

Sponsor/Title: The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) -- Celebrating the Nation's 250th Birthday with Music from U.S. Military Bands

Website: <https://www.arts.gov/grants/military-bands>

Funding Opportunity Number: 2026NEABANDS

Submission Limitation per Institution: One (1)

Notre Dame Limited Submissions Listing:

<https://research.nd.edu/our-services/funding-opportunities/faculty/limited-submissions-program/>

Internal Expression of Interest Deadline: 2026-02-05

Sponsor Application Deadline: 2026-02-23

Description: In anticipation of the 250th anniversary of American Independence, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) is pleased to welcome proposals from eligible organizations for a special grant opportunity: "Celebrating the Nation's 250th Birthday with Music from U.S. Military Bands" for activities taking place in communities throughout the 50 states, D.C., and U.S. jurisdictions in 2026.

Throughout American history, military bands have celebrated the nation's spirit through a wide range of musical styles and genres. From marching bands to orchestral, vocal, and jazz performances, the nation's more than 250 military bands perform in communities of all sizes for ceremonial programs, as well as for entertainment and educational purposes. In recognition of their excellence in music and service to the country, President Trump awarded a 2019 National Medal of the Arts, the nation's highest award given to artists, to the musicians of the United States military.

Against this backdrop, the NEA will award grants ranging from \$10,000 up to \$20,000 each (no cost share required) to eligible organizations for arts projects that feature performances and/or educational programming with a U.S. military band to celebrate the nation's Semiquincentennial.

For example, a nonprofit organization may wish to feature a military band, ensemble, or solo performer at an event or performance as part of its regularly scheduled programming—or the organization may develop a special event, performance, series, or educational program in response to this funding opportunity.

Projects must:

- Feature at least one public performance and/or educational program with a U.S. military band (e.g., marching band, orchestra, chorus, ensemble, soloist, vocalist, etc.) in a community within any of the 50 states, D.C., or U.S. jurisdictions.
- Provide the public with free-of-charge or reduced cost opportunities to attend and/or interact with the programming.
- Provide evidence in the application of commitment from a U.S. military band to participate in the project.

- Limit project costs to allowable expenses not paid for by the U.S. military band including but not exclusively venue or space rental, advertising, educational programming, and salaries/stipends for non-military staff or artists participating in the project. See the budget instructions on page 11 for more information.

Note: In alignment with government-wide legal requirements, no federal funds (including the NEA's grant award) may be used to compensate the military band for any aspect of their participation in this program. A U.S. military band must pay for its own travel, food and lodging, instrument/equipment shipping costs, and all other expenses for which funds are available within the band's operating budget.

Required Internal Application: Upload the following information to the Google Form -- <https://forms.gle/WKTE1qWjiTiZQCxx5> by the internal deadline.

- Name of the Principal Investigator (PI)
- Project Title
- Names of ND Collaborators: For each ND Collaborator listed, include name, department or unit, and specific role for this project in three sentences (maximum).
- Project Summary (maximum of three (3) pages). The Project Summary should align with the Review Criteria outlined on page 17 of the NOFO and address the following areas:
 - *Artistic Excellence - The artistic excellence of the project includes:*
 - The project's potential to celebrate the nation's 250th birthday with performances and/or educational programming with a U.S. military band.
 - Quality of the works of art and any related programming to be featured in the project.
 - Qualifications of any non-military band artists and artistic partners involved in the project, as applicable.
 - *Artistic Merit - The artistic merit of the project includes:*
 - Degree to which the project correlates to the applicant's mission, experience, and programming.
 - Ability to conduct the project on time and within budget including the clarity of the project design, and the qualifications of the project personnel.
 - The reasonableness of the budget.

Questions? Contact Notre Dame Research Limited Submissions at limited@nd.edu.

Unless otherwise noted, all internal applications are due by 11:59 PM Eastern Time on the internal expression of interest deadline.

Internal applications submitted after the deadline will not be accepted.