



Artist Development Grant – Sample Applications

Attending an artist's retreat, residency, etc.

Eligible expenses (*excerpt from grant guidelines*): Eligible expenses include, but are not limited to: Attending a retreat or residency to enhance mastery of an artist's craft or skills; increase the viability of an artist's business; or to support aspects of the creation of new work when the activity allows the grantee to accept a rare and important opportunity.

An example of a successful application has been provided below, with commentary (*italicized in blue*) describing what worked, and how the artist's answers met the grant criteria.

Project Description: Grants funds will be used to attend a one-month residency at the (name of artist residency).

Narrative Section:

Question: Describe your status as an artist and your current goals.

Response (*Artist provides specific information about their status as an artist – what medium they work in, their exhibition experience, and their work as a teaching artist*) I am an emerging artist working out of (name of city). My practice reflects an extensive background in stone carving and maintains a dedication to the material of stone. I show my work in small galleries throughout New England and work with the (name of institute) teaching people how to carve Vermont marble. (*Artist details their next steps as an artist and current goals*) While I have shown my work in the past, I have recently been working on a body of work that will be used to apply to graduate schools. I hope to earn an MFA in Sculpture + Extended Media in the near future, which will allow me to continue teaching at a higher level.

Question: Describe your proposed activity and how it will advance your craft or business.

Response: (*While it isn't necessary to have been accepted to a residency or retreat at the time of your application, it does strengthen your request*) My application for a residency at the (name of artist residency) was accepted on (date provided) and I was invited to attend the (session date).

(*Artist provides details about the residency*) During the residency, I will be provided with a private room, a private studio and 3 communal meals each day. There will also be 7 resident presentation nights, 2 open studio nights, talks from visiting artists and writers and studio critiques with visiting artists and writers. Additionally I will immersed in a community of 49 other artists from around the world. (*Artist explains why the residency is important, and how it will help them realize their goals*) The opportunity to work within a vibrant community of artists is what makes this residency program so valuable. Access to

this type of community is absolutely necessary for artistic development. The program will also provide me with experience giving presentations on my artistic practice and the opportunities to have my work critiqued by established artists.

As an artist living in Vermont, especially during the recent quarantine, it can be difficult to find local artistic communities like this. The exposure to working artists and opportunity to discuss work critically will dramatically help my personal artistic development. I have been producing a lot of work over the past couple months, but the work has seen limited exposure. In order to further develop the ideas I have been working with, I need critical feedback from working artists and critics. (Name of artist residency) will provide me with that and much more.

Question: Why is this particular activity important to achieving your goals?

Response: *(Artist provides additional context and explains how the proposed activity is an important step towards achieving their goals)* Attending artist residencies is an important step in applying to graduate school. Each residency strengthens an artist's CV and offers a glimpse into the world of academic art. It is important for me to attend a (name of artist residency) to both strengthen my MFA application and to gain experience communicating the ideas behind my work through conversation and presentations. This particular activity will drastically help me in the graduate school process.

Budget Section: *(Balanced budget provided: total expenses = total income)*

Anticipated Expenses

Residency fees - \$4,250
Expense Total \$4,250

Anticipated Income

Grant request - \$500
Applicant cash contribution - \$2,250
Other contributions - \$1,500
Income Total \$4,250

Budget Narrative Section:

Question: Explain how you arrived at each of the numbers in your budget.

Response: *(The artist demonstrates an effort to reduce costs, and has secured support from other sources)* The current full fee for a 4-week residency at the (name of artist residency) is \$4,250. I was awarded a (name of grant) for \$900 and a (name of award) for \$600. I am now responsible for a \$2,750 payment (provides link to artist residency financial aid website page).

Question: The grant will pay for which specific expense(s) in the project budget?

Response: *(All expenses covered by grant are eligible for funding. Eligible expenses may be found in the grant guidelines)* 100% of the grant will pay for the cost of attending the (name of artist residency).

If received, how might this funding impact your proposal? (This is your opportunity to explain the importance of funding support.)

Response: The residency fee is expensive. The Artist Development grant will help me pay the remaining \$2,750 of the residency fee.

Support Materials Section: *(Artist provides evidence of costs, workshop description and artistic practice)*

- Artists' CV uploaded
- Copy of award letter
- URL for retreat website is listed
- Artists' website URL provided