Vermont Creative Aging | FY2023 Guidelines
Creative Aging grants support skill building activities alongside social engagement and community building opportunities in and through the arts for older adults. Organizations may apply for up to $4,000 to support activities designed for older adults aged 60+ led by experienced teaching artists. Fundable project activities take place between January 1, 2023, and August 31, 2023.

Priority is given to projects led by Vermont artists. Applicants may engage artists on the Council’s Creative Aging Teaching Artist Roster. These are experienced teaching artists that have trained with Lifetime Arts to design creative aging programs that include skill-based instructional lessons and intentional social engagement opportunities. Applicants may submit proposals for projects led by teaching artists not on the roster. Teaching artist fees vary from artist to artist.

Example projects may include:
- hiring a teaching artist to lead a series of photography workshops in an assisted living facility culminating in a community exhibit
- hiring a teaching artist to lead remote workshops for older adults in their homes, supplying materials, providing opportunities for social engagement, and giving support to caregivers
- hiring teaching artists or mentors to work with older adults to capture and/or create a series of stories or poems through a partnership with an agency serving older adults

Who May Apply
Vermont nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, agencies of state government, counties, and municipalities are eligible to apply. This includes arts organizations, senior centers, and area agencies on aging. Collaborations with or among such organizations are welcomed.

Who May Not Apply
- Individuals
- Organizations with outstanding or incomplete reporting for any Vermont Arts Council grant

Fiscal Agents
Groups without tax-exempt status may apply using a fiscal agent. A fiscal agent must be a charitable nonprofit organization incorporated in Vermont as a tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The fiscal agent form must be completed and uploaded with the application. All applicants (or the fiscal agent) must have a Unique Entity ID (UEI).

Unique Entity ID (UEI)
As of April 4, 2022, the federal government transitioned from the use of DUNS Numbers to a new Unique Entity ID (UEI). All organizations applying for funding will be required to have a UEI. This ID is a
12-character alphanumeric value assigned, managed, and owned by the federal government through SAM.gov. Applicants may learn how to get your free UEI here. Contact us with any questions about obtaining a UEI.

Grant Amounts
Grant awards are up to $4,000. No match is required. The full grant amount will be paid on receipt of a signed contract and completed direct deposit authorization and after January 1, 2023. Grant amounts are dependent upon federal and state funding and are subject to change.

Criteria for Selection
Applications will be reviewed based on:
artistic merit (40%)
- well-planned creative opportunities for older adults
- appropriate compensation for at least one high-quality teaching artist
- teaching artist displays a combination of aesthetics, technical skill, and delivery that is potentially engaging emotionally, intellectually, and/or spiritually
impact (40%)
- activities that positively impact the participants and community, especially activities that:
  - facilitate social interaction
  - convene communities around creative projects
  - provide accommodations and adaptations to serve a wide range of participants
- well-defined and measurable goals with a clear plan for evaluation
- meaningful community partnerships between arts and non-arts groups or entities that enhance the quality of the project
- activities rooted in reflection on previous work or community need
project management (20%)
- clear and reasonable budget
- realistic timeline
- clear roles, responsibilities, and contributions for all partners and entities involved in the project
- compliant with access and nondiscrimination policies and laws

Priority Areas
We are especially interested in projects and organizations that respond creatively to the following:
- Expanding access to arts and cultural activities for all Vermonters. This might include, for example, projects that engage individuals with limited access to the arts due to ability, income, race, geography, or other factors.
- Creative placemaking. We welcome projects that re-envision public spaces and strengthen community identity through the arts.

Grantee Requirements and Expectations
- Older adults are served by multi-day projects driven by an experienced teaching artist. This may include remote or in-person learning opportunities.
- When publicizing the activity in the local press, grantees give credit to the Vermont Arts Council as well as the National Endowment for the Arts.
- A final report is due 30 days after the end of the activity, and no later than September 30, 2023.

Application and Deadline
Applications are due on or before November 1, 2022. Funds are to be used for activities that begin after January 1, 2023, and end by August 31, 2023. An independent panel will review applications and make funding recommendations. The Council reserves the right to work with the applicant to improve or clarify grant requests before funding decisions are made.

**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), and the ADA Amendment Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-325) which became effective on January 1, 2009.

Please refer to [these resources](#) for more guides to accessibility. You may also submit ADA questions confidentially through the [New England ADA Call Center](#).

**Questions?**
Inquiries about the Creative Aging grant program should be made by sending an email to Troy Hickman or by calling 802.402.4496.

Inquiries about using the online granting system should be made by sending an email to Meredith Bell or by calling 802.402.4478.