

# 2026 Scoring Rubric

A Road Together (ART), an initiative of the Field Foundation supported by MacArthur Foundation, supports small and mid-sized arts and culture organizations that we believe are vital to Chicago's identity, economy, and social fabric.

A participatory review panel will use a rubric to guide the review process using the following criteria:

- Community Engagement & Creative Relevance
- Impact & Outcomes
- Goals & Alignment

The Field Foundation's staff will review proposals against these criteria:

- Geographic Priority Areas
- Fiduciary Compliance
- Budget Size
- Staff Size

Please note: Grant decisions will not be based on the score alone. Rather, the scoring rubric will provide a starting place for discussions, decision-making, and grant funding amounts.

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CRITERIA	DESCRIPTION	WT	2 — STRONG	1 — MODERATE	0 — LITTLE / NONE
<b>PANELIST REVIEW</b>					
<b>Community Engagement &amp; Creative Relevance</b>	Programs exemplify high relevance to communities engaged	20%	Strong community engagement with relevant creative programs identified by community members	Some engagement and relevant programs, but could be stronger	Little to no community engagement or relevant creative programming
<b>Impact &amp; Outcomes</b>	Programs/services have a positive impact on Chicago's communities	20%	Strong and meaningful impact for the communities served	Some impact for the communities served	Little to no impact identified for the communities served
<b>Goals &amp; Alignment</b>	Mission and programs align with Field Foundation's mission	10%	Strongly aligned with Field Foundation's mission	Somewhat aligned with Field Foundation's mission	Little to no alignment with Field Foundation's mission
<b>FIELD FOUNDATION REVIEW</b>					
<b>Geographic Priority Areas</b>	Located within and offers most programs within Field Foundation's geographic priority areas.	20%	In and offers most programs within Field Foundation's geographic priority areas	Not in Field Foundation's geographic priority areas but offers substantial programs within it	Does not offer programs within Field Foundation's geographic priority areas.
<b>Fiduciary Compliance</b>	Financial history shows a cycle of fiduciary responsibility	10%	Continuous cycle of fiduciary responsibility via financial statements	Moderate cycle of fiduciary responsibility via financial statements	Inconsistent cycle of fiduciary responsibility via financial statements
<b>Budget Size</b>	Priority given to organizations with operating budgets below \$500,000	10%	Operating budget below \$500,000	Operating budget \$500,001 – \$750,000	Operating budget above \$750,001
<b>Staff Size</b>	Priority given to orgs with 5 FTE (full-time equivalent) staff or fewer	10%	5 FTEs or fewer	6 to 9 FTE staff	10 or more FTEs