Background: In 2019, the City of Richardson and the Eisemann Center for Performing Arts partnered with The School of Arts, Technology, and Emerging Communication at UT Dallas to create the Eisemann Edge Endowment Fund. This innovative program empowered Richardson residents and students to explore how technology can enhance arts experiences.

Early projects supported by the Eisemann Edge Endowment Fund include MotherBoard, a modular sculptural installation that celebrated the City of Richardson’s history, and 20 Years in 20 Minutes, a projection experience that highlighted 20 years of the Eisemann Center.

Now housed at CFT, the Eisemann Edge Initiative continues to offer grant funding to forward-looking collaborative projects that explore the intersection of innovative technology with the performing and/or visual arts.

Eligibility: This opportunity is currently open to nonprofit organizations and fiscally-sponsored entities with projects that explore the intersection of innovative technology with the performing and/or visual arts. Preference will be given to projects that use innovative technology and the arts to unite and enrich community and celebrate creativity, collaboration, and innovation.

Grant Requirements: The grantee(s) must publicly premiere the funded project at the Charles W. Eisemann Center for Performing Arts between September 15-29, 2024 (this includes installation and presentation time).

The grantee(s) will have in-kind access to spaces throughout the Eisemann Center, including the Hill Performance Hall, Bank of America Theatre, Bank of America Hall, and the Green Mezzanine Gallery. For technical specifications and additional information about the Eisemann Center, please CLICK HERE.

Grantmaking Criteria: The Eisemann Edge Initiative at CFT will prioritize grant funding for projects that:

- Clearly articulate how the project will apply and demonstrate innovative technology to the presentation and experience of performing and/or visual arts. Examples of technologies include, but are not limited to, artificial intelligence (AI), augmented and virtual reality, coding, digital fabrication, digital media, immersive installation, projection, and/or software.
- Demonstrate a track record of creating innovative projects that merge arts and technology.
- Share detailed plans about how the project will be publicly presented at the Charles W. Eisemann Center for Performing Arts between September 15-29, 2024.
- Demonstrate collaboration and challenge the stereotypes and siloing that are characteristic of technology institutions (e.g., educational groups and corporations) and the performing/visual arts.
Application & Review Process: Nonprofits and fiscally-sponsored entities interested in being considered for grant funding must complete an online application by **5:00 p.m. CDT on August 31, 2023**. Late, mailed, and e-mailed applications will not be accepted. Instructions on how to access the online grant portal are provided below:

1. Visit: cftgrants.org
2. Select “Create a New Account” (or Log On if you already have an account) and follow prompts
3. Select “Apply” at the top of the page
4. Search for "2023-24 Eisemann Edge Initiative" and click the blue "Apply" button

Applications will be reviewed by staff at Communities Foundation of Texas and finalist applicants will be reviewed by the Eisemann Edge Advisory Board, a committee made up of leaders in the arts and technology sectors. The Eisemann Edge Advisory Board will finalize grant decisions in October 2023 and grant notifications will be communicated by the end of October 2023. The average grant award amount will be between $50,000 and $100,000.

Administration: Applicants that are awarded funding are expected to publicly present their completed project at the Charles W. Eisemann Center for Performing Arts between September 15-29, 2024. Failure to comply with this requirement could result in disqualification from future grant funding processes.

Grantees will be expected to provide quarterly updates to CFT on the project leading up to the presentation date.

Questions about the grant process or application? Contact Greg Oertel, Senior Community Philanthropy Officer, at goertel@cftexas.org. To schedule time to virtually meet with Greg, please [CLICK HERE](#).