

Artist Support Grant 2020-2021 Guidelines

Purpose: Artist Support Grants were created to provide direct support to individual artists during and following the COVID-19 pandemic. The initiative will fund professional and artistic development for emerging and established artists to enhance their skills and abilities to create work or to improve their business operations and capacity to bring their work to new audiences.

Applications will be accepted from creatives living in Mecklenburg, Cabarrus, Cleveland, Gaston, Lincoln and Rowan Counties. (Please note, the North Carolina Arts Council has arranged new regions for the Artist Support Grants. If you live in another NC county, you can find your county partner [here](#).)

Artists representing visual, craft, performing, traditional, and interdisciplinary art forms are encouraged to apply. Applicants should demonstrate a commitment to spending a significant portion of their time on their work as artists. The Artist Support Grants will support projects occurring between January 1, 2021 and June 30, 2021. Artists may request up to \$2,000. Those applications selected for funding will receive the full award for which they are eligible.

Eligibility:

- Individuals and Artist Collectives — Both individual artists and small, unincorporated groups of collaborating artists are eligible to apply.
- Residency — Artists should have lived continuously in Mecklenburg, Cabarrus, Cleveland, Gaston, Lincoln or Rowan county for at least one year before October 1, 2020. An applicant must be at least 18 years old and either a U.S. citizen or a permanent resident alien. Artists who live in more than one region should apply only where they spend most of the year. All members of a collaborating team must be North Carolina residents, live in the region in which they are applying, and meet the other eligibility requirements. Resumes documenting residence for all team members should be included with the application.

- **Multiple Awards** — Artists who are sole proprietors of organizations that have already received funding for FY2020–2021 from the N.C. Arts Council are ineligible to apply.
- **Conflict of Interest** — Current board and staff members of the consortium partner organizations and their family members are not eligible to apply for the award.
- **Student Status** — The Artist Support Grant is intended for adult, nonstudent artists. Artists enrolled full-time in undergraduate or associate degree-granting programs may not apply for the grant. Artists in certificate programs are generally eligible. Artists pursuing graduate degrees in subjects other than their art form may be eligible if they meet the other eligibility criteria.

Eligible Projects and Costs:

Up to 50 percent of the grant amount may be used for artist fees.

- **Completion/Presentation of a New Work** — Cost of resources necessary to complete or present a significant new work (e.g., purchasing art supplies or equipment (digital may qualify) or space rental)
- **Career Promotion** — Projects aimed at advertising artists' work and/or demonstrating their skill level (e.g., websites, portfolios, audio-visual documentation, and online presentation)
- **Training** — Costs to attend a class or workshop (in-person or virtual) aimed at either enhancing the artist's skill level or professional development (e.g., a master class or workshop taught by acknowledged authorities in the applicant artist's medium)
- **Travel** — Costs of transportation, lodging, and food for training, professional conferences, or research as allowed or possible while adhering to social distancing guidelines

Ineligible Projects and Costs

- Scholarships for undergraduate- or graduate-level education

- Projects that support or oppose a particular candidate for public office
- Projects that are exclusive to members of a particular religious faith group
- Projects that do not have a direct effect on the applicant's growth as an artist (e.g., the promotion of other artists' work)

Deadline

All applicants are required to apply through our online application system before NOON on October 1, 2020.

How to Apply

[Click here.](#)

Evaluation Criteria

- Overall excellence of the applicant's artwork as demonstrated by work samples
- Feasibility of the proposed project
- Contribution of the proposed project to the advancement of the applicant's professional artistic development and practice

Review Process

All completed Artist Support Grant applications will be judged by a multicounty panel of established artists, arts professionals, arts educators and administrators who will review and evaluate the applications and allocate funds for selected projects.

Information and Assistance

For more information, please contact:

Liz Fitzgerald

Arts & Science Council Charlotte-Mecklenburg
Phone: (704) 335-3053
E-mail: liz.fitzgerald@artsandscience.org

ASC will host three online workshops for prospective applicants:

- **August 13, 5:30 p.m.**
- **August 21, 10 a.m.**
- **August 31, 5:30 p.m.**

Each workshop will be hosted on Zoom, and RSVP is required. Application and Workshop Registration Links: <https://www.artsandscience.org/grants/grants-for-individuals/artist-support-grants/>.

Local Arts Council Contact Information

If you would like assistance with reviewing your draft materials, please use the “email a draft” option within the application to send your materials and questions to your county’s arts council representative: info@cabarrusartscouncil.org.

Artist Resources:

[How to Photograph Your Artwork](#) - link to You Tube video