



Arts Project Grant | FY2025 Guidelines

Arts Project Grants support nonprofit organizations, municipalities, and schools in their efforts to add vibrancy to Vermont communities by providing equal and abundant access to the arts.

What We Fund

Examples of fundable projects include, but are not limited to:

- performances, exhibits, screenings, readings, fairs, public art projects, and festivals that focus on including new or under-resourced audiences
- public art projects that commission an artist for the creation of new work where the community is engaged in the planning, presentation, and/or fabrication
- creative experiences that are designed to include a specific group of a certain age, income, gender, race, or ability, or to encourage interaction among these groups
- accessibility accommodations that enable people with disabilities to participate in arts programs

What We Do Not Fund

Project grants may not fund capital construction, the purchase of permanent equipment, the offset of previous operating deficits, fundraising events, food and beverages, lobbying expenses, travel abroad, programs in which artists are not appropriately compensated, or activities that are primarily religious.

Priority Areas

We are especially interested in projects and organizations that respond creatively to the following:

- **Expanding access to the arts and cultural activities for all Vermonters**
This might include, for example, projects that engage individuals with limited access to the arts due to age, ability, income, race, geography, or other factors. This can also include the removal of barriers to participation such as accessibility accommodations for your arts activities (e.g., sign language interpreters, audio describers, captioners, translators/interpreters, print materials in alternative formats, etc.)
- **Creative placemaking**
We welcome projects with cross-sector partners that re-envision public spaces and strengthen community identity through the arts.
- **Addressing issues related to the impact of recent flooding**
This might include, for example, projects that help communities to reflect on, heal, and/or recover from a disaster; or projects that help revitalize flood-impacted downtowns, villages, and neighborhoods.

Who May Apply

Vermont 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, local government, and/or municipalities that:

- have a [Unique Entity ID \(UEI\)](#) from the federal government. [Learn how to get your free UEI here.](#)
- received a Cultural Facilities Grant or an Animating Infrastructure Grant for a different project
- received a Creative Futures award
- apply through a fiscal agent. **Groups without tax-exempt status can apply through a fiscal agent.** The 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

Who May Not Apply or Receive Funding

- FY2024-2026 Arts Operating Grant recipients
- FY2025 Arts Operating applicants
- organizations or individuals who have received FY2025 Arts Council funding for the same project
- organizations with outstanding or incomplete reporting for any Vermont Arts Council grant
- schools seeking funding for an artist residency during the school day (apply instead to the [Artists in Schools Grant](#) program for such projects)
- individuals

Grant Amounts

Grant awards range from \$1,000 to \$4,000. No match is required. The full grant amount will be paid on receipt of a signed contract, completed direct deposit authorization, and W-9 after September 1, 2024. Funded projects must be completed by August 31, 2025. Grant amounts are dependent upon federal and state funding and are subject to change.

Criteria for Selection

Successful applicants will address all the criteria to the best of their abilities and be evaluated on the following criteria:

Quality and Impact (70%) The proposed project or creative experience:

- has high artistic merit
- offers a rewarding and/or positive arts experience for the participants and/or community
- demonstrates meaningful community partnerships between arts and non-arts groups that enhance the quality of the project
- strives to remove or reduce barriers to participation for under-resourced groups
These groups may include but are not limited to people of color; Indigenous people; people who identify as LGBTQ+; people with disabilities; people who identify as immigrants or refugees; people whose first (or only) language is not English, etc.

Project Management (30%) The proposed project or creative experience:

- is clearly defined and planned with a realistic timeline
- has strong leadership in place to manage the project
- demonstrates effective outreach and promotional plans
- is compliant with access and nondiscrimination policies and laws

- has a clear and reasonable project budget where artists/creatives are appropriately compensated

Application and Deadline

The application deadline is **April 29, 2024**, at 11:59 p.m. Applicants will receive an email notification by the end of July. Funded activities must be completed between **September 1, 2024**, and **August 31, 2025**. Applications must be submitted through the Council's [online granting system](#). If you require an alternate format or assistance to access the application, please [send an email to Michele Bailey](#).

Review Process

Eligible applications are reviewed by a panel of arts professionals. Panelists may come from outside Vermont. Submission of an application does not guarantee funding. Errors and omissions might affect a panel's evaluation of the application, so please follow the instructions, and prepare the application carefully.

Grantee Requirements

Grantees will be expected to sign a contract agreeing to specific funding requirements. A final report will be due thirty days after the end of the proposed activity, and no later than September 30, 2025.

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

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.

Also see the [application preview](#) for more tips and information on addressing accessibility in your application.

Questions?

The Council welcomes conversations and questions about your project. Our role is to support you in your efforts to prepare the strongest application possible. **We recommend reaching out far in advance of the program deadline.**

Inquiries about the Arts Project Grant program should be made by sending an [email to Michele Bailey](#) or by calling 802.402.4614.

Inquiries about using the online application system should be made by sending an [email to Meredith Bell](#) or by calling 802.402.4478.