

## **Introduction**

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The Miami Beach Visitor and Convention Authority (MBVCA) is pleased to announce the guidelines and application forms for their FY 2018/2019 **Initiatives Grant Program**. Each year, the MBVCA identifies projects or programs that promote tourism in Miami Beach year-round. Once identified, the MBVCA seeks the appropriate organization to carry out the proposed project or program.

The MBVCA is a seven-member authority, appointed by the City of Miami Beach Commission, with the goal of encouraging, developing and promoting the image of Miami Beach locally, nationally and internationally as an outstanding tourist destination. To this end, the MBVCA strategically focuses its funding investments in a balanced manner, fostering outstanding existing programs, stimulating new activities, and encouraging partnerships. The MBVCA is committed to a careful, long-term plan for allocation of resources to help Miami Beach thrive as a destination with something for everyone.

**Initiative grants are specifically targeted towards organizations chosen by the MBVCA to carry out the designated initiative. Initiatives can be a repeat grant but are usually a one-time grant.**

The MBVCA will meet in **three periods** to determine funding for the Initiatives grant. The grant program is announced through published and disseminated guidelines, and legally advertised deadlines. The grant program requires organizations to show evidence of matching funds from other public and private sector sources.

The MBVCA reserves the right to revise published information. Please phone 305-673-7050 to confirm information, including but not limited to, board meeting dates and times.

## **MBVCA Mission Statement**

To proactively recruit, develop, promote, and financially support and partner with events, festivals, programs and activities that are innovative, high quality and representative of our City, which garner positive or noteworthy media awareness, which enhance and augment the reputation of Miami Beach and the experience for tourists, year-round, or which significantly impact our local hospitality and culinary business.

## Application Submission Process

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All applicants must register through the MBVCA's Application Portal at [www.miamibeachvca.com/Portal](http://www.miamibeachvca.com/Portal). Applications are submitted through a multi-step process where all required grant criteria and a draft application must be submitted and approved by the published deadline date before being able to move onto the next step in the process. If the documentation is not received or is not acceptable by the deadline date, the applicant may not continue with the grant process. Once the grant criteria and draft application are approved, the applicant may proceed to the next step of submitting the remainder of the required application attachments. Again, if the required documentation is not received by the published deadline, it will be deemed late and the applicant may not proceed with the application process. Once all documentation is received, corrections may be issued to the applicant. All corrections must be made by the published deadline date. Late applications will not be accepted and therefore, will not be considered by the Board.

## Additional Requirements

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- A detailed Marketing/Media Plan for your proposed program including a breakdown of impressions (confirmed and anticipated) must be provided.
- Applicant organizations must be incorporated for a minimum of one year from the event start date to be eligible to apply for a grant. If applicant organization has been incorporated less than a year, a Fiscal Agent, with a minimum of one year of incorporation from the event start date, may apply on their behalf.
- Applicants presenting to the Board must be registered as lobbyists with the City of Miami Beach.
- Applicants should be prepared to make a brief presentation about their program and be ready to respond to questions from the MBVCA Board. Applicants must be present at the meeting to be considered for funding.
- At least 50% of the events must take place within the City of Miami Beach.
- Brief resume of project director and principal staff.
- One page organizational history.
- Organization's Board Member list including contact information.
- Organizations must provide a copy of their reviewed and/or audited financial statements, inclusive of a profit and loss statement, for the last completed fiscal year. Repeat applicants must submit their financials, as described above, with their application draft. Financials must be submitted by the CPA directly to the MBVCA.
- Programs must have accessibility to the public
- Programs must take place within the City of Miami Beach in the 2017/2018 fiscal year (October 1, 2017 through September 30, 2018).
- Sample survey of tourism evaluation method.
- Two support letters, on letterhead, from the applicable community agency(ies) listed on the application must be provided.
- Up to five press clips regarding the event or organization must be provided.

## Program Calendar

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### **Funding Project Activities between October 1, 2018 – September 30, 2019**

Tourism Partnerships are only reviewed once during the first period of each fiscal year. All other grant categories will be reviewed according to the event and/or project date.

#### **First Period: October 1, 2018 – January 31, 2019**

**Prospective Applicants must meet with MBVCA Staff by:** Friday, August 24, 2018 by 4:00 pm

**Project Information and Required Grant Criteria must be submitted for approval**

**by:** Friday, August 31, 2018 by 3:00 pm

**Draft Application and Application Attachments must be submitted by:** Friday, September 7, 2018 by 3:00 pm

**Final Application Deadline:** Monday, September 17, 2018 by 12:00 pm

**Board Meeting Date:** TBA in late September/early October 2018

#### **Second Period: February 1, 2019 – May 31, 2019**

**Prospective Applicants must meet with MBVCA Staff by:** Friday, October 12, 2018 by 4:00 pm

**Project Information and Required Grant Criteria must be submitted for approval**

**by:** Friday, October 19, 2018 by 3:00 pm

**Draft Application and Application Attachments must be submitted by:** Friday, October 26, 2018 by 3:00 pm

**Final Application Deadline:** Monday, November 5, 2018 by 12:00 pm

**Board Meeting Date:** TBA in November/December 2018

#### **Third Period: June 1, 2019 – September 30, 2019**

**Prospective Applicants must meet with MBVCA Staff by:** Friday, January 18, 2019 by 4:00 pm

**Project Information and Required Grant Criteria must be submitted for approval by**

Friday, January 25, 2019 by 3:00 pm

**Draft Application and Application Attachments must be submitted by:** Friday, February 1, 2019 by 3:00 pm

**Final Application Deadline:** Monday, February 11, 2019 by 12:00 pm

**Board Meeting Date:** TBA in March/April 2019

**The MBVCA reserves the right to revise published information.** Please phone 305-673-7050 to confirm information, including but not limited to, Board meeting dates and times.

## Panel Objectives/Priorities

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In order to be eligible for the Tourism Advancement Program, the proposed program must have a compelling tourism component and demonstrated ability to attract tourists to Miami Beach. **The proposed program must also be able to meet the eligibility criterion at the time of application submission. At least 50% of the events must take place within the City of Miami Beach.**

### Funding Priorities

The panel will provide priority attention to the following tourism development objectives in regard to making funding decisions:

- **Television Coverage** – programs with confirmed television coverage and viewership from a major network or cable provider.
- **Development Areas** – programs which occur during the months of June - September and during national holidays; programs which help expand the positive impact of tourism into North Beach and other under-utilized areas of Miami Beach.
- **Confirmation of Hotel Room Nights** – programs with confirmed hotel room blocks of 350 hotel room nights or more in a Miami Beach hotel.
- **Significant Impact** – programs that have a track record or a demonstrable potential to provide a significant national and/or international return for Miami Beach in regard to publicity and visitorship.
- **Long-Term Planning** – year-round activities, series of events and/or entire seasons which demonstrate comprehensive and strategic approaches to building effective cultural tourism programs.
- **Open to the Public** – programs, events and activities that are open and accessible to Miami Beach visitors and residents.
- **Event Quality/Reputation** – events that attract high caliber and high profile artists to perform in Miami Beach; events with an outstanding national or international reputation.

## Procedural Policies

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Once the panel has reviewed a proposal and funding was awarded or denied, the applicant organization cannot return to the MBVCA in the same fiscal year for the same project or proposal. **An organization may apply only once for any one project or event within a funding period. Please reference the Program Calendar for a list of funding periods.**

An organization applying as fiscal agent for an individual or another organization may apply again in a separate grant category during the fiscal year for another project. **Fiscal agents** must fill out the 'Fiscal Agent Form' and include it as part of their applications. Forms may be obtained from the MBVCA Administrator. The fiscal agent becomes the legal applicant of record, redistributes the funds to the intended recipient, and is entirely responsible for all published requirements of the grants program. These include contracts, revised budgets, fiscal records and reports. **Fiscal Agents may only be utilized by first-time applicants. After said year, organization must be the grantee and meet all requirements as outlined within the grant program guidelines.**

Non-use of the MBVCA logo is a contractual violation and may result in loss of funding support.<sup>1</sup> Given the timing of events and application review, applicants may want to obtain acknowledgement materials from the MBVCA Administrator for advance use; however, advance use of the MBVCA logo and credits line will not affect Board deliberations about the funding merits of a program. **Please check with the MBVCA Administrator for any changes to existing logos.**

## Financial Policies

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All programs are contingent upon the approval of the annual budget by the City of Miami Beach Mayor and Commission. Any diminution in budget funding levels to the MBVCA will reflect in a reduction of the grant award in the same percentage.

The maximum grant request is one quarter of the actual project budget, up to a maximum of **\$30,000**.

The MBVCA shall not be considered the sole source of funding. Applicants must provide their entire program budget. This budget must show sponsors, who have been secured prior to seeking support from the MBVCA, and indicate those funding sources in the budget portion of the application. **Applicants must demonstrate a minimum of a four-to-one funding ratio.**

In addition to applying to the MBVCA, all organizations are encouraged to explore financial support from other funding agencies such as the Miami Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs at 305.375.4634 or [www.miamidadearts.org](http://www.miamidadearts.org) and/or the Miami-Dade Sports Commission at 305.818.7188 or [www.miamisports.org](http://www.miamisports.org).

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<sup>1</sup> For the duration of the grant, the Grantee shall prominently acknowledge the participation of the MBVCA in all press releases, publications, and promotional materials presented to the media or otherwise disseminated or published material concerning the project. Failure to comply with this request may affect the applicant's future funding.

## Funding Restrictions

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### The following are not eligible for funding support:

- Administrative Expenses to include payroll taxes, medical, insurance, worker's compensation, pension contributions, etc.
- Administrative Salaries/Production Labor Costs/Labor Costs/Artist Fees/Performer Fees
- Applicant Organizations will less than one year of incorporation
- Capital expenses and permanent equipment
- Cash Prizes
- Charitable Contributions
- City Services (permit fees, off-duty police, insurance, etc.)
- Conventions and conferences that do not have a significant national and/or international tourism impact for Miami Beach.
- Debt Reduction
- Events not open to the public
- Expenses incurred prior to grant award date or fiscal year; whichever is later
- Film Productions (must apply under Film Incentive Grant Program)
- Fiscal Agents may not be used by organizations that are applying to or receiving funding from the CAP, during the current fiscal year
- Incomplete or misrepresented applications
- Light pole banner costs within Miami Dade County
- Local marketing and advertising costs (Miami Dade County publications) – only regional, national, and international
- Monthly/Annual Organizational Membership Fees
- Operational Expenses (utilities, office rental costs, legal fees, payroll fees, insurance, etc.)
- Organizations failing to meet Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 as amended (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.), the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act requirements.
- Organizations that are currently applying for or have received a grant from the Miami Beach Cultural Affairs Program (CAP)
- Organizations that have not filed their Final Report as required for prior MBVCA funded programs
- Organizations who owe monies to venues owned and/or managed by the City of Miami Beach (Byron Carlyle Theater, Colony Theater, Fillmore at the Jackie Gleason, Miami Beach Convention Center, Miami Beach Botanical Gardens, Bass Museum of Art, etc.)
- Programs or expenses for programs that do not take place in the fiscal year
- Programs that do not wholly or substantially take place within the City of Miami Beach
- Publications not directly associated with the promotion of an event
- Social/Fundraising programs
- Television, Video, or Filming Expenses
- Travel and/or Hospitality costs
- Website Design/IT Development and Maintenance

## Application Instructions & Evaluation

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**Please Note: Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.**

- A Table of Contents is required for **application attachments only**

- Acceptable file formats for attachments include:

bmp, csv, doc, epg, gif, ico, jpg, odg, odp, ods, odt, pdf, png, ppt, swf, txt, xcf, xls, BMP, CSV, DOC, EPG, GIF, ICO, JPG, ODG, ODP, ODS, ODT, PDF, PNG, PPT, SWF, TXT, XCF, XLS

Any application that has not met the above requirements shall not be reviewed by the MBVCA Board. All programs brought before the MBVCA Board will be evaluated on a point system that incorporates MBVCA priorities.

Changes in projects – i.e. budget, location, date, etc. – must be reported to the Administration’s office immediately in writing. Any organization with a budget that has decreased or increased by more than 10% may be required to return to the MBVCA for re-evaluation and approval of such changes.

Project funding will be in jeopardy if procedures are not followed and organizations will risk losing all or part of the grant award.

**Please Note:** All organizations must be registered as lobbyists with the City of Miami Beach City Clerk’s office prior to presenting to the MBVCA Board. For more information, please call 305-673-7411 or visit [www.miamibeachfl.gov](http://www.miamibeachfl.gov).

## Application Attachments

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Each application must have the following attachments:

- A copy of the organization's reviewed and/or audited financial statements, inclusive of a profit and loss statement, for the last completed fiscal year. Reviews and Audits must be conducted using Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP).<sup>2</sup>
- A detailed Marketing/Media Plan for your proposed program including a breakdown of impressions **(confirmed and anticipated)**
- Brief resume of project director and principal staff
- Confirmation of contracted hotel room nights through fully executed contracts
- Confirmation of media placement and/or coverage through signed/executed media contracts, barter agreements, sponsorship agreements, invoices, insertion orders. **All agreements must include the media impressions for the publication or media source.**
- Lobbyist Registration application copy and receipt from City Clerk's office<sup>3</sup>
- One page organizational history
- Organization's Board Member list including contact information
- Questionnaire (provided by staff)
- Sample survey of tourism evaluation method
- Table of Contents **(FOR ATTACHMENTS ONLY)**
- Two support letters from the applicable community agency(ies) listed below
- Up to five press clips regarding the event or organization

**The following attachments are required if applicable to the application:**

- A copy of the previous year's completed MBVCA Final Report
- A fully executed television/cable program contract with confirmation of household ratings in hundred thousands
- Fiscal Agent (provided by staff)
- Letter of Engagement from independent accountant for review/audit completion (If awarded, grant contract will not be released until financials are submitted). **Letter must come directly from CPA Firm via email or fax. Document is not to be uploaded to the Application Portal.**
- Supporting documents from Miami Beach hoteliers
- Up to two additional letters of support

**You may obtain letters of support from the following agencies as they apply to your proposed project:** City of Miami Beach Department of Tourism, Culture, and Economic Development; City of Miami Beach Office of Mayor and Commission; City of Miami Beach City Manager's Office; Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau; Live Nation (c/o) Fillmore at the Jackie Gleason Theatre for the Performing Arts; Global Spectrum (c/o) Miami Beach Convention Center; Miami Dade County Office of Cultural Affairs; Ocean Drive Association.

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<sup>2</sup> **Financials must come directly from CPA Firm via email or fax. Document is not to be uploaded to the Application Portal.**

<sup>3</sup> All organizations must register as lobbyists with the City of Miami Beach City Clerk's office prior to presenting to the Board.  
FY 2018 2019\_Initiatives