



Artist Development Grant | FY2024 Guidelines

Artist Development Grants support Vermont artists at all stages of their careers. Grants can fund activities that enhance the mastery of an artist's craft or skills; or activities that increase the viability of an artist's business. Funding may also support aspects of the creation of new work when the activity allows the applicant to accept a rare and important opportunity. Maximum grant award is \$2,000.

[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 rent studio space (outside of your own home) to create new exhibitions or performances
- 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. Residency means that Vermont is your primary residence, and is the address you use for legal forms, state income taxes, car registration, driver's license or state issued ID, and/or voter registration
- are eighteen years of age or older at the time of application
- have submitted all required reports on any prior Council grants
- are practicing artists. The Vermont Arts Council defines a practicing artist as: A person that intentionally creates or practices art who:
 - is committed to devoting significant time to artistic activity, as is possible financially
 - works in an artistic discipline such as visual arts, crafts, performing arts (including music), literary arts, media & design arts, and multidisciplinary arts

Vermont artist groups who:

- have one member who meets all 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 (between September 2023 and June 2024)
- Artists with outstanding or incomplete reporting for any Vermont Arts Council grant
- Nonprofits and organizations

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 \$5,000 or more); improvements on a home studio or personal property; 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

You may apply for any amount up to \$2,000—we strongly encourage applicants to apply for the LEAST amount of funding necessary for their request. Money is limited, and we want to be able to support as many artists as possible. While we will do all that we can to fully fund as many projects as possible, some proposals may be partially funded. Grant amounts are dependent upon federal and state funding and are subject to change.

Criteria

Applications are evaluated in three areas:

- **artistic excellence, merit, and impact**
The applicant demonstrates that the quality of the artists, instructors, professionals, activities, and/or services that the project involves will:
 - positively impact the applicant's skill and/or knowledge in a meaningful way
 - increase the viability of the applicant's artistic business
 - make it possible to accept a rare opportunity
- **budget**
The budget demonstrates that the applicant anticipates the cost of the activity and can account for additional necessary revenue.
- **artistic practice**
The applicant demonstrates that they are a practicing artist, or artist group, working in an artistic discipline such as visual arts, crafts, performing arts (including music), literary arts, media & design arts, and multidisciplinary arts.

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

Deadlines and Notification

Application deadlines are **September 26, 2023**, and **January 30, 2024**, by **1:00 p.m.** The proposed activities must begin after September 26, 2023, and end no later than August 31, 2024. Award notifications are typically made within eight weeks of each application deadline.

Preparing Your Application

See the application preview on the [main grant page](#).

The Council accepts grant applications via an online form. If you require an alternate format or assistance to access the application, please contact Dominique Gustin listed below or [send an email to Michele Bailey](#), accessibility coordinator, or call her at 802.402.4614. Requests for assistance should be made at least three weeks ahead of the deadline. Voice and relay calls welcome.

Review Process

Applications are evaluated based on the grant criteria listed above and are reviewed by a 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 the 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.

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 802.402.4478.

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