



## Animating Infrastructure Grant Guidelines | FY2019

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

All eligible project proposals are welcome. The Council is especially interested in:

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

### Who May Apply

Vermont municipalities, nonprofit arts and/or nonarts organizations, schools, libraries, downtown associations, historical societies, 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.

## **Application Deadline**

- December 10, 2018; letter of intent due
- January 21, 2019; finalists invited to submit full/complete proposal
- March 18, 2019; full proposals due
- April 30, 2019; three-five projects selected for implementation and applicant notified of grant award
- May 1, 2019; project work begins
- December 31, 2020; 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/place
- 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 an installation or integration of art, either within the grant period (if an implementation grant) or after the grant period (if a planning grant). The art may be permanent or temporary
- 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
- inspire community attraction to, or interaction and/or engagement with the space or structure

## **Access and Nondiscrimination Policy**

The Vermont Arts Council is committed to supporting entities that maintain an environment free from discrimination on the basis of race, religion, color, creed, national origin, age, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, genetic bias, disability, citizenship, veteran status, or other category protected by applicable state or federal law. Arts Council grant recipients who receive federal or state funds must be in compliance with the requirements of Section 504 of Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (504), the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the ADA Amendment Act of 2008, and the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design as well as the 2010 ADA Title III regulations for nondiscrimination.

## **Questions?**

Inquiries about the Animating Infrastructure program should be made by sending an [email to Michele Bailey](#) or by calling 802.828.3294.

Inquiries about using the online application system should be made by sending an [email to Meredith Bell](#) or by calling 802.828.3292.