

Oliver G. & Sarah Sloan Bauman Fund for the Arts Competitive Process Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

I don't understand the 2 different tiers. Can you explain them more?

We are very fortunate that the donor left us very specific instructions upon her passing. It is the Community Foundation's job to carry out her wishes forever going forward.

While there are 2 tiers, it is not an either/or choice for the Community Foundation. Tier 1 applications **must** be reviewed and funded first. ***ONLY if there is money remaining after addressing tier 1 requests will the Community Foundation look at tier 2 applications. There are absolutely no exceptions to this.***

Define tier 1

Per the guidelines set forth by the donor: *Awards will be prioritized first for performances of "traditional, classical ballet and opera on the living stage, and preferably of the English, European, or Russian schools." Qualifying performances should "preserve the originality of their composition, so the ballets are presented in their traditional choreography, and operas are sung in the language in which they were composed (except certain operas which may be customarily be rendered in English and are regarded as 'traditional' by the Metropolitan Opera Company of New York)."*

In honor of the donor's original intent and perspective, classical is defined as the period up to the start of World War I (1914).

Funding decisions are announced to the general public every year and you can find a press release listing last year's grants on the news section of the Community Foundation's website.

How likely will you fund a tier 2 request?

While it's a possibility, it's unlikely and hasn't happened often in the almost 30 years this fund has existed. We are blessed to have many great opera and ballet non-profits in the eight-county region of Western New York that have productions that fit squarely with tier 1.

I have an amazing modern opera (or ballet) that I think would be a great fit. Should I fill out the application?

You are welcome to submit, but it will be processed as a tier 2 request if the opera or ballet was written/created after 1914.

I have an incredible theater production. Should I fill out the application?

You are welcome to submit, but it will be processed as a tier 2 request.

My tier 2 request will change your mind and be the exception. Should I fill out the application?

We appreciate optimism and confidence, but we are legally bound by these terms. It is our honor and privilege to carry out the donor's wishes as instructed. It's what all community foundations do every day. As the donor directed, we will fund tier 1 requests first, then, if funding remains, we will look at tier 2 requests.

We state this to help you, not discourage you. We know your time is valuable. We want to be respectful of your time and make sure you spend it properly on applications that realistically align with your project/program/production.

What funding alternatives do I have if my program/production doesn't align with tier 1?

As a community foundation, the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo has multiple processes, one of which might align with your needs. All processes open to public application are listed at:

<https://www.cfgb.org/nonprofits/grants/>

Note that timelines between the different processes vary greatly.

Additionally, there are many different regional funders beyond the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo who might provide funding. A suggested resource is the NY Funders Alliance interactive member directory: <https://www.nyfunders.org/members>

What are the basic qualifications to apply to the Bauman Competitive Process?

Organizations must be 501(c)(3) not-for-profits located in or serving one of the eight counties of Western New York: Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans, and Wyoming.

What if I don't have my 501(c)(3) non-profit status yet?

We will only process letters of intent (LOI) from 501(c)(3) non-profits that have received official approval from the Internal Revenue Service by our submission deadline. We will require proof from those that don't come up as valid through our database.

Can I use a fiscal sponsor/passthrough?

While the Community Foundation will allow fiscal sponsors, aka passthroughs, it's not encouraged. Sponsoring organizations must submit the application and are 100% responsible for any requests they submit acting as passthrough. The payment will be made to the passthrough and they will be responsible for all follow-up and reporting.

How do I apply for funding from the Bauman Process?

You must fill out an online application that is submitted through the Community Foundation's Foundant Grant Lifecycle Manager (GLM). The link to the system is on the Oliver G. & Sarah Sloan Bauman Fund for the Arts Competitive Process webpage:

<https://www.cfgb.org/nonprofits/grants/bauman-fund-for-the-arts/>

Generally, the application process opens annually in March and applications are accepted for a period of one month. Final decisions will be communicated by early June at the latest.

Does the Community Foundation award multiyear grants?

We welcome multiyear requests from organizations who have an established history with us and whose focus fits tier 1 annually. Please contact Director, Community Impact Darren Penoyer to discuss multiyear requests: 716-852-2857, x206

What is the maximum amount I can request?

The average grant from the Bauman Process is historically \$8,000.

How many applications does the Community Foundation get for the Bauman Process?

On average, the Community Foundation gets around ten applications.

In the end, how many grants are made?

We usually award around six grants.

Can I meet with Staff to pitch my idea and get feedback in advance of submitting a request?

No. Due to the Community Foundation's position in the region, the tight timeline, and the sheer volume and unpredictability of the requests, we will not meet with non-profits submitting to this process.

I received a grant from the Bauman Process last year. Can I apply this year?

Yes. You can submit a request in each consecutive year with the exception of those non-profits who have received multiyear funding from Bauman.

I received a grant from another grant process at the Community Foundation (such as Garman, Wilson, Niagara Area Foundation, Wilson Arts and Culture, etc.) Can I apply to the Bauman Process?

Yes. Having grants from other funds or funding sources within the Community Foundation does not affect your eligibility to apply to the Bauman Process.

What does the Community Foundation look for when reviewing Bauman requests?

There are many variables but some general guidelines for staff and board reviewers are the fit with the donor's wishes, attendance numbers, regional impact, and organizational capacity.

I missed the deadline to submit an application! Are there exceptions?

No. It's a hard deadline. We work to create a fair, even process and cannot allow for exceptions. Non-profits have more than one month to submit. We are empathic that non-profits are very busy, but please submit early and do not wait until the last minute knowing even the best laid plans can go awry.

I was denied! Can I get feedback?

Absolutely! A contact will be listed on the correspondence you received. Please know, our funding is limited and sometimes we sincerely just can't support all the great requests we receive. But if there was a material issue, we will share that information so improvements can be made when you apply next year.