



Animating Infrastructure Grant Guidelines | FY 2017

The Animating Infrastructure program is designed to foster collaborative partnerships between communities and artists to successfully integrate public art into existing or proposed infrastructure improvement projects. From public bike racks and solar panels to a new bridge, the intent of the program is to renew a sense of pride and connection to place through the development of community-centered public art that reflects the vision, values, and creative spirit of Vermont communities.

For the purposes of this program, the Vermont Arts Council's definition of infrastructure is broad and may include anything that serves a functional purpose in a community. Structures such as buildings, bike paths, bridges, small scale wind towers/solar panels, etc. in the built and/or natural environments as well as the working landscape have potential for creative enhancement by artists. Applicants are encouraged to review [these sample projects](#).

A panel will review applications and select a small number to be invited to submit full proposals. The Arts Council will ultimately award funds to three to five projects that demonstrate a collaborative process that sparks a creative, lively integration of public art into existing or proposed community infrastructure projects. The Arts Council will provide guidance in the selection of an artist and other resources. The community will be responsible for implementation. Grantees will be asked to document their process and product through stories, photos, videos, models etc.

Eligible Activities

Animating Infrastructure provides communities with funds to engage and work with an artist. Funds will be awarded for:

- planning and design fees, which enable an artist to work with the applicant and the community during the design and development phase of the project
- implementation and fabrication fees, which support an artist in the creation of public art for a previously designed project
- planning/implementation fees, which support artist involvement in both the planning and implementation phases of the project

All project ideas are welcome. The Council encourages applicants to consider:

- integrated projects where infrastructure is the art
- green Infrastructure projects
- projects in their early planning phases

Who May Apply

Vermont municipalities, nonprofit arts and/or non-arts organizations, schools, libraries, downtown associations, historical societies, chambers of commerce, and/or regional planning organizations are eligible to apply. Organizations in rural communities and/or communities with little or no prior experience with public art are encouraged to apply. Applicants should have strong, supportive community leadership in place to give the project high potential for being completed successfully. Individual artists may not apply.

Grant Amounts and Matching Requirements

Grants will range from \$1,000 to \$15,000. Funds may only be used to pay artist fees and/or fees related to the fabrication and installation of artwork. Grants will not require a match, but grantees will be responsible for implementing the project and raising any additional funds necessary for its realization. If a project is selected for funding, the Council will provide 75% of the grant award upon receipt of a signed contract and the remaining 25% upon completion and submission of a final report.

Application Deadline

- December 5, 2016 — letter of intent due
- January 20, 2017 — finalists invited to submit full/complete proposal
- March 10, 2017 — full proposals due
- May 1, 2017 — three-five projects selected for implementation and applicant notified of grant award
- May 1, 2017 — project work begins
- December 31, 2018 — projects completed

Criteria

A successful application will demonstrate a unique opportunity for the integration of public art into infrastructure that will relate the community to the natural/built environment or the working landscape. Proposals should clearly demonstrate that the project would benefit from the inclusion of an artist in the design, planning and/or implementation phase.

Competitive proposals will:

- celebrate what is unique and special about the community
- foster connections among people, cultures, and/or organizations
- demonstrate strong community leadership
- involve the community in the design/planning
- be of appropriate and realistic scope and scale for the community
- demonstrate active participation by community partner organizations
- have potential to be a model project for other communities

End products will:

- conclude with a permanent (or temporary) installation/integration of art, either within the grant period (if an implementation grant) or after the grant period (if a planning grant)
- be of high artistic merit
- capitalize on distinct and unique attributes, and/or stories of the community
- have high community visibility
- reflect community goals and values
- will inspire community attraction to, interaction and/or engagement with the space or structure

Questions?

This program is managed by Michele Bailey, senior program director. She can be reached by sending email to mbailey@vermontartscouncil or by calling 802.828.3294.