The Vermont Rapid Response Artist Relief application is temporarily closed, so that the Council staff may process requests, ramp up fundraising efforts, and assess the rapidly-changing needs in the field. As of March 31, we have received more than 170 request for emergency relief funding from artists across Vermont, and will be distributing $57,500 in grants in the coming weeks, with plans for more as funding allows.

We aim to reopen this fund in mid-April. In the meantime, please check our COVID-19 artists resources page, which is being updated regularly.

Vermont Rapid Response Artist Relief
The Vermont Rapid Response Artist Relief provides grants up to $500 to artists who have lost income due to the loss of a job or cancellation of a specific, scheduled gig or opportunity (e.g., commissions, performances, contracts, workshops, classes, etc.) because of COVID-19.

This is our first program to respond to the economic impact of COVID-19. We are actively exploring options for other recovery efforts for artists and arts organizations. Updates will be posted on the Vermont Arts Council COVID-19 webpage and announced through our e-newsletters.

Grants will be awarded on a rolling basis until funds run out.

Eligible for Funding
- Recouping financial losses due to cancelled events. This includes but is not limited to:
  - performances in all performing arts disciplines
  - readings, panels, and speaking opportunities
  - classes, workshops, and school closures
- Offsetting loss of income for any artist who has to cancel their creative work because they are an immune-compromised person
- Support for artists working full or part-time who have lost supplemental income used to support their creative practices

Who May Apply
Individual artists who:
- have been residents of Vermont for a minimum of one year and are residents at the time the award is granted
- are eighteen years of age or older at the time of application
- meet all of the above requirements and are applying as a representative of an artist group

This Program Does Not Fund
At this time, this program is not available to compensate for potential loss of business.

Grant Amounts
Grant amounts range from $100-$500. Funds are limited; grant awards will not exceed $500. Grant amounts are dependent upon existing funding and will be awarded on a rolling basis until funds run out.

**Timeline**
Requests will be processed in the order they are received and notifications will be made as soon as possible. We hope after applying that artists will have to wait no more than four weeks to receive funding and we will do our best to move quickly.
Reporting Requirements
Grantees are encouraged to keep all receipts in case the Vermont Arts Council requests them. Applicants will be required to submit a completed W-9 and may need to claim the contribution as income; please consult with a tax expert.

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.

Questions?
Inquiries about the Vermont Rapid Response Artist Relief should be made by sending an email to Amy Cunningham or by calling 802.828.5423. Inquiries about using the online application system should be made by sending an email to Meredith Bell or by calling 802.828.3292.