



Artist Development Grant | FY2021 Guidelines

Artist Development Grants support artists at all stages of their careers. Grants can fund activities that enhance mastery of an artist's craft or skills; activities that increase the viability of an artist's business; or for teaching artists, developing the skills necessary to provide instruction in K-12 schools remotely during the COVID-19 crisis. Funding may also support aspects of the creation of new work when the activity allows the grantee to accept a rare and important opportunity.

[See here for new changes to our guidelines.](#)

Eligible expenses for such activities include, but are not limited to:

- advanced study of technique or practice with a mentor
- attending a professional conference to build business or artistic skills or knowledge
- contracting professional services including photographic documentation of work, contract preparation or business incorporation, creation of accounting systems, developing e-commerce on a website, creation of marketing materials, etc.
- marketing, planning, purchasing some materials, or renting space for new exhibitions or performances
- adapting and responding to the current COVID-19 crisis
- travel within the United States

For examples of previously funded projects, look at our list of [recent grantees](#).

Who May Apply

Individual Vermont artists who:

- have been residents of Vermont for a minimum of one year prior to the application deadline and are residents at the time the award is granted
- are eighteen years of age or older at the time of application
- have submitted all required reports on any prior Council grants

Vermont artist groups who:

- have one member who meets all of the above requirements and is assigned as representative of the group

Who May Not Apply

- Artists whose projects involve activities for which college credit is given
- Artists who have received any other Arts Council grant in the same fiscal year to support the same project
- Artists who have received an Artist Development Grant in the same fiscal year

This Program Does Not Fund

The Artist Development Grant does not fund academic tuition or projects that receive college credit; international travel; the purchase of permanent equipment (valued at \$1,000 or more); lobbying expenses; fundraising events; the same project twice in the same fiscal year; or events that do not meet with our access and nondiscrimination policy.

Grant Amounts

Grant amounts range from \$250-\$1000. Funds are limited; grant awards generally do not exceed \$500, though higher levels of funding are considered if an artist demonstrates that the proposed activity will greatly advance their professional standing. Grant amounts are dependent upon federal and state funding and subject to change

Criteria

Applications are evaluated in three areas:

- **impact (50%)**

The applicant demonstrates that this activity will:

- make them more proficient in the proposed subject and that the artistic merit of workshops or instructors will positively impact the applicant's skill and/or knowledge
- increase the viability of an artist's business
- make it possible to accept a rare opportunity

- **planning (30%)**

The artist demonstrates that this activity is a necessary step toward achieving their artistic craft and/or business goal(s).

- **budget (20%)**

The budget and budget narrative demonstrate that the applicant anticipates the cost of the activity and is able to account for additional necessary revenue.

**Priority will be given to first time grantees and proposals for rare or unique opportunities.*

Deadlines and Notification

An artist may apply to any of the three deadlines: 11:59 p.m. on September 28, 2020; January 11, 2021; and May 10, 2021. The proposed activities must begin after the grant application deadline and end no later than August 31, 2021. Award notifications are typically made within six weeks of each application deadline.

Preparing Your Application

Applicants will be asked to provide a narrative description of the proposed activity, and explain how the activity contributes to goals related to their artistic craft and/or business. Applicants must be able to state a relevant goal they are working toward. Some biographical information or facts from the resume of key individuals may be needed. All applicants will complete a project budget and narrative. Additional details—such as a URL leading to more information about your proposed activity, a notice of acceptance to a workshop, residency, or other opportunity when possible; a contract between collaborators; or estimates for professional services —may also be necessary. [Preview the application here.](#)

Review Process

Applications are evaluated based on the criteria listed and are reviewed by an internal panel. Funding recommendations are submitted to the Vermont Arts Council's executive director for approval.

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 (P.L. 110-325) which became effective on January 1, 2009.

Questions?

Inquiries about the Artist Development Grant program should be made by [sending an email to Dominique Gustin](#) or by calling 802.402.4602. Inquiries about using the online application system should be made by [sending an email to Meredith Bell](#) or by calling 802.828.3292.

See [Applicant and Grantee Information](#) for more information regarding requirements.