

Oregon Cultural Trust FY2026 Cultural Development Grant Guidelines

To support activity occurring between September 1, 2025, and August 31, 2026

Application Deadline: 5 pm Wednesday, May 7, 2025

The Cultural Trust envisions an Oregon that champions and invests in creative expression and cultural exchange, driving innovation and opportunity for all. The mission of the Cultural Trust is to lead Oregon in cultivating, growing and valuing culture as an integral part of communities. We do this by inspiring Oregonians to invest in a permanent fund that provides annual grants to cultural organizations.

Cultural Development grants are annual funding opportunities for eligible cultural nonprofits undertaking public projects in Oregon. Awards between \$5,000 and \$40,000 are available for cultural projects taking place between September 1, 2025, and August 31, 2026.

These guidelines are intended to assist cultural nonprofits in successfully submitting applications for funding consideration.

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Questions? Please contact Aili Schreiner at (503) 428-0963 for programmatic questions or Raissa Fleming (503) 986-0088 for technical assistance. Para asistencia en español, llame al 971-345-1641.

Program Requirements

By statute [ORS 359.431], Cultural Development grants fund projects that:

- Address significant opportunities to advance, preserve or stabilize cultural resources;
- Invest in the development of new resources;
- Support proposals that have a broad cultural impact beyond the applicant itself; and
- Support proposals from applicants with culture as a priority within the mission of the organization.

Competitive projects should support the Cultural Trust's vision and mission to:

- Create an Oregon that champions and invests in creative expression and cultural exchange;
- Help drive innovation and opportunity for all;
- Cultivate, grow and value culture as an integral part of communities;
- Inspire Oregonians to invest in cultural nonprofits;
- Maximize visibility for the role of culture in our lives; and
- Strengthen collaboration and support within the statewide cultural network.

Organization Requirements

Eligibility

The Cultural Trust seeks to support a wide range of cultural organizations across the state. ORS 359.400 defines a "cultural organization" as one that is "organized primarily for the purpose of producing, promoting or presenting the arts, history, heritage and humanities to the public or organized primarily for identifying, documenting, interpreting and preserving cultural resources." Organizations using a fiscal sponsorship are not eligible to apply.

At the time of the application deadline, all applicant organizations must:

- Have active registration with the State of Oregon for corporate, non-profit status and
- Provide services that take place within the state of Oregon and
- Have current IRS 501(c)(3) federal tax-exempt status or
- Be a cultural entity within a federally recognized Indian Tribe based in Oregon or
- Be an institution of higher learning (universities and colleges) that has a significant cultural program or cultural organization

Applicants must have current registration on the Cultural Trust's website as an eligible cultural nonprofit. Register by completing the online application.

Recipients of Cultural Development grants over two consecutive fiscal years are **not eligible** to apply for funds in the following fiscal year. As a result, organizations awarded a grant in both FY2024 and FY2025 are **not eligible** to apply for FY2026 funds and must wait until the FY2027 grant cycle.

The Cultural Trust has final determination on eligibility. Applications found ineligible will be withdrawn from consideration. The Cultural Trust may review eligibility at any time and request more information as necessary.

Application Categories

Choosing your project category

Cultural Development Grants recognize and support significant cultural projects that preserve and enhance Oregon's diverse arts, history, heritage, historic preservation, and humanities efforts.

The Cultural Development Grant program has four distinct categories that support culture in Oregon. Applying cultural organizations must select the category that aligns with the goals of their project. Does the project primarily support:

- 1) Access to Culture: Projects that make culture broadly available to Oregonians. Access to Culture projects create new, or increase, public access to culture. This is done by removing barriers (financial, structural, geographic, ADA, etc.) and/or creating new cultural opportunities for communities often underserved.
- 2) Cultural Heritage & Preservation: Projects that invest in Oregon's cultural heritage by recovering, preserving and sharing historic assets and achievements. Cultural Heritage & Preservation projects restore or renovate historic assets, create educational exhibits, support digital/oral preservation and archival work, and/or support museum collections and historic research/publications.
- 3) Cultural Creativity: Projects that support the cultural and creative expression of Oregonians. Cultural Creativity projects invest in creative work by supporting the development of artists, cultural experts or scholars. Creative Expression projects promote creative expression as a core part of vibrant communities with public exhibits/artistic residencies, cultural/artistic programming/productions/performances, commemorative works or special commissions, scholarly research and publications, and/or support for emerging creative leaders.
- 4) Strengthen Cultural Capacity: Projects that strengthen cultural organizations by building their stability and generating public confidence. Strengthen Cultural Capacity projects should reflect strategic investments in cultural organizations' capacity and/or improved sustainability, prioritizing new resources that best support their community and cultural impacts.

Organizations may submit <u>one</u> application to <u>one</u> category per grant cycle.

Complete application questions are found on pages 10-17 in the guideline appendix.

<u>Application Review Criteria</u>

How does it work?

Cultural Trust staff review submitted project applications for eligibility, completeness, and accuracy. Staff will contact the organization and provide an explanation if the organization or project does not meet the eligibility requirements.

Project applications are reviewed by changing panels of peer-review professionals with relevant experience. Applicants should not assume that panelists have prior knowledge of their work. Applicants who would like to nominate a panelist for consideration to review

applications may do so by filling out the <u>panel interest form</u>. Program category panels will evaluate all eligible applications. Their evaluation includes:

- 1. Significance and quality of project, and alignment within the selected category;
- 2. Community impact and public benefit of the project;
- 3. Project management and evaluation; and
- 4. Budget form and narrative.

Each panel is chaired by a non-voting Cultural Trust Board member or the Executive Director. The Cultural Trust staff will present funding recommendations based on panel evaluation, number of applications and availability of funds to the Cultural Trust Board for final review and action. Applicants will be notified by email of the Cultural Trust's action once the state budget is enacted, typically in August.

Funding Requirements

Cultural Development Grants range from \$5,000 to \$40,000. The Cultural Trust will not consider applications that exceed the maximum request amount.

The Cultural Trust encourages organizations seeking grants under \$5,000 to contact the County or Tribal Cultural Coalition in their area. <u>Contact information for the Coalitions</u> is posted on our website.

Matching Requirement

One to One (1:1) Award Match

ORS 359.431 requires that Cultural Development Grant awards be matched at least 1:1 with earned, contributed or eligible in-kind support. Applications that do not have at least a 1:1 match will be found ineligible and will not be considered for funding.

For example:

Trust Grant Request	Cash Match	In-Kind Match	Total Project Budget
\$5,000	\$3,500	\$1,500	\$10,000

In-kind contributions are any non-cash contributions of time, services or property donated by individuals or organizations other than the applicant organization (third-party).

In-kind contributions may include:

- Goods (computers, software, furniture, and office equipment for use by your organizations or for special events);
- Services (meeting space, photocopy and mail services, administrative/financial support); or
- Expertise (legal, tax or business advice, marketing and website development, strategic planning).

Examples of in-kind contributions:

A consultant regularly charges \$1,000 but gives you a reduced rate of \$600. The full

- value is \$1,000 but \$600 is a fee and \$400 is an in-kind donation.
- The local newspaper regularly charges \$350 for an ad but they are giving it to you for free. The in-kind donation is valued at \$350.

Volunteer time should be calculated using the <u>Independent Sector value</u>.

In-kind contributions must be in alignment with Standard Accounting Principles to be considered. Staff or board member time is not considered an eligible in-kind contribution unless the board member is providing a professional service at a discounted rate.

The most competitive applications will show cash matches committed by other funders or contributors. Questions about what qualifies as a match? Contact Trust Manager Aili Schreiner at aili.schreiner@biz.oregon.gov or (503) 428-0963.

What We Don't Fund

The following are not eligible for Cultural Trust funding.

- Indirect costs not directly associated with the implementation of the project. Indirect
 costs are activities or services not directly related to the project such as operational
 expenses and salaries for staff not involved with the project. Direct costs are activities
 or services that support the specific project, e.g., salaries for project management,
 materials, marketing, etc.
- Scholarships or tuition assistance for college, university or other formal degree bearing courses of study.
- Projects that have been substantially completed by September 1, 2025, the start date of the grant period.
- Requests to offset previous project expenses and or deficits.
- Events whose primary focus is to raise funds for a non-cultural cause.

Applications from institutions of higher learning (universities and colleges) must be for projects and activities that focus on, benefit, and are open to the general public; the general public must form a significant portion of the total audience/community served.

Application Requirements

Submission Deadline: <u>5 pm Wednesday</u>, May 7, 2025

Online Application

All applications must be submitted through our <u>online portal</u> no later than **5 pm Wednesday**, **May 7**, **2025**, to receive consideration for funding. The Cultural Trust is not responsible for late applications and cannot guarantee processing of applications submitted after the published deadline.

Incomplete applications will be deemed ineligible and may not be considered for funding.

Tips for working in online application:

• Cut and paste plain text only into the online forms. Software such as Notepad works well.

 To avoid losing data, you must <u>save every page</u> in the online system before moving on to the next.

Required attachments:

Upload the following required attachments to your online application (as applicable):

- 1. FY2026 Cultural Development Budget Template
- 2. Most recent Form 990
- 3. Other supporting material (e.g. strategic plans, press clippings, artist/scholar resumes) floor plans or site plans on 8 1/2" by 11"pages, images, short (no more than 1-2 minute) videos. Or include a PDF document with embedded links. Panelists value the chance to get to know your project!
- 4. Applications requesting funds for collaborative projects <u>must</u> include **letters of commitment** from participating organizations outlining how they will collaborate in the work.
- 5. Applications requesting funds to support activities in, or in partnership with, K-12 schools <u>must</u> include a letter of support from participating school(s) that indicates their role in activity planning and anticipated participation.
- 6. First time applicants only: IRS 501(c)(3) letter or proof of Tribal status (one copy)

Do not submit any additional supplemental materials by mail.

Program Contacts & Assistance

Programmatic Questions

Aili Schreiner, Trust Manager Oregon Cultural Trust 775 Summer St NE, Ste. 310 Salem, OR 97301 (503) 428-0963 Aili.Schreiner@biz.oregon.gov

Online Technical Assistance

Raissa Fleming, Grants Officer Oregon Cultural Trust 775 Summer St NE, Ste. 310 Salem, OR 97301 (503) 986-0090 Raissa.Fleming@biz.oregon.gov

Assistance with technical requirements and application scope is available from Cultural Trust staff prior to the application deadline. To schedule time for a pre-application project/draft application review, send a request to Aili.Schreiner@biz.oregon.gov or call (503) 428-0963. Applicants may also seek feedback after funding decisions and notification have been made.

We strongly urge you to request assistance **before April 23, 2025**, to ensure you have adequate time to incorporate feedback.

FINAL REPORTS

Final Report Deadline: 5 pm Thursday, October 1, 2026

Information is required from award recipients at the conclusion of the funding period. To help the Cultural Trust report on the results of public funding, entities receiving awards must complete a final report. Final reports must be submitted within thirty (30) days of the completion of the funding period. All awardees are subject to periodic monitoring by the

<u>Cultural Trust and must retain fiscal records for a period of three (3) years following</u>
<u>completion of the funding period</u>. Award recipients that have been previously funded by the
Cultural Trust must fulfill outstanding final reporting requirements before new funds will be
distributed.

The following questions and data will be collected on the Final Report. Please track this information during the funding period:

- 1. Did you achieve the goals of your project? Describe how your successes were measured, and how any setbacks were handled. Include in your answer any changes to your project/activities that occurred during the grant period.
- 2. Using specifics, describe who participated in your project and the individuals who benefited from your project (numbers, age, geographic distribution, etc.). How did this project impact your organization and your community?
- 3. Did your project provide educational opportunities? Please describe what these were, who benefitted and how, include number of people served.
- 4. Provide a detailed list of in-kind contributions (include estimated value and description).
- 5. What was the total value and source of project contributions (include descriptions)?

Be prepared to document project locations (see template) and attach all promotional materials produced for your project that credit your grant award from the Oregon Cultural Trust.

Final report data will not be evaluated by the Cultural Trust review panels and does not affect current or future applications. This information will be used by the Cultural Trust for reporting and is required with the final report for funded applications. If you have questions, please contact the Oregon Cultural Trust at cultural.trust@biz.oregon.gov or call (503) 986-0088.

Appeal Process

The Oregon Cultural Trust recognizes that procedural errors may occur in the application process. The Cultural Trust is committed to acknowledging errors and rectifying the effects. Appeals may not be made on the basis of an applicant's disagreement with an assessment of how the application met the review criteria, the judgment of a review panel or the amount of the award.

Applicants considering an appeal should contact Cultural Trust Manager Aili Schreiner, by phone at (503) 428-0963 or by email at Aili.Schreiner@biz.oregon.gov, for advice and guidance. Letters of appeal must be submitted to the Cultural Trust's Executive Director within 30 days of public notice of grant awards. Appeals are reviewed and acted on by the Cultural Trust Board. Appeals may result in an approval of an award or an increase in the award amount if the applicant can satisfactorily document that the application was misrepresented or improperly reviewed through no fault of the applicant. If the appeal is supported by the Cultural Trust's Board, funds will be awarded as they are available.

Applicants not meeting one or more of the eligibility requirements as determined by staff are encouraged to discuss the decision with staff. Appeals concerning eligibility determination may be made. Letters of appeal must be submitted to the Cultural Trust's Executive Director

within 15 days of public notice of grant awards. All decisions made by the Cultural Trust are final.

Pending Status

Occasionally the Cultural Trust may put a grant on pending status if a project is preliminarily awarded. Cultural Trust staff will contact the applicant on pending status and discuss the information that is needed in order to review and act.

Americans with Disabilities Act Statement of Non-discrimination

Any entity that provides services to the public must certify that it complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42, USC Sec. 12101, et seq. and agrees not to discriminate on the basis of race, creed, religion, color, sex, marital status, political opinion, familial status, national origin, age, gender, sexual orientation, military status, gender identity, source of income or disability status. The Cultural Trust provides assistance to Oregon cultural groups on issues of access. Contact the Oregon Cultural Trust at (503) 986-0082 or kat.bell@biz.oregon.gov at least 48 hours in advance of the application deadline for information or assistance. TDD assistance is available at (800) 735-2900. Applicants will certify their compliance within the application.

The Cultural Trust has adopted the following Accessibility Grievance Procedure:

If a person with a disability believes that a facility or program funded by the Oregon Cultural Trust is inaccessible, they are encouraged to communicate the grievance to the sponsoring organization. If an acceptable response is not received within two weeks, that individual may contact Cultural Trust Executive Director Brian Rogers at brian.rogers@biz.oregon.gov or 971-209-5385.

Each grievance reported to the Oregon Cultural Trust will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Possible Oregon Cultural Trust actions include:

- Sending staff to assist the organization on issues of accessibility;
- Involving people with disabilities from the local community in an effort to increase the organization's accessibility;
- Requesting return of funds already granted for the current fiscal years; and
- Denying future grant requests; and
- In all cases, an organization with a pending grievance will be denied funding unless it can demonstrate to the Oregon Cultural Trust that it is working toward compliance with current accessibility standards.

ACCESS TO CULTURE

Apply to the category that **best aligns with the goals and outcomes of your project**. For examples of previous awards by program category visit https://culturaltrust.org/blog/. Contact Trust Manager Aili Schreiner at Aili.Schreiner@biz.oregon.gov or (503) 428-0963 with questions regarding program categories.

Applicants are encouraged to use published application <u>assessment rubrics</u> when choosing the appropriate grant category.

ACCESS TO CULTURE: Making culture broadly available to Oregonians

Access to Culture projects make culture broadly available to Oregonians. Access to Culture projects strategically create or increase public access to culture. This is done by removing barriers (financial, structural, geographic, ADA, etc.) and/or creating new cultural opportunities for communities often underserved. Funded Access projects can include public exhibits/artworks, new/increased access to cultural programming and outreach to new/under-resourced communities, among others.

Summary of Project & Request (up to 200 words)

Provide a summary of your project and request for support. Begin with the words "To support...". For example: "To support access to theatre performances for hearing impaired audience members by contracting with American Sign Language interpreters. "

Summary of Organization and Community Served (up to 400 words)

State your organization's mission and summarize your organization's programs and activities. How are stakeholders and other constituents involved in the work and/or decision-making of the organization? Briefly describe the community your organization serves, noting if you serve communities of color, culturally specific communities, rural areas or any other traditionally underserved populations.

Significance and Quality of Project: 10 points (up to 750 words)

Describe the barriers to cultural opportunities in your community and how this informed the design of your project (scope, time, budget).

Community Impact and Public Benefit: 10 points (up to 750 words)

Describe the change that will result from this project. How will increased access to cultural opportunities impact your community and your organization? Include intended outcomes and who will benefit (include population/geographic scope). If your organization has developed goals around diversity, equity and inclusion, how does this project help achieve these goals?

Project Management and Evaluation: 10 points (up to 750 words)

Who will measure the project's success and what indicators will they use? Please describe project outputs (number of participants, demographics, deliverables) and outcomes (changes in engagement, barriers, value of culture). Describe the qualifications of your staff and board to evaluate project success and provide strong organizational/fiscal management.

Budget Requirements

All applicants must complete and upload the Cultural Trust's excel budget template to their online application. Please use the online budget narrative section to provide detailed information on your budget that will clarify items for the review panel.

Budget Form & Narrative: 10 points

CULTURAL HERITAGE & PRESERVATION

Apply to the category that **best aligns with the goals and outcomes of your project**. For examples of previous awards by program category visit https://culturaltrust.org/blog/. Contact Trust Manager Aili Schreiner at Aili.Schreiner@biz.oregon.gov or (503) 428-0963 with questions regarding program categories.

Applicants are encouraged to use published application <u>assessment rubrics</u> when choosing the appropriate grant category.

CULTURAL HERITAGE & PRESERVATION: Investing in Oregon's cultural heritage by recovering, preserving and sharing historic assets and achievements

Cultural Heritage & Preservation projects invest in Oregon's cultural heritage by recovering, preserving and sharing historic assets and achievements. Cultural Heritage & Preservation projects restore or renovate historic assets, create educational exhibits, support digital/oral preservation and archival work, and/or support museum collections and historic research/publications, among others.*

* Organizations undertaking large-scale preservation construction/renovation projects (+\$500,000) are encouraged to contact the Cultural Advocacy Coalition to discuss the Cultural Resource Economic Fund (www.oregonculture.org).

Summary of Project & Request (up to 200 words)

Provide a summary of your project and request for support. Begin with the words "To support...". For example: "To support the design and creation of a sustainable historic lighthouse garden for contextual and educational programing."

Summary of Organization and Community Served (up to 400 words)

State your organization's mission and summarize your organization's programs and activities. How are stakeholders and other constituents involved in the work and/or decision-making of the organization? Briefly describe the community your organization serves, noting if you serve communities of color, culturally specific communities, rural areas or any other traditionally underserved populations.

Significance and Quality of Project: 10 points (up 750 words)

Explain the significance of the cultural heritage or preservation project to your community and how this informed the design of your project (scope, time, budget). If this is a renovation or construction project, identify the proposed contractor and their qualifications.

Community Impact and Public Benefit: 10 points (up to 750 words)

Describe the change that will result from this project. How will increased investment in cultural heritage impact your community? Include intended outcomes and who will benefit (include population/geographic scope). If your organization has developed goals around diversity, equity and inclusion, how does this project help achieve these goals?

Project Management and Evaluation: 10 points (up to 750 words)

Who will measure the project's success and what indicators will they use? Please describe project outputs (number of participants, demographics, deliverables) and outcomes (historic assets and achievements recovered/preserved/shared; value of investment in Oregon heritage increased). Describe the qualifications of your staff and board to evaluate project success and provide strong organizational/fiscal management.

Budget Requirements

All applicants must complete and upload the Cultural Trust's excel budget template to their online application. Please use the online budget narrative section to provide detailed information on your budget that will clarify items for the review panel.

Budget Form & Narrative: 10 points

CULTURAL CREATIVITY

Apply to the category that **best aligns with the goals and outcomes of your project**. For examples of previous awards by program category visit https://culturaltrust.org/blog/. Contact Trust Manager Aili Schreiner at Aili.Schreiner@biz.oregon.gov or (503) 428-0963 with questions regarding program categories.

Applicants are encouraged to use published application <u>assessment rubrics</u> when choosing the appropriate grant category.

CULTURAL CREATIVITY:

Supporting the Cultural and Creative Expression of Oregonians

Cultural Creativity projects support the cultural and creative expression of Oregonians. Cultural Creativity projects invest in creative work by supporting the development of artists, cultural experts or scholars. Cultural Creativity projects promote creative expression as a core part of vibrant communities with public exhibits/artistic residencies, cultural/artistic programming/productions/performances, commemorative works or special commissions, scholarly research and publications, and/or support for emerging creative leaders, among others.

Summary of Project & Request (up to 200 words)

Provide a summary of your project and request for support. Begin with the words "To support...". For example: "To support the residency of an artist and a humanities expert to develop a commemorative work to celebrate our organization's 30th anniversary."

Summary of Organization and Community Served (up to 400 words)

State your organization's mission and summarize your organization's programs and activities. How are stakeholders and other constituents involved in the work and/or decision-making of the organization? Briefly describe the community your organization serves, noting if you serve communities of color, culturally specific communities, rural areas or any other traditionally underserved populations.

Significance and Quality of Project: 10 points (up 750 words)

Describe the work by artists, cultural experts or scholars who promote cultural and creative expression as a core part of vibrant communities and how this informed the design of your project (scope, time, budget).

Community Impact and Public Benefit: 10 points (up to 750 words)

Describe the change that will result from this project. How will support for creative expression impact your community and your organization? Include intended outcomes and who will benefit (include population/geographic scope). If your organization has developed goals around diversity, equity and inclusion, how does this project help achieve these goals?

Project Management and Evaluation: 10 points (up to 750 words)

Who will measure the project's success and what indicators will they use? Please describe project **outputs** (number of participants, demographics, deliverables) and **outcomes** (changes in artistic/cultural engagement, creativity in community, value of creative

expression). Describe the qualifications of your staff and board to evaluate project success and provide strong organizational/fiscal management.

Budget Requirements

All applicants must complete and upload the Cultural Trust's excel budget template to their online application. Please use the online budget narrative section to provide detailed information on your budget that will clarify items for the review panel.

Budget Form & Narrative: 10 points

STRENGTHEN CULTURAL CAPACITY

Apply to the category that **best aligns with the goals and outcomes of your project**. For examples of previous awards by program category visit https://culturaltrust.org/blog/. Contact Trust Manager Aili Schreiner at Aili.Schreiner@biz.oregon.gov or (503) 428-0963 with questions regarding program categories.

Applicants are encouraged to use published application <u>assessment rubrics</u> when choosing the appropriate grant category.

STRENGTHEN CULTURAL CAPACITY:

Strengthening Cultural Organizations

Strengthen Cultural Capacity projects build stability for cultural organizations and generate public confidence. Strengthen Cultural Capacity projects should reflect strategic investments in cultural organizations' capacity and/or improved sustainability by prioritizing new resources, thereby serving their community and deepening cultural impacts. New investments in organizational capacity/sustainability (staffing, equipment, marketing, development, online resources, building infrastructure, etc.) are eligible; requests for general operating support are not eligible.

Summary of Project & Request (up to 200 words)

Provide a summary of your project and request for support. Begin with the words "To support...". For example: "To support a planning process to enable our organization to effectively respond to increased demand for our services and activities."

Summary of Organization and Community Served (up to 400 words)

State your organization's mission and summarize your organization's programs and activities. How are stakeholders and other constituents involved in the work and/or decision-making of the organization? Briefly describe the community your organization serves, noting if you serve communities of color, culturally specific communities, rural areas or any other traditionally underserved populations.

Significance and Quality of Project: 10 points (up 750 words)

Explain the significance of this one-time, strategic investment to your organization. If funded, how will the project build your organization's capacity by increasing stability or improving sustainability? Is this an investment in your organization's programmatic or operational capacity? How did this inform the design of your project (scope, time, budget)?

Community Impact and Public Benefit: 10 points (up to 750 words)

Describe the change that will result from this project. How will a strategic investment in your organizational capacity impact your organization and the community you serve in the short and long term? If your organization has developed goals around diversity, equity and inclusion, how does this project help achieve these goals?

Project Management and Evaluation: 10 points (up to 750 words)

Who will measure the project's success and what indicators will they use? Please describe project **outputs** (new staffing, equipment, marketing, development, online resources, building

infrastructure, etc.), and **outcomes** (increased stability, improved sustainability, barriers to organization diminished, value of organization to community increased). Describe the qualifications of your staff and board to evaluate project success and provide strong organizational/fiscal management.

Budget Requirements

All applicants must complete the online budget form with project expenses and revenue. Please use the online budget narrative section to provide detailed information on your budget that will clarify items for the review panel.

Budget Form & Narrative: 10 points