



Resources Compilation for Getting Established: LLCs and Nonprofits (April 22, 2026)

Hosts

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Guest Artists - “Flashes of Inspiration” Speakers

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Additional Resources

[Business Action Center NJ](#)

[Business NJ Gov](#)

[NJ Center for Nonprofits](#)

[Grants Management Office State of NJ](#)

[Score](#) Grow Your Business with Free Expert Mentoring

[The Artist Corporation](#) Food for thought. Not currently offered in NJ.

Q&A:

For Ricardo:

What is the best way to collaborate with larger brands to affiliate with your business?

My best advice is to create value for yourself which is becoming undeniably you- and therefore undeniably great. No one else can be you- so serve your talents in what makes you special & share it. This can take years- you have to be a master at what you do. After developing your work, your signature should come through without having to sign the work. When people view it, it is clearly your visual style. When this happens - brands and collaborators will seek you out because it is you and only you who provides that "look" or feeling that is valuable, that is uniquely you.

However, if you are trying to directly establish collaborations, you will have to then provide a very succinct 'value proposition'. You are essentially asking someone to work with you when they don't even know who you are. Remember their time is valuable (like yours) so if you do not clearly get to the point quickly then nothing will happen because they don't have the time to invest in even learning about you.

KNOW, CARE & WANT. You have to share who you are, what you do and the value you provide (and can provide them by working with you). Think of a one pager- images of your work, your work in spaces or within other successful projects (galleries, etc.) Be sure to share your accolades and your signature style. If you can present these topics quickly, clearly, and attractively, they will then want to work with you. You must meet them where they are and contact the right person. Details and speed do matter so make sure you have all your "ducks in a row" when you reach out. If they do want to see pictures, videos, your website- all of that needs to be ready.

Of course, all of this should be funneled through the lens of what you are proposing. For example- are you going to a Gala or a Baseball Game? You would present differently, dress differently for each. For example: If I was going to propose a collaboration with MLB then I would share my baseball inspired works- not my Hawaii Series. You are essentially solving a problem for them, and you want them to see that working with you makes their business or their organization better by doing so.

For Camille:

Was it helpful to start with a fiscal sponsorship before looking into the nonprofit structure? How was it helpful? Would you recommend starting that way?

Yes! It was very helpful for me, and I would recommend starting with a fiscal sponsorship if you're ready to receive donations right away but not necessarily ready to begin the nonprofit process yet. A fiscal sponsorship was a great introduction for me into the nonprofit world; I was able to take my time, learn about building donor relationships and engage with new people, learn how to create a donor thank you letter and track donations, learn about development strategies and create end of year reports. I also received great guidance and feedback from my host organization, which improved my nonprofit business acumen. I also thought it was helpful to receive the covering of an established nonprofit when it came to increasing brand visibility and marketing. I stayed with my fiscal sponsors for one year, however, because as more donations came in, I had to increase the amount I gave back to my host organization. As we received more support, I knew it was only a temporary solution and began my nonprofit application journey.

General:

After establishing a Non-Profit organization, how do we obtain grant money?

Generally speaking, in the beginning, folks on your board may be of help in terms of writing grants. The organization applying for the grant will be preparing what's needed to get the application done. You can look at the [local arts program in your county](#) to get more information and grant guidelines for arts-based grants on the local level. You can check out community foundations to see what they offer. [Community Foundation of NJ](#) and [NJ Center for Nonprofits](#) and the [NJ State Grants Management Office](#) may be good resources for getting started.