

Sample form, not for offline completion.

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

2026 Project Grant

APPLICATION DUE DATE

Applications are due before **April 12 at 11:59 pm.**

APPLICATION REVIEW 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 recommend funding).

Mid-April: Review Round 1 by the Grant Panel

Late April–early May: Review Round 2 by the Grant Panel

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

!! Mid to late May: 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.

QUESTIONS?

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 if you have any questions reach out to Liz Bayan—LBayan@theartscommission.org.

Artist Name

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

2026 Project Grant Guidelines

The Project Grant is a competitive program offering financial support to artists to create or complete original works of art that demonstrate artistic growth and/or creative experimentation. The Project Grant is open to artists across all mediums. Mid-career and Established artists are encouraged to apply and grant requests may not exceed \$3,000.

HOW TO APPLY

Submit your completed applications via the Good Grants platform by the **deadline at 11:59 pm (EST) on Sunday, April 12, 2026**. Visit <https://theartscommission.org/artists/project-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—<https://artscommission.grantplatform.com/>

DIGITAL PORTFOLIO

- Artist resume or curriculum vitae (two pages maximum)
- Artist statement (150 words minimum, 300 words maximum)
- Bio (50 words minimum, 150 words maximum)
- Work Samples and Work Sample Descriptions (Title, medium, year created, dimensions, or duration)

PROJECT PROPOSAL

- Project Title
- Short Project Description (75 words maximum)
- Budget (there is a separate budget for in-kind support and other funding)
- Timeline (including plans/dates/secured venues for display, etc., of your completed project)
- Grant Narrative Questions (3 questions)
- Plans or Works-in-progress—Upload one PDF (limit 10 pages)

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

WHO CAN APPLY

Artists are limited to one Project Grant every **three calendar years**, i.e., artists who received funding in 2026 will not be eligible to reapply until 2029.

- 2025 Project Grant recipients must wait until 2028 to apply for an Accelerator Grant.
- 2025 Accelerator Grant recipients are eligible to apply for a 2026 Project Grant.
- 2025 Merit Grant recipients must wait until 2027 to apply for a Project Grant.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

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

Applicants who identify as Established or Mid-Career Artists are eligible to apply.

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

1. Artist is widely recognized (regionally, nationally, or internationally) in the art world regardless of age or years of experience.
2. Artist has created an extensive body of independent work.
3. Artist has 20+ years of experience as a working artist regardless of age or education.

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

1. Artist has already established a sizable audience, a consistent body of work, and defining style over a period of a number of years

2. Artist has an ongoing record that could include: Solo and group exhibitions, performances, gallery representation, honors/awards, residencies and fellowships, reviews by art critics, grants, or publications, etc.
3. Artist has 10-20 years of experience as a working artist regardless of age or education.

Competitive applicants will be artists with a prior body of work who are creating or completing ***their own original works of art*** to build their portfolio, or who have an upcoming exhibition, performance, or other public opportunity to share their work in the next 12 months.

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

If you are uncertain if you are eligible to apply, please read through the [full application and our FAQ on our website](#) to determine if this opportunity is right for you.

INELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Artists enrolled in a degree or certificate-granting program of any kind at the time of application are NOT eligible for a Project Grant. 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 Project Grants at this time.

Producers, commercial artists, creative directors, art organizers, or those providing logistical support to other artists are NOT eligible for this opportunity. 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.

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

Applicants self-identifying as Hobbyists or Emerging Artists are not eligible to apply for a Project Grant. We encourage those artists to apply for the Accelerator Grant that opens in late May.

Nonprofit organizations are NOT eligible for this opportunity.

ELIGIBLE CATEGORIES OF SUPPORT ARE LIMITED TO

At least **50% of the funding** must be utilized to ***create the artwork itself*** (supply costs, paying other artists for their support, publication printing, studio recording time, etc).

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/TOOLS

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

3. PROJECT SUPPORT & FRAMING*

For example: paying other artists to help you with your project such as illustrators, musicians, copywriters, copy editors, fabricators, etc., and/or professional framing or presentation costs.

** Framing can account for no more than 50% of the total project budget*

INELIGIBLE CATEGORIES OF SUPPORT

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: plane tickets, parking, gas, mileage, lodging, food, etc.

3. LAPTOP/TECHNOLOGY EXPENSES

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

4. EXPENSES COVERED BY OTHER FUNDING THROUGH THE ARTS COMMISSION

For Example: expenses covered by a Toledo Lucas County ARPA Individual Artist Grant, an Accelerator Grant, or a Merit Award are not eligible for inclusion in a Project Grant budget.

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).

REVIEW TIMELINE

Mid-April: Review Round 1 by the Grant Panel

Late April–early May: Review Round 2 by the Grant Panel

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

!! Mid to late May: 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.

REVIEW ROUND 1

Due to the high volume of applications, **this competitive grant program has a two-round review process**. Artists will not receive scores and comments on their applications if they do not pass Review Round 1.

In Review Round 1, the Grant Panel will review the following sections of the application:

- Project Title
- Project Description
- Work Samples
- Plans/Works-in-progress
- Question 7—How will your proposed project or new work act as a catalyst for your artistic and professional growth?

Applications in Review Round 1 are evaluated based on:

- The applicant's demonstrated **Creative Merit** (the applicant's submitted Work Samples provide context into the artist's creative practice and demonstrate a high quality for their medium).
- The award's **Impact on the Artist's Career** (the applicant's proposed project is creatively unique and has a clear plan for how the project will be catalytic to their creative growth).

Applications who excel in these two scoring criteria will advance to Review Round 2 and all portions of the application will be taken into consideration by panelists before making funding recommendations.

Panelists may also make funding recommendations that prioritize a variety of artistic mediums.

REVIEW ROUND 2

In Review Round 2, applications will be scored and commented on by the Grant Panel based on the following criteria:

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

- Dedication to Artistic Practice
- Impact on Artist's Career
- Public Presence
- Creative Merit
- Project Feasibility

Please be aware that applying for this grant does not guarantee funding. All artists who make it to Round 2 of the Review Process will have access to the scores and comments from the Grant Panelists in Good Grants after notifications have gone out through email.

GRANT DISBURSEMENT

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

MIDWAY UPDATE

Artists will meet with a staff member, virtually or in person, for a brief progress report midway through the granting period.

SPENDING PERIOD

Artists have **12 months from notification of funding** to use the grant funds. The funds are not reimbursable, meaning they may not 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 allowable by law. Please consult a tax professional for additional advice.

- **Spending Period: May 1, 2026 — May 1, 2027**

FINAL REPORTING

Final reports are due 30 days after the funding period unless otherwise requested and approved in writing. The final report due date is **June 1, 2027**.

Artists will be **required to submit documentation** of:

- In-progress work
- Completed final project
- How the work was publicly shared (recording of a live performance, exhibition/reception photos, recording of a live reading, photos of an artist's book in a shop, etc.)

Final report details can be found at <https://theartscommission.org/artists/project-grants>

Failure to submit a final report may result in an applicant becoming **noncompliant and may be prohibited from receiving future grants and be required to return the award in its entirety** 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 Project 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

Applicant First Name

Applicant Last Name

Artist 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

Is your creative studio outside of your home?

Yes

No

Have you ever applied to 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

I consider myself: (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?

- Press Release
- Newspaper or Print media
- Social Media
- Radio
- Television
- Arts Commission Email
- 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

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

I identify as a member of the LBGTQIA+ community.

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

My ethnic or cultural background is:

- 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.

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

What is your age range?

- 18-24
- 25-34
- 35-44

- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65 +
- Prefer not to say

PROJECT 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.

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

Submit your completed applications before the deadline at 11:59 pm (EST) on Sunday, April 12, 2026.

I understand that the funds requested must be spent **IN FULL between May 1, 2026—May 1, 2027.**

I understand that I may be ineligible for future funding through The Arts Commission if I do not spend the funds between those dates and submit a Final Report by **June 1, 2027**. Final Reports are submitted online through Good Grants (this website).

Project Title

What is the name of your project?

For example: name of a body of work, title of a music album, name of a series of performances, the title of a book, etc.

Short Project Description

75 words

Maximum words: 75

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

2-3 sentences maximum.

You will have an opportunity to provide in-depth details of your project below.

QUESTION 1

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

- Materials + Supplies
- Equipment

Project Support + Framing

Eligible Categories of Support

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 + Framing

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.

****Framing can account for no more than 50% of the total project budget**

Ineligible expenses

- No regular overhead 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 expenses covered by other funding through The Arts Commission

Estimated Budget for Funding Request

Funds must be spent between **May 1, 2026—May 1, 2027**. You may not spend the funds outside of these dates.

At least **50% of the funding** must be used in **creating the artwork itself** (supply costs, paying other artists for their support, studio recording time, etc).

Only list Expenses covered by this funding request.

If you have additional funding from in-kind donations, sponsorships, other grant funds, or self-funding—answer **NO on Question 3** and you will be provided with an additional budget to document these expenses.

QUESTION 2—Budget Template

Artists may only request funding up to \$3,000.

Your Budget Template Total (below) should not go over \$3,000 by more than \$200.

Framing can account for **no more than 50%** of the total project budget.

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 regular overhead 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 expenses covered by other funding through The Arts Commission.

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

QUESTIONS?

The application deadline is **April 12, 2026 at 11:59 pm**, but if you have questions about eligible expenses—please contact Liz Bayan by **April 9th**: LBayan@theartscommission.org.

BUDGET TEMPLATE TOTAL

The Grant Panelists who review your application will only recommend funding that covers what is in your Budget Template. For example: if your Budget Total equals \$2,200—the Grant Panelists would not recommend funding of \$3,000 because they don't know how you would spend the remaining \$800 difference.

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), you do not need to list every item you plan to purchase. You may 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, and Project Support**).

C. Expense Description

This is where you would tell us specifically what you are purchasing with this expense.

For example: A set of speakers for audio mixing, canvases, silver and gold to make jewelry, 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

QUESTION 3

Does the Budget Template above include **all your expenses** for this project?

Yes

No

PLEASE SELECT NO IF:

- You are paying for a part of the project yourself
- You have or are planning to apply to other grant funding (outside of The Arts Commission)
- You are receiving sponsorships
- You are receiving in-kind donations

The reason we ask for this is to get a complete understanding of how this project is being fully funded.

Grant Narrative Section

Grant panelists may be unfamiliar with your work, please take that into consideration when completing the following section.

!! 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.

QUESTION 4—Project Timeline

In chronological order, please provide all the major milestones of your project from start to finish.

Such as:

Research phase(s)

In-process creating

Production

Seeking other outside funding

Public Presentation

Include any milestones you've already completed.

| A. Milestone | B. Estimated start date | C. Estimated completion date | D. Is this milestone upcoming, started, in-progress, or completed |
|--------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| 1 | | | |
| 2 | | | |
| 3 | | | |

QUESTION 5—Project Proposal

Please explain your project **in detail**. Tell us about what the project is, the ideas it explores, and include your collaborators and their role in completing the project (if you have them).

Minimum 200 words. Maximum 500 words.

2-5 minute video

▼

I want to write my answer

I want to upload a video

Here are some ideas of the details panelists will consider when making funding recommendations.

• What form will your project take?

For example, are you making a new body of sculptural work, an album, a performance series, a chapbook, etc.

• What ideas does your project explore?

• What makes this project unique and exciting?

• Who is helping you complete this project?

For example: are you hiring fabricators to help make sculptural pieces, or a sound engineer to help create your album, a book artist to bind your chapbook, etc.

QUESTION 6

How will your proposed project or new work act as a catalyst for your artistic and professional growth?

Minimum 100 words. Maximum 250 words.

2-5 minute video

| |
|---------------------------|
| ▼ |
| I want to write my answer |
| I want to upload a video |

We are curious to hear **why** this project is an important next step in your creative career.

QUESTION 7

How will the public experience your artwork once it's completed?

Minimum 75 words. Maximum 150 words.

2-5 min video

| |
|---------------------------|
| ▼ |
| I want to write my answer |
| I want to upload a video |

We advise that you be very specific in this section.

The Grant Panel would like specific details about how you will publicly present the project. Even if you do not have a set date for public presentation, you can provide the panel with research about which partners would be a good fit for your project.

- Where and when will you show the work publicly?
- If you have a venue in mind, have you contacted the person who runs the venue?
- If your work is only for online presentation—what is your plan to publicize/market the work to get it in front of the largest audience possible?
- If your work is only for online presentation—what successes have you had presenting your work this way in the past?
- If this project is going to help build your portfolio—what plans do you have for public presentation down the line?

QUESTION 8—Plans or Works in-progress

Please upload any visual plans, schematics, drawings, blueprints, at-home recordings, written drafts, layouts, in-progress work that you have for this project.

Please limit your PDF to 10 pages or less



The Grant Panelists are interested in seeing any in-progress work or plans you you have for this project. This could include any any visual plans, schematics, drawings, blueprints, at-home recordings, written drafts, layouts, or visual aides you can provide to give them a better understanding of your project.

If you need help putting together a PDF, here are some links you can use to compile multiple files into 1 PDF.

[Small PDF - here is the link](#)

[Adobe PDF Merge - here is the link](#)

We will only accept 1 PDF file for this portion of the application. It must be 10 pages or less to be considered for funding.

QUESTION 9

(optional) 149

You may use this field to add any additional context to your uploaded Plans or Works-in-progress that relate to your proposed project. words

Maximum 150 words

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)

If you have an artist website, share **one link** here.

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 website.

If applying as a group, please list Full Names, Emails, and Websites (or Social Media handles of collaborators). (optional)

Wondering what an Artist CV is? Check out the slides from our Grant Application Workshop about Artist CV/Resumes + Bios.

[Artist CV + Bios Workshop Slides](#)

!! Please be aware that the following question has a word limit. You will not be able to submit your application unless you hit the word limit.

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

ARTIST CV (curriculum vitae)

Maximum: 2-pages



Please submit this as a PDF.

Upload a PDF with your creative work experience and accomplishments as an artist. Provide only relevant artistic information to strengthen the case for why you are capable of completing the information proposed.

Please check out the links attached for examples of a CV and artistic resume.

<https://www.collegeart.org/standards-and-guidelines/guidelines/visual-art-cv>

<https://www.collegeart.org/standards-and-guidelines/guidelines/resume>

Competitive applications will have recent work samples in this section.

- Please **do not** submit any PDFs that are longer than 10 pages. If you do, panelists are given the option not to review your application.

- **Reach out to us if you have questions about what you can submit to this section.**

!! Take care not to miss the Work Sample Description (that is required for each upload **!!**

- Still images—up to 6 images.

- Audio/video—excerpts or entire works, no more than 10 minutes total as a MOV or M4P file. You may upload up to 3 files as long as they do not go over 10 minutes combined. You may also upload 3 URL links to a YouTube or Vimeo page as long as they do not go over 10 minutes combined.

- Written—upload a PDF—up to 10 pages for all written genres.

- 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).