

Sample form, not for offline completion.

Visit <https://artscommission.grantplatform.com> to apply.

2026 Accelerator Grant—Round 1

APPLICATION DUE DATE

Applications are due before June 16th, 2026 at noon, 12:00 pm.

REVIEW PROCESS + TIMELINE

Applications will be **reviewed by a Grant Panel** composed of The Arts Commission's Board of trustee members and representatives from the performing, literary, and visual arts communities (both from Toledo and the Midwest). The Arts Commission's Chief Executive and Operating Officers serve as ex-officio members on the Grant Panel (the ex-officio members **do not** score or make funding recommendations). Grant Panelists may prioritize awarding to artists representing a diversity of mediums or those who are first-time grantees.

Cycle 1 Timeline

Mid-June: Panelists will Score and Comment on applications.

Early July: Panelists will meet for a Zoom Panel Review where they will make funding recommendations based on application scores.

!! Mid-July: The recommendations from the panel will be reviewed and approved by The Arts Commission. Applicants can expect to **receive an email** from The Arts Commission about the funding decisions.

We will answer questions about this application Monday-Friday during regular business hours: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm. Questions will be answered in the order that we receive them.

Please **give yourself plenty of time** to review the application and reach out to us if you have any questions.

Liz Bayan—LBayan@theartscommission.org

Your Full Name

I hereby certify that I am the individual named above and that the information provided in the application is true and accurate.

2026 Accelerator Grant Guidelines

The Accelerator Grant is a competitive program offering financial support for local **Emerging and Hobbyist artists** to advance their creative projects and pursue artistic growth. Eligible categories of support for this program are limited

to Materials + Supplies, Equipment, Professional Development, and Project Support. **Grant request amounts are not to exceed \$1,000.**

HOW TO APPLY

Submit your completed applications via the Good Grants platform before the **deadline at noon, 12:00 pm (Eastern) on Tuesday, June 16 (Cycle 1) or Tuesday, August 25 (Cycle 2)**. Visit <https://theartscommission.org/artists/accelerator-grants> for FAQs, a full example copy of the application (with all the questions), important deadlines and updates, and a link to the online application.

GRANT PROPOSAL

- Short Description of art making (75 words max)
- Budget Template
- Grant Narrative Questions
 1. Explain the expenses listed in the Budget Template (75-200 words or 1-3 minute video)
 2. How will this funding help you grow as an artist and support the continuation of your art making? (100-250 words or 2-4 minute video)
 3. Tell us how you share your work with your community. Please provide details for **where and when** the public will experience your work. (75-200 words or 1-3 minute video)

DIGITAL PORTFOLIO

- Creative Accomplishments (5 items—Date, Accomplishment, Location)
- Artist statement (50 words minimum, 150 words maximum)
- Bio (50 words minimum, 150 words maximum)
- Work Samples (Visual—up to 6 images; Performing—up to 10 minutes of audio/video; Literary—up to 10-page PDF for all genres; Multidisciplinary—2 images, 2 audio/video, PDF up to 5-page maximum)
- Work Sample Descriptions (Title, medium, date, dimensions, or duration)

WHO CAN APPLY

Artists are limited to one Accelerator Grants every three calendar years, i.e. artists who receive funding in 2026 will not be eligible to apply again until 2029.

In order to be considered eligible for review by the Grant Panel, the application **must be filled out completely and appropriately.**

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Individual artists and artist collectives with a current residence or a creative studio within **30 miles of downtown Toledo** may be eligible.

The Accelerator Grant is open to artists across all mediums.

Applicants who identify as Hobbyist or Emerging Artists are eligible to apply.

For the purposes of this program, applicants may identify as a **Hobbyist artist if one of the following applies:**

1. Making art is not your profession or career.
2. It's something fun you do in your spare time.
3. You make things purely for self-fulfillment or self-satisfaction or for the love of making things.

For the purposes of this program, applicants may identify as an **Emerging artist if one of the following applies:**

1. You have 0-10 years of experience as a working artist regardless of age or education.
2. You are actively working to grow your creative career with things like exhibitions, performances, honors or awards, publications, artist lectures/presentations, etc.
3. You are someone who's made a career change or recently decided to prioritize your art above everything else.

Applications will be accepted from university or college level **adjunct** teachers.

INELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Artists enrolled in a **degree or certificate-granting program** of any kind at the time of application are NOT eligible for Accelerator Grants. Applications will not be accepted before the graduation date.

Artists **teaching** full-time at a college or university (as a tenure track or full-time salaried employee) at the time of application are NOT eligible for Accelerator Grants.

Artists currently employed by The Arts Commission or serving as members of The Arts Commission's Board of Trustees are NOT eligible for Accelerator Grants.

Applicants self-identifying as Mid-career or Established Artists are NOT eligible to apply for an Accelerator Grant. We encourage those artists to apply for the Merit Award that opens in late August.

Commercial photographers or graphic designers are NOT eligible for Accelerator Grants. For the purposes of this program, a **commercial artist** is someone who creates visual artworks for commercial purposes, primarily to promote and sell products, services, or ideas.

Nonprofits are NOT eligible for this opportunity.

ELIGIBLE CATEGORIES OF SUPPORT ARE LIMITED TO

Funds may be used by artists during the spending period on expenses related to advancing their artistic practice.

1. MATERIALS + SUPPLIES RELATED TO YOUR CREATIVE PRACTICE.

For example: film + photo chemicals, raw materials, paper, canvases, paint, paintbrushes, clay, printmaking supplies, glass blowing supplies, etc.

2. EQUIPMENT

For example: presses, camera lenses, instruments, welders, audio equipment, etc.

3. PROJECT SUPPORT

For example: paying other artists to help you with your project such as illustrators, musicians, copywriters, copy editors, fabricators, etc. Or irregular overhead costs such as lift rentals or liability insurance.

4. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

For example: fees for professional memberships, workshops, business training, residencies, regional performances, and other costs related to conceptual or technical research.

INELIGIBLE CATEGORIES OF SUPPORT

Applicants **may not** request funding for the following items.

1. REGULAR OVERHEAD EXPENSES

For example: studio rent, utilities, insurance, accountant, bookkeeping, or costs associated with a commercial photography or graphic design business.

2. TRAVEL RELATED EXPENSES

For example gas, mileage, plane tickets, parking, gas, mileage, lodging, food, etc.

3. NO LAPTOP/TECHNOLOGY EXPENSES

Unless it relates directly to your artmaking practice, you may not request funding for a laptop or other technology.

REVIEW PROCESS

Applications will be **reviewed by a Grant Panel** composed of The Arts Commission's Board of trustee members and representatives from the performing, literary, and visual arts communities (both from Toledo and the Midwest). The Arts Commission's Chief Executive and Operating Officers serve as ex-officio members on the Grant Panel (the ex-officio members **do not** score or make funding recommendations). Grant Panelists may prioritize awarding to artists representing a diversity of mediums or those who are first-time grantees.

Please be aware that applying for this grant does not guarantee funding.

REVIEW CRITERIA

Scale of 0-3: 0. Incomplete, 1. Needs Improvement, 2. Acceptable, or 3. Exemplary.

- Commitment to Art Making
- Artistic Merit
- Impact on Artist's Growth
- Public/Community Presence

REVIEW TIMELINE

CYCLE 1—May 26–June 16

- **Mid-June:** Panelists will Score and Comment on applications.
- **Early July:** Panelists will meet for a Zoom Panel Review where they will make funding recommendations based on application scores.
- **!! Mid-July:** The recommendations from the panel will be reviewed and approved by The Arts Commission. Applicants can expect to **receive an email** from The Arts Commission about the funding decisions.

CYCLE 2—August 3–25

- **End of August:** Panelists will Score and Comment on applications.
- **Mid-September:** Panelists will meet for a Zoom Panel Review where they will make funding recommendations based on application scores.
- **!! End of September:** The recommendations from the panel will be reviewed and approved by The Arts Commission. Applicants can expect to **receive an email** from The Arts Commission about the funding decisions.

GRANT DISBURSEMENT

Recipients of Accelerator Grants will receive approved grant funding no later than **one month following the receipt** of their signed grant agreement.

SPENDING PERIOD

Artists have **90 days from the date of payment** to use the grant funds. The funds are not reimbursable, meaning they cannot be used on expenses incurred prior to receiving the grant.

Original receipts will be required as proof that materials were purchased **after funds were awarded**. Grants received through this program are considered taxable to the extent that is applicable by law. Please consult a tax professional for additional advice.

- **Cycle 1 Spending Period:** August 1—October 31, 2026
- **Cycle 2 Spending Period:** October 1—December 31, 2026

FINAL REPORTING

- Final reports are **due 30 days after** the funding period unless otherwise requested and approved in writing. The final report due dates for the two cycles are:
 - **November 30, 2026 (Cycle 1)**
 - **January 31, 2027 (Cycle 2)**
- Final report instructions can be found by visiting <https://theartscommission.org/artists/accelerator-grants>.
- Failure to submit a final report may result in **noncompliance status** and could **disqualify the applicant from receiving future grants**. Additionally, the **award may be required to be returned in full** to The Arts Commission.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

If selected by the Grant Panel to receive funding, the grant recipient will be required to sign a release providing The Arts Commission unrestricted permission to use materials provided in the final reporting process, including but not limited to videos, images, and publicity materials, to promote the Accelerator Grant Program.

QUESTIONS?

For questions, please reach out to **Liz Bayan, Artist Services & Subgranting Manager**.

Email: LBayan@theartscommission.org

Phone: 419.254.2787 Ext. 1018

APPLICANT INFORMATION

First Name

Last Name

Applicant Business name (optional)

Personal Pronouns (optional)

Email Address

Phone Number

Full Street Address

Building number, Street Name, and Apartment/Suite number if applicable.

City

Zipcode

Creative Studio

Is your creative studio outside of your home?

Yes

No

Have you ever applied for an art grant before?

Yes, a couple of times.

Yes, I've been applying to art grants for many years.

No, this is my first time applying for an art grant.

What is the primary focus of your creative practice?

Visual

Literary

Sound

Film

Performing

Music

Dance

Fashion

Multi-Disciplinary

Are there any additional terms you use to describe yourself as an artist? (please check all that apply)

Craftsperson

Fine Artist

- Teaching artist
- Community Artist
- Conceptual Artist
- Something not listed above.

How did you learn about this opportunity?

- Arts Commission Email
- Social Media
- Press Release
- Newspaper or Print media
- Radio
- Television
- Individual Referral
- Word of Mouth

Please check all that apply.

Would you like to be added to our email list?

We send out emails promoting upcoming grant opportunities, artist mixers, and workshops.

- Yes, please add me to your email list.
- I already receive your emails.
- No thanks!

DEMOGRAPHIC QUESTIONS

The questions below are **OPTIONAL** and are intended to help us understand the communities we serve. When you fill out the application online, you will be given the option to choose, "Prefer not to say."

Grant Panelists will not see this information when they review your application.

Gender (optional)

- Female
- Male
- Non-binary
- Transgender
- Prefer to self describe
- Prefer not to say

I identify as a member of the LBGTQIA+ community. (optional)

- Yes

- No
- Prefer not to say

My ethnic or cultural background is: (optional)

- Asian/South Asian
- Black/African/Afo-Caribbean
- Caucasian
- Hispanic/Latinx
- Middle Eastern/Arab
- Native American/Alaskan Native
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
- Prefer to self describe
- Prefer not to say

I identify as a person with a disability. (optional)

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

What is your age range? (optional)

- 18-24
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65 +
- Prefer not to say

ACCELERATOR GRANT PROPOSAL

We will answer questions about this application Monday-Friday during regular business hours: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm.

Questions will be answered in the order that we receive them.

Please **give yourself plenty of time** to review the application and reach out to us if you have any questions.

Submit your completed applications before the deadline at noon, 12:00 pm (EST) on Tuesday, June 16, 2026.

I understand that the funds requested must be spent **IN FULL between August 1—October 31, 2026.**

I understand that I may be ineligible for future funding through The Arts Commission or may be required to return the funds in full if I do not spend the award between those dates and submit a Final Report by **November 30, 2026.**

Final Reports are submitted **online** through Good Grants (this website).

Are you new to applying for art grants?

We recommend checking out these additional learning resources:

- [How to apply for grants—The Creative Independent](#)
- [Creative Capital—Artist Lab \(Grant Writing & Promoting your Practice\)](#)
- [The Arts Commission—2025 Grant Application Workshop series](#)
- [Arts Midwest—Writing for Impact: Artist Grants that Speak to Reviewers](#)

If you are interested in one-on-one assistance—please reach out to the Toledo Lucas County Public Library's [Small Business and Nonprofit Center](#). The librarians there help artists in the area with grant writing. We recommend reaching out to them as early as possible!

FUNDING REQUEST AMOUNT

Funding requests should not exceed \$1,000.

- This number should be the same as your Budget Template Total (Question 3)

QUESTION 1

75 words

Please provide a short description of the **art making** you will pursue with this funding.

Maximum words: 75

Please provide a short summary of the art making for our Grant Panelists.

- *2-3 sentences maximum.*

You will have an opportunity to provide in-depth details of your art making plans below.

QUESTION 2

What category does your request for funding fit under? (Please check all that apply.)

- Materials + Supplies
- Equipment
- Project Support

Professional Development

Materials + Supplies

Related to your creative practice.

For example: film + photo chemicals, raw materials, paper, canvases, paint, paintbrushes, clay, printmaking supplies, glass blowing supplies, etc.

Equipment

For example: presses, camera lenses, instruments, welders, audio equipment, etc.

Project Support

For example: paying other artists to help you with your project such as illustrators, musicians, copywriters, copy editors, fabricators, etc. Or irregular overhead costs such as lift rentals or liability insurance.

Professional Development

*For example: fees for professional memberships, workshops, business training, residencies, regional performances, and other costs related to conceptual or technical research. **Ineligible expenses** include: travel, airfare, gas, mileage, lodging, and food.*

If you want more information about **how to create a Grant Budget**, check out the slides from our 2025 Grant Application workshop.

[Creating a Grant Budget Workshop Slides](#)

Estimated Budget for Funding Request

Funds must be spent between **August 1–October 31, 2026**. You may not spend the funds outside of these dates.

Only list Expenses covered by this funding request.

QUESTION 3—BUDGET TEMPLATE

Artist may only request funding between \$750–\$1,000.

Your Budget Template Total (below) should not go over \$1,000 by more than \$200.

Do not worry if it looks like the text is cut off, when you submit your application we can see everything you typed into this section.

INELIGIBLE EXPENSES

No travel related expenses (gas, mileage, plane tickets, parking, gas, mileage, lodging, food, etc)

No laptop/technology expenses. Unless it relates **directly** to your artmaking practice.

No regular overhead expenses (studio rent, utilities, insurance, Etsy/Website setup + listing fees, accountant, bookkeeping, or costs associated with a commercial photography or graphic design business.)

A. Expense Name/Store	B. Expense Category	C. Expense Description	D. Estimated Expense Cost
1			
2			
3			

BUDGET TEMPLATE INSTRUCTIONS

This is where you list your itemized expenses.

What you plan to spend the requested funding on. We understand that plans change, but we'd like your best guess as to how this money will be spent in 2025.

A. Expense Name

List the name of the business or person you will be paying. If you plan on buying supplies from one business (say an art supply

store), list the estimated total amount from that one business.

B. Expense Category

Enter the same category as what you checked in the boxes above (**Materials + Supplies, Equipment, Project Support, and Professional Development**).

C. Expense Description

This is where you would tell us specifically what you are purchasing with this expense. Make sure to include how much of each item you will purchase.

For example: A set of speakers for audio mixing, 10 canvases, 5 ounces of silver and gold to make jewelry, 10 rolls of film + photo chemicals, etc.

D. Estimated Expense Cost

Through researching the cost of your expense—to the best of your ability estimate how much it will cost in this column.

Estimated Budget Example

Expense Name—Art Supply Store

Expense Category—Materials + Supplies

Expense Description—10 canvases, 4 paintbrushes, 3 oil paint tubes

Estimated Expense Cost—\$250

Questions?

If you have questions about eligible expenses—please contact Liz Bayan by **June 15**: LBayan@theartscommission.org.

!!Please be aware that the following questions have word limits. You will not be able to submit your application unless you reach the word limit for each question!!

- We advise that you **give yourself extra time** to check your word count before trying to submit your application.
- Grant panelists may be unfamiliar with your work, please take that into consideration when completing the following section.

Want to learn more about Grant Narratives? Check out the slides from our workshop about Grant Narratives and Artist Statements!

[Grant Narrative Workshop Slides](#)

QUESTION 4—GRANT NARRATIVE

Explain the expenses listed in the Budget Template.

(Minimum 75 words, Maximum 200 words)

or

(1-3 minute video)

▼
I want to write my answer.
I want to upload a video.

Describe in more detail the expenses listed in your Budget Template above.

- Explain the expenses in order of need, with a short description of how each item is relevant and important to your practice.
- A competitive Budget has well researched estimated costs, which could include quotes from vendors or similar information.
- **This grant is not a reimbursement.** Original receipts will be required as proof that payments and purchases took place during the granting period.

QUESTION 5—GRANT NARRATIVE

How will this funding help you grow as an artist and support the continuation of your art making?

(Minimum 100 words, Maximum 250 words)

or

(2-4 minute video)

▼
I want to write my answer.
I want to upload a video.

Provide specifics about how receiving funding will help you grow as an artist.

Examples may include you how plan to:

- Complete a project
- Share work publicly
- Expand your portfolio
- Advance artistic skills

This section should be at least a paragraph (4 full sentences minimum).

QUESTION 6—GRANT NARRATIVE

Tell us how you share your work with your community.

Please provide details for **where and when** the public will experience your work.

(Minimum 75, Maximum 200 words)

or

(1-3 minute video)

▼
I want to write my answer.
I want to upload a video.

Describe how your work is shared with the public or other artists.

Examples could include:

- Selling work at a market or online
- Participating in an artist club
- Presenting your work in a talk or lecture
- Sharing original patterns online
- Creating a YouTube tutorial
- Performing live
- Teaching a workshop
- Organizing an art event
- Self-Publishing
- Displaying your work at a: school, library, church, community center, park, coffee shop/restaurant, gallery

If you have any **issues submitting your application**, contact us as soon as possible.

Liz Bayan, Artist Services & Subgranting Manager: LBayan@theartscommission.org

DIGITAL PORTFOLIO

When you are uploading files or linking URLs (audio/visual only), try refreshing the page if there are fields that you no longer want. For example: You click that you wanted to upload 3 still image files but then change your mind and only want to do 2—refresh the page and you can change this.

If you're having issues uploading a file, please try refreshing the page or logging out and logging back in. You could also try quitting your Browser (Safari, Firefox, Chrome, etc.) and that may help. Just make sure you **SAVE YOUR PROGRESS** first!

ARTIST WEBSITE (optional)

You will not be able to submit your application if you list more than one website.

SOCIAL MEDIA

(optional)

If you have a social media presence, share **one link** here.

You will not be able to submit your application if you list more than one link.

COLLABORATORS

(optional)

List Full Names, Emails, and Websites, or Social Media handles of collaborators (if applying as a group).

CREATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

What are 5 creative accomplishments you are most proud of?

Do not worry if it looks like the text is cut off, when you submit your application we can see everything you typed into this section.

A. Date	B. Accomplishment	C. Location
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		

Please list the top 5 creative accomplishments you are most proud of.

This could include:

- Exhibitions
- Public performances
- Publicly displayed work
- Poetry/book readings
- Education (if applicable)

!! Please be aware that the following sections have word limits. You will not be able to submit your application unless you reach the word limit for each question. !!

- We advise that you **give yourself extra time** to check your word count before trying to submit.

ARTIST BIO/NARRATIVE

150 words

Provide a short artist bio or a narrative describing the history of your creative practice.

(Minimum 50 words, Maximum 150 words)

This may include recent:

- Exhibitions
- Public performances
- Publicly displayed work
- Poetry/book readings
- Education (if applicable)

Please include **dates** to give Grant Panelists an idea of how long you've been creating work.

- Mix of the above—if you submit a mix, you are limited to: 2 still images, 2 audio/video files or links, and 1 PDF written (5 page max).

If you have any **issues submitting your application**, contact us as soon as possible.

Liz Bayan, Artist Services & Subgranting Manager: LBayan@theartscommission.org