



## 2027 Global Grantmaking Guidelines

Our Global Grantmaking program invests in charitable organizations worldwide, large or small, new or established, that demonstrate a significant impact on music career mobility and the creation of more music makers across the lifespan of learning.

The NAMM Foundation has awarded \$20 million in nonprofit and music research grants over the past two decades to support music-making and workforce development projects in all music industry segments.

- ✓ Fretted Instruments
- ✓ Percussion
- ✓ Electronic & Recording
- ✓ Printed & Digital Music
- ✓ Keyboard
- ✓ Pro Audio & Lighting
- ✓ Band/Orchestra (wind, brass, strings, large/small ensembles)
- ✓ Other Genres

### Application Process

**Program and General Operating Applicants (if you are a current grantee in one of these categories, please skip to the next section)**

If your organization is **not** a current grantee of The NAMM Foundation, please follow the process below.

The application process has two rounds:

- **Round 1: Full Application**  
All applicants who are not current grantees must submit a full application, which is adjudicated by an external panel of industry leaders. Applications are reviewed using the criteria outlined in these guidelines.
- **Round 2: Review & Virtual Site Visit (By Invitation Only)**  
Organizations that advanced to Round 2 will participate in a virtual site visit. This stage allows Foundation staff to better understand your organization, clarify any information gaps, and review additional materials if needed. A second full application is not required.

### Current Program and General Operating Grantees

If your organization has an active grant with The NAMM Foundation, please follow the process below.

Current grantees who wish to reapply to The NAMM Foundation will follow a modified application process.

For returning applicants, the April 1 Interim Report will serve as the application for the following year. This report will include an update on progress to date and plans to continue the work or propose a new project for the next grant cycle. While a virtual site visit is not required for returning, one may be requested by the Foundation.

A final report is required for all current grantees and is due August 31.

Organizations that receive a grant for three consecutive years are required to submit a full application in the fourth year.

**Example:**

- 2025 – Full Application (Grant Awarded)
- 2026 – Modified Application
- 2027 – Modified Application (if a 2026 grantee)
- 2028 – Full Application

Funding is not guaranteed from year to year for current grantees

**Research Applicants**

Current research grantees are not eligible for the modified application and must submit a full application event if they are a current grantee. The research review process includes rigorous adjudication of each proposal by an expert panel of music and education researchers across the United States. Virtual site visits are not required for research applicants but may be requested.

**What We Fund**

We award grants to high-impact organizations across the globe that create more music makers by eliminating barriers for underrepresented communities and groups of people in two areas:

- Participatory Music Learning
- Career Mobility in Music

Within these given priorities, we offer three grant tracks:

- Music Program Grants
- General Operating Grants for Music Organizations
- Music Research Grants

Please consult with The NAMM Foundation team if you are unsure whether the Music Program or General Operating grant track is right for your organization. Sharon Bryant, Senior Program Officer, [sharonb@namm.org](mailto:sharonb@namm.org)

**Music Program Grants (US organizations only):**

- ✓ Programs that create more music makers across the lifespan and/or more music professionals in the workforce.
- ✓ Must be a US-based music organization with IRS 501(c)(3) status. Programs can benefit countries outside the US.

- ✓ High-quality, hands-on, and relevant music-making, music-training, and/or workforce development initiatives that are, or will be, a permanent part of an organization's annual programming and serve, or will serve, an established cohort of participants that engage with the program regularly.
- ✓ While we acknowledge the value of one-time music exposure programs and concerts, such as assemblies, field trips, and masterclasses, we do not fund these types of events.
- ✓ Programs can be new or established and must demonstrate current, or intended, positive impact on eliminating barriers to music making, music learning, and/or music career pathways that prioritize historically underserved communities or groups of people.
- ✓ Programs can serve any age group.
- ✓ Programs representing all musical genres are welcome to apply.
- ✓ Applicants are not required to be music organizations, but programs must be music focused.
- ✓ Demonstration of broad financial support for proposed program is encouraged.
- ✓ Regranting programs are not eligible.

### **General Operating Grants for Music Organizations (US organizations only):**

- ✓ Unrestricted grants for music organizations whose entire mission and program delivery aligns with one, or both, of the NAMM Foundation's two funding priorities: Participatory Music Making and Career Mobility.
- ✓ Must be a US-based music organization with IRS 501(c)(3) status. Programs can benefit countries outside the US.
- ✓ Must benefit historically underrepresented communities or groups of people.
- ✓ Demonstrate strong management practices in the areas of board and staff leadership, strategic planning, and fiscal management, etc.
- ✓ Demonstrate high programmatic standards.
- ✓ Regranting organizations are not eligible.

### **Music Research Grants (US organizations only):**

- ✓ Research that improves practices and increases public/private resources for music education, music creation and workforce development in the United States.
- ✓ Principal investigators with a strong research track record.
- ✓ Does not duplicate existing research.
- ✓ Government agencies are not eligible.
- ✓ Non-US organizations are not eligible for Music Research Grants.
- ✓ Grants are not given to individuals.
- ✓ K-12 schools (public or private) and institutes of higher education are only eligible to apply under the research grant track.

### **International Grantseekers:**

- ✓ Music associations or service organizations outside the US with IRS 501(c)(3) equivalency that support advocacy initiatives or programs in the areas of Participatory Music Making and or Career Mobility in their home countries.
- ✓ International grants cannot be re-granted to other charities, individuals, or organizations.
- ✓ All documentation must be translated into English.
- ✓ Please contact the foundation to determine if your organization meets equivalency standards.

**Grant Size Range:**

Grants from The NAMM Foundation can range between \$5,000-\$25,000, depending on the size and scope of the request. The Foundation may give grants above or below this range.

**Eligibility:**

The NAMM Foundation funds organizations that are large and small, established, and new based in the US and around the world. We make most of our grants to organizations in the US that are 501(c)(3) public charities, but also to music associations and umbrella organizations outside the United States that have 501(c)(3) status or approved international equivalency.

From time to time, the foundation may provide funding outside of its published guidelines. These grants are made by invitation only.

**Grants are typically awarded to organizations and programs that:**

- ✓ Have a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) designation or approved international equivalent.
- ✓ Meet one or more of the foundation's funding priorities.
- ✓ Prioritize historically underserved communities and groups of people.
- ✓ Demonstrate measurable goals and outcomes.
- ✓ Demonstrate excellent programmatic standards.
- ✓ Demonstrate strong organizational and fiscal management.
- ✓ Align with one or more music product industry segments: Band/Orchestra (wind, brass, strings, large/small ensembles); Fretted Instruments; Percussion; Electronic & Recording; Printed and Digital Music; Keyboard; Pro Audio & Lighting; Other.

**What Global Grantmaking Does Not Fund:**

- ✓ Grants for individuals
- ✓ Endowments, fundraisers, capital campaigns, annual appeals
- ✓ Conferences
- ✓ Deficit financing
- ✓ Purchase of tickets, ads, sponsorships, parties, conferences, fairs, and fundraiser events.
- ✓ K-12 school districts, public, private, independent, charter schools, are only eligible for research grants
- ✓ Band Boosters
- ✓ Higher education institutions are ONLY eligible for research grants
- ✓ Publications
- ✓ Legal services
- ✓ Regranting
- ✓ Scholarships
- ✓ Government agencies
- ✓ Private foundations
- ✓ Political candidates or lobbying organizations
- ✓ Programs or organizations that discriminate based on race, national or ethnic origin, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, marital status, family status, veteran status, disability or other characteristics protected by law.

## **Criteria Used to Evaluate Proposals:**

- ✓ The degree to which the proposal directly addresses and furthers The NAMM Foundation's funding priorities.
- ✓ The significance of the problem or need addressed by the proposed program or organization, as demonstrated in the narrative.
- ✓ The overall quality of the proposal and whether the organization has made a convincing case that funding will facilitate impactful service delivery to constituents.
- ✓ Well-designed evaluation plan.
- ✓ The stability of the organization regarding board, leadership, strategic planning, program design, and fiscal management and outlook.
- ✓ The organization's track record and/or and unique role in providing service to its specific constituencies.
- ✓ The reasonableness of the prepared budget.

## **Dependency Test:**

The Foundation recognizes that being overly reliant on one funding source to consistently cover a significant portion of costs can create a dependency risk for an organization. Recognizing this, the Foundation discourages proposals that are more than 15% of an organization's operating expenses. During the Phase 1 review process, the Foundation conducts a dependency test for each applicant organization. This test aims to identify organizations that are at or above the 15% threshold. This does not necessarily affect the Foundation's decision to fund the proposed work, but the Foundation might recommend an adjusted grant amount.

## **IMPORTANT 2027 DATES:**

**Music Program and General Operating Grants** (Non-US applicants should contact the Foundation to determine eligibility).

- ✓ January 23: Application Live
- ✓ February 5 & February 19 (9:30 am PT): Virtual information sessions
- ✓ April 1: Round 1 Application Deadline
- ✓ April 1: Interim reports for current grantees
- ✓ June 5: Invitation to advance to Round 2 Application for new applicants only
  - Round 2 applicants will be invited for a virtual site visit with the Foundation staff.
- ✓ Sept 30: Award Notification

## **Music Research Grants**

- ✓ January 23: Application Live
- ✓ February 5 & February 19 (9:30 am PT): Virtual information sessions
- ✓ April 1: Round 1 Application Deadline
- ✓ Sept 30: Award Notification