ranging from **\$10,000 to \$75,000** for a performance period of **12-18 months**, beginning June 1, 2025.
- Average awards are anticipated to be approximately \$40,000, with phased disbursements for most awards.

Eligibility

Applicant Eligibility

The program will regrant funds to a diverse array of St. Croix nonprofits, encouraging innovative projects and organizations that promote cultural place-keeping. Eligible applicants for this grant opportunity include:

- 501(c)3 organizations registered with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS)
- Nonprofits operating as a sponsored project of a 501(c)3 organization
- Please note nonprofit organizations must be based on St. Croix and demonstrate a history of prior engagement and impact on St. Croix.
- Territory-wide organizations are welcome to apply for services that are provided on St. Croix.

Any questions about eligibility should be directed to Paloma McGregor, Program Officer [Grantmaking] Humanities & Culture, at grants@stxfoundation.org.

Project Eligibility

Funding will support projects focused on culture, arts, and heritage, aligning with the Mellon Foundation's priorities of preserving and revitalizing community narratives and cultural assets, emphasizing the humanities' role in shaping vibrant, resilient communities. In the case of non-profits whose entire mission and programming centers arts, culture and heritage rooted in our place, operating grant proposals will be considered. Applicants must demonstrate the following:

- The project can be completed within the grant period of 12-18 months.
- The organization and/or project will identify, document, preserve, and/or interpret historically significant aspects of St. Croix's People and Place.
- Depending upon the project scope, organizations may be required to provide the applicable proof of insurance, rights of ownership, etc. For example, a project that engages children may be required to have insurance; a project that includes creating a fixed asset in a building, such as a library, may require proof of ownership or permission from the owner.

The following are NOT ELIGIBLE for funding:

- **K-12 education and programming** - Proposed projects cannot *exclusively* serve youth under 18 or develop K-12 curriculum. However, proposals for intergenerational projects that include children are welcome, as well as projects that center on young adults.
- **Scholarships**
- **Social services programs** - Projects can be proposed by Social Service nonprofits, as long as the application is for eligible humanities-based and/or arts-based programming.
- **Standalone publication, film, or documentary projects** - The purpose and primary deliverable of proposed projects cannot be a publication, film or documentary. However, if the purpose of the project is cultural education focused on arts and cultural heritage, with eligible activities at the center of the proposal, the outcomes can include documentation.
- **Private property or commercial uses** - Projects can include improvements to private property in which applicants have long-term leases and can show public/charitable benefit of the project. Such improvements must be completed by the end of the grant period.
- **Capital campaigns** - Grant funds cannot be used by SCF to sponsor a capital campaign. However, grant funds can cover direct costs (both hard and soft costs) for a discreet, defined portion of a construction project for which there is a capital campaign, so long as the funded work will be completed by the end of the grant period and the project aligns with grant priorities.

Project Reporting

Awarded projects and organizations will be required to submit quarterly programmatic and financial reports.

Application Review, and Evaluation Rubric

All applications will undergo a comprehensive evaluation by St. Croix Foundation's Grants Review Committee, composed of community leaders, subject-matter experts, and SCF staff. SCF is committed to a fair and transparent selection process that values diverse perspectives and expertise. The Grants Review Committee will utilize an Evaluation Rubric for each application for objective scoring. Please review the Evaluation Rubric here <https://stxfoundation.info/Rubric2025Humanities> and in Appendix 1.

Impact Assessment

SCF will assess the progress and impact of funded projects through site visits, interviews, and programmatic and financial reporting to ensure accountability and shared learning.

Application Process & Timeline

- All applications are due by April 25, 2025, and must be submitted via the Foundation's online portal. Please see below for directions on how to access and submit your application.
- A Virtual Information Webinar will be held on March 25, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. AST. All interested parties are welcome to register and may do so here: <https://stxfoundation.info/Info1Humanities>. A second, more informal information session will be held on April 10, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. AST. Participation in the March 25th session is highly encouraged but participation in the Virtual Information Sessions is not a requirement for applicant eligibility.

March 21, 2025	Grant Application Cycle Opens	Request for Proposals (RFP) published, application portal live.
March 25, 10 a.m. AST	Virtual Information Session #1 via Zoom https://stxfoundation.info/Info1Humanities	Overview of grant goals, eligibility, application process, and expectations. With a Q&A for Applicants.
April 10, 9 a.m. AST	Virtual Information Session #2 via Zoom: https://stxfoundation.info/Info2Humanities	Open session for Applicants to ask questions and receive clarification, and final preparation tips.
April 25, 2025, 11:59 p.m. AST	Application Deadline	Final submissions are due through the SCF grant portal.

Submission Requirements & Recommendations

All applications are due April 25, 2025 at 11:59 PM AST and must be submitted via the Foundation's online portal. **St. Croix Foundation highly recommends you visit the portal far in advance of the deadline to allow for adequate technical assistance. Please complete the following steps to apply:

1. Access the Foundation's portal at <https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=scf>.
2. **Important: If your organization has established an account in the Foundation's grants portal for a prior grant request, please **do not create a new account**, but reset your password. **If you are unsure if your organization has an account, please let us know and we will assist you.**

Submission Requirements & Recommendations

Application Steps Continued

3. Once you have accessed/ established your account, click on “Apply” in the gold toolbar at the top of your dashboard and you will see the Healing Humanities Cultural Place-Keeping Grant opportunity. Click on the Apply button that is to the right of the grant summary.
4. Once you have completed your application, please be sure to click on the blue “Submit” button at the end. You will receive an automatic email confirmation of your submission.

For more information or any questions, please visit <https://www.stxfoundation.org/grants-scholarships/> or reach out to Paloma McGregor, SCF Program Officer [Grantmaking] Humanities & Culture at grants@stxfoundation.org.

Join SCF in creating lasting cultural impacts and preserving the vibrant heritage of St. Croix. Proposals that reflect the spirit of the community and its commitment to cultural place-keeping are welcomed. Together, we will nurture St. Croix’s rich, cultural landscape and empower community through the arts!

2025 Healing Humanities Cultural Place-Keeping RFP - Appendix 1



St. Croix Foundation

St. Croix Foundation for Community Development

2025 Healing Humanities Cultural Place-keeping Grant Program

Grant Application Scoring Rubric

Scoring Metrics

- 9-10 – Excellent: The submission strongly fulfills this criterion, demonstrating exceptional alignment with funding priorities, clear impact, and well-supported details.
- 7-8 – Good: The submission meets this criterion, aligning well with funding priorities and demonstrating impact, though minor improvements could strengthen clarity or depth.
- 5-6 – Satisfactory: The submission addresses this criterion at a basic level but lacks strong supporting details and/or a clear connection to funding priorities, requiring further development.
- 3-4 – Needs Improvement: The submission weakly addresses this criterion, lacking clarity, feasibility, and/or alignment with funding priorities, making significant revisions necessary.
- 1-2 – Poor: The submission does not adequately address this criterion, lacks alignment with funding priorities, and/or provides insufficient clarity or feasibility.

Alignment - 40 points

**SCF envisions place-keeping as the ongoing care, preservation and celebration of a community's cultural and historical identity, ensuring that local traditions, stories and spaces remain relevant and accessible to current and future generations.*

- 1-10 - Does the proposal **demonstrate a strong vision** for promoting and preserving the arts, culture, heritage and/or the natural environment?
- 1-10 - Does the proposal offer **innovative or unique approaches** to preserving, celebrating, or expanding cultural narratives and spaces?
- 1-10 - Does the proposal reflect a **commitment to inclusivity and cultural equity** by engaging diverse voices, underserved communities, or historically marginalized groups?
- 1-10 - Is the **proposal writing clear and compelling**, articulating a strong vision for cultural place-keeping* on St. Croix?

Impact - 30 points

- 1-10 - Does the proposal offer **meaningful partnerships** with other nonprofits, artists, or cultural institutions and/or include **robust community participation**?
- 1-10 - Does the proposal clearly articulate **effective ways to assess success**, including qualitative and quantitative impact assessment?
- 1-10 - Does the proposal make a **compelling case for the impact** the grant funds will have on the project, organization and/or community?

Feasibility - 30 points

- 1-10 - Does the applicant demonstrate **capacity to execute the project**, including relevant history, experience, leadership, partnerships, and infrastructure to implement effectively?
 - 1- 10 - Is the proposed use of grant funds **well-planned** with realistic, detailed timelines, clear objectives, and achievable milestones?
 - 1-10 - Is the **budget clear, reasonable, and aligned** with project goals? Does the applicant demonstrate financial responsibility and ability to sustain or build upon the initiative?
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Score Ranges

- 90-100 Points: Highly recommended for funding
- 75-89 Points: Consider for funding with modifications or clarifications
- 60-74 Points: Needs significant improvements before funding consideration
- Below 60 Points: Not recommended for funding