

Sample form, not for offline completion.

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

# 2026 TLC ARPA Individual Artist Grant

The Arts Commission's Toledo Lucas County Rescue Plan Grant for Individual Artists offers financial support for local artists whose creative practices have been impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic. Grants will be awarded in the amounts of \$1,500, \$3,250, and \$5,000. (The grant amounts are subject to change based on the recommendation of the grant panel.)

The Arts Commission administers a grant program through the Toledo and Lucas County Rescue Plan Grants to artists within Lucas County and the City of Toledo. Grants are funded through American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds from Lucas County and the City of Toledo.

We would like to extend our ***sincere appreciation*** to the City of Toledo, the Mayor's Office, and the Lucas County Commissioners for their ongoing support of the arts community as we continue to recover from the impacts of COVID-19.

**Submit your completed applications by the deadline at 11:59 pm (EST) on Sunday, February 22, 2026.**

Artist Name

## 2026 TLC ARPA Individual Artist Guidelines

The Arts Commission's Toledo Lucas County Rescue Plan Grant for Individual Artists offers financial support for local artists whose creative practices have been impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic. **Grants will be awarded in the amounts of \$1,500, \$3,250, and \$5,000. The grant amounts are subject to change based on the recommendation of the Grant Panel.**

The Arts Commission administers this grant program through the Toledo and Lucas County Rescue Plan Grants to artists within Lucas County and the City of Toledo. Grants are funded through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) funds from Lucas County and the City of Toledo.

We would like to extend our ***sincere appreciation*** to the City of Toledo, the Mayor's Office, and the Lucas County Commissioners for their ongoing support of the arts community as we continue to recover from the impacts of COVID-19.

Due to federal regulations, all grant funds must be **fully spent by the end of 2026**, meaning this will be the **final cycle** in which applications can be submitted for this particular opportunity.

## HOW TO APPLY + DEADLINE

Submit your completed applications via the Good Grants platform by the **deadline at 11:59 pm (EST) on Sunday, February 22, 2026.**

Visit <https://theartscommission.org/artists/toledo-and-lucas-county-rescue-plan-funds-for-individual-artists> 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/>

*⇒ Please note: we only accept applications submitted through our online portal linked above. All notifications are sent to the email address provided in your application. Be sure to check your spam and junk email folders if you are not receiving communications.*

## DIGITAL PORTFOLIO

- Artist Bio or Narrative
- Artist Website/Social Media (optional)
- Work Samples
- Work Sample Descriptions (Title, medium, year created, dimensions, or duration)

## WHO CAN APPLY

### ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

- Individual artists across all mediums with a residence or a creative studio within the city of Toledo or Lucas County.
- *Note: Artists who are part of an artist collective must apply individually.*
- Artists who received funding in prior cycles of the Toledo Lucas County Rescue Plan Grant to Individuals are all eligible to apply for the fifth cycle.
- Artists who demonstrate a sustained commitment to their practice.
- Applicants who can demonstrate the negative financial impact of the pandemic on their creative practice in the last 12 months.
- Artists can also receive different grants in the same year (i.e. an artist can receive a TLC ARPA Grant, Accelerator Grant, and Merit Award in the same year if they fit the other grant's eligibility criteria, applied, and were selected).

### INELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

- Artists currently employed by The Arts Commission or serving as members of The Arts Commission's Board of Trustees are **NOT eligible** for a TLC ARPA Individual Artist Grant.
- Applicants who **do not** have a creative studio *or* residence located within the City of Toledo or Lucas County are ineligible to apply.
- Artists who **have not fulfilled the reporting requirements** associated with funding received through The Arts Commission are currently ineligible until the outstanding reports are submitted and approved. If you are uncertain whether your final report has been submitted, please contact us as soon as possible.
- Nonprofit organizations are ineligible for this opportunity.

## ELIGIBLE CATEGORIES OF SUPPORT ARE LIMITED TO

### 1. FACILITY COSTS

For example: studio mortgage, rent, and utilities related to your creative practice. This could be for your studio whether it is in or outside of your home.

## **2. HEALTH AND SAFETY RELATED TO COVID-19**

Costs associated with health + safety supplies for visitors or audiences related to the prevention of COVID-19. Examples include face masks and hand sanitizer.

## **3. PROJECT SUPPORT TO PAY OR CONTRACT OTHER ARTISTS**

For example: paying a musician to perform on your album, paying a fabricator to make a small part of your work, paying an illustrator to create images to go into your book.

## **4. MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES RELATED TO ARTISTS' CREATIVE PRACTICE**

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

## **5. MARKETING AND PROMOTION RELATED TO YOUR CREATIVE PRACTICE**

For example: business cards, artist website fees (domain name, website hosting, paying a graphic designer to make the website), digital marketing like online social media ads, print materials to send to galleries, promotional postcard to advertise upcoming show/exhibition, hiring a photographer/videographer to document your work, music distribution platform fees.

# **INELIGIBLE CATEGORIES OF SUPPORT**

## **1. TRAVEL RELATED EXPENSES**

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

## **2. LAPTOP/TECHNOLOGY EXPENSES**

Unless it relates directly to your artmaking practice.

## **3. BUSINESS RELATED EXPENSES**

For example: bookkeeping software, tax prep software, accountant fees, etc.

## **4. SHIPPING/STORAGE EXPENSES**

For example: shipping work, renting a Uhaul to move work, renting a storage space to store work, etc.

# **DIGITAL PORTFOLIO**

## **ARTIST BIO OR NARRATIVE**

Provide a short artist bio or a narrative describing the history of your creative practice. (Min 100, Max 250 words). This may include recent exhibitions, public performances, or publicly displayed work, along with the corresponding dates of these events.

## **WORK SAMPLES**

For competitive applications, it is recommended that you **submit high-quality documentation of work**. You will need a **Work Sample Description** for each work sample in your Digital Portfolio including title, date created, materials/formats, and sizes/lengths where applicable.

**All uploaded files should be titled LastName\_FirstName\_Titleofwork, etc.**

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.

- **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).

## 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 recommend funding).

### REVIEW CRITERIA

Assuming that an application meets Eligibility Requirements, panelists score applications based on the areas below.

#### **Scale of 0-3: 0. Incomplete 1. Needs improvement, 2. Acceptable, or 3. Exemplary.**

- Perceived need
- Artistic Merit
- Impact on the artist's career
- Dedication to artistic practice

### REVIEW TIMELINE

**Mid-February-Early March:** Panelists will Score and Comment on applications.

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

**!! End of March:** 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

Following the receipt of a **signed** TLC ARPA Individual Artist Agreement, recipients will receive their approved funds in April 2026. Awards received through this program are considered taxable to the extent that is applicable by law. Please consult a tax professional for additional advice.

### SPENDING PERIOD

Artists must use the grant funds between **April 1-August 31, 2026**.

The funds are not reimbursable, meaning they cannot be used on expenses spent prior to receiving the grant.

# FINAL REPORTING

At the end of the **Spending Period**, applicants should be prepared to fill out a Final Report detailing how their funding was spent. The report will be available no later than September 1st, 2026. All Final Reports must be accurate, complete, and submitted on time.

**Final reports are due September 30, 2026**, unless otherwise requested and approved in writing *before* the deadline. Photocopies or scans of **original receipts** will be required as proof that materials were purchased after funds were awarded on eligible expenses.

Failure to submit a Final Report by the required deadlines will negatively affect eligibility for future grant cycles associated with other grants programming through The Arts Commission.

Final reports should be submitted by the above stated deadline **via a digital form** accessible at <https://artscommission.grantplatform.com/>.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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

**Email:** [LBayan@theartscommission.org](mailto:LBayan@theartscommission.org)

**Phone:** 419.254.2787 Ext. 1018

## ELIGIBILITY REVIEW

Please fill out these questions to determine if you are eligible for this grant opportunity. Only those applicants who meet all eligibility requirements will be able to continue with the full application.

You will not be able to see the rest of the application until you pass the Eligibility Review. If you want a copy of the full application, go back to the **START HERE** tab and download one or click on this link here.

Are you an individual artist or artist collective?

- Yes, Individual Artist
- Yes, Artist Collective
- No

Do you (**and all** of your collaborators, if applying as a group) currently live or have a studio in Toledo or Lucas County?

- Yes
- No

In the last 12 months, have you felt the financial impact of the pandemic on your creative practice?

- Yes
- No, I've financially recovered from the pandemic

Are you currently employed by The Arts Commission or serving as members of The Arts Commission's Board of Trustees?

Yes

No

Are you applying for a nonprofit organization?

Yes

No

After you've finished answering all of the questions above, click on the **SUBMIT ELIGIBILITY** button in order to proceed.

- If you pass the Eligibility Review, you will have access to the rest of the application.
- If you do not pass the Eligibility Review, you will not be able to fill out the application.
- If you have questions about Eligibility, please read through the 2026 TLC ARPA Individual Artist Grant Guidelines on our website—[link here](#).

## APPLICANT INFORMATION

Applicant First Name

Applicant Last Name

Personal Pronouns (optional)

Email Address

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

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 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.

I consider myself:

Emerging artist

Mid-career artist

Established artist

You may identify as an **Emerging artist** if:

—You have 0-10 years of experience as a Working artist regardless of age or education.

—You are actively working to grow your creative career with things like exhibitions, performances, honors or awards, publications, artist lectures/presentations, etc.

—You are someone who's made a career change or recently decided to prioritize your art above everything else.

You may identify as a **Mid-career** artist if:

—You have 10-20 years of experience as a Working artist regardless of age or education.

—You have already established a sizable audience, a consistent body of work, and defining style over a period of a number of years.

—You have 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.

You may identify as an **Established artist** if:

—You have 20+ years of experience as a working artist regardless of age or education.

—You are widely recognized (regionally, nationally, or internationally) in the art world regardless of age or years of experience.

—You have created an extensive body of independent work.

What is the primary focus of your creative practice?

Visual

Literary

Performing

Music

Sound

- Film
- 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
- Community Artist
- Teaching artist
- Printmaker
- Art Organizer
- Music producer
- Conceptual Artist
- Art Student
- 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."

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/Afro-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

# REVIEW PROCESS + TIMELINE

Please carefully read through the information below. It's important that applicants understand how their applications will be reviewed. If you have any questions about this, reach out to us.

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

Not all applications will receive funding.

## 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 (the ex-officio members do not score or recommend funding).

Grants are given at the sole discretion of The Arts Commission.

## REVIEW TIMELINE

**Mid-February-Early March:** Panelists will Score and Comment on applications.

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

**!! End of March:** 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 CRITERIA

Assuming that an application meets Eligibility Requirements, panelists score applications based on the areas below.

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

- Perceived need
- Artistic Merit
- Impact on the artist's career
- Dedication to artistic practice

# TLC ARPA 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, February 22, 2026.**

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

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

## QUESTION 1

How are you **currently** experiencing loss of creative income or creative/artistic opportunity because of the pandemic?

- Inflation (cost of materials going up)
- Performance venues closed + have not re-opened
- Brick and mortar stores closed + have not re-opened
- Having a hard time finding places to exhibit work
- Health still affected by Covid
- Art market sales are down
- Not enough in person events to perform or exhibit at: pop-ups, art fairs, music festivals, craft shows, workshops, etc.
- Production of supplies is still slow, hard to find supplies needed to make work
- Not enough interest for in person classes or workshops that I teach
- Other

**Please check all that apply.**

In the 12 past months how has the pandemic affected your creative income or your creative/artistic opportunities?

## QUESTION 2

250 words

Give us a brief explanation of why you checked the box or boxes above.  
(Min 50, Max 250 words)

## QUESTION 3

What estimated percentage of your income is from your creative practice?

- 0-25%

- 26-50%
- 51-75%
- 76-100%

#### QUESTION 4

What is the total estimated loss of income you experienced from the pandemic in the past 12 months?

#### QUESTION 5—REQUESTED FUNDING AMOUNT

What is the amount of funding you are requesting?

- \$1,500
- \$3,250
- \$5,000

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

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 **September 30, 2026**. Final Reports are submitted online through Good Grants (this website) and **include original receipts** that contain the following information: who was paid, what was purchased, date of purchase, and payment method.

#### QUESTION 6—EXPENSE CATEGORY

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

- Facility Costs
- Health + Safety
- Project Support
- Materials + Supplies
- Marketing + Promotion

##### **Facility Costs**

*For example: studio mortgage, rent, and utilities related to your creative practice. This could be for your studio whether it is in or outside of your home.*

##### **Health + Safety**

Costs associated with health + safety supplies for visitors or audiences.

*For example: masks, hand sanitizer, cleaning supplies, etc. These must be related to visitors or audiences interacting with your work.*

##### **Project Support**

To pay or contract artists other than yourself.

*For example: paying a musician to perform on your album, paying a fabricator to make a small part of your work, paying an illustrator to create images to go into your book.*

##### **Materials + Supplies**

Related to your creative practice.

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

##### **Marketing + Promotion**

Costs related to marketing or promoting your work.

For example: business cards, artist website fees (domain name, website hosting, paying a graphic designer to make the website), digital marketing like online social media ads, print materials to send to galleries, promotional postcard to advertise upcoming show/exhibition, hiring a photographer/videographer to document your work, music distribution platform fees.

## QUESTION 7—BUDGET TEMPLATE

Estimated Budget for Funding Request

**\*\*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.\*\***

If you are a member of an Artist Collective, please ensure that each individual artist submits **unique** Budget Items.

If you have questions about Eligible Expenses—please contact Liz Bayan by **February 19:**

LBayan@theartscommission.org.

**The Budget Total below should not go over the requested amount by more than \$200 dollars.**

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

## INELIGIBLE EXPENSES

- No travel related expenses (gas, mileage, plane tickets, parking, food, etc)
- No laptop/technology expenses. Unless it relates **directly** to your art making practice.
- Nothing related to t-shirts as a Marketing + Promotion Expense (screenprinting materials, iron on decals, heat presses, t-shirts, etc.)
- No business related expenses (bookkeeping software, tax prep software, accountant fees, etc.)
- No shipping/storage related expenses (shipping work, renting a Uhaul to move work, renting storage to store work, etc.)
- Expenses may not be made outside the **spending period of April 1 - August 31, 2026**.

## BUDGET TEMPLATE INSTRUCTIONS

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 2026.

### 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 buy. You can just list the estimated total amount from that one business.

### B. Expense Category

Enter the same category as what you checked in the boxes above (**Facility Costs, Health + Safety, Project Support, Materials + Supplies, Marketing + Promotions**).

### 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, studio rent/utilities, film + photo chemicals, business card printing, website hosting, etc.

### D. Estimated Expense Cost + Budget Total

Make sure that your Budget Total is **the same or over** the amount you are requesting for the grant.

For example: If you are requesting \$1,500—your Budget Total should be \$1,500 or over.

*Please do not go over the requested amount by more than \$200 dollars.*

### Estimated Budget Template Example

Expense Name—Store Name

Expense Category—Materials + Supplies

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

Estimated Expense Cost—\$250

## QUESTION 8

How will you use these funds to support your creative practice as you continue to recover from the pandemic?

You may answer this question in writing or by uploading a short 2-3 minute video. Written answer—Min. 100, Max 250 words.

I want to write my answer.

I want to upload a video.

## QUESTION 9

How will this financial support impact your creative projects or opportunities in 2025?

You may answer this question in writing or by uploading a short 2-3 minute video. Written answer—Min 100, Max 250 words.

I want to write my answer.

I want to upload a video.

# 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!

1. Artist Bio or Narrative
2. Artist website/Social Media (optional)
3. Work samples
4. Work Sample Description (Title, medium, year created, dimensions, or duration)

**!! 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 BIO/NARRATIVE**

250 words

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

(Min 100, Max 250 words)

This may include recent exhibitions, public performances, or publicly displayed work, along with the corresponding dates of these events.

**ARTIST WEBSITE** (optional)

Link to your artist website, if you have one.

**ARTIST SOCIAL MEDIA** (optional)

Please share social media handles related to your creative practice.

**WORK SAMPLE UPLOAD**

What type of Work Sample would you like to upload?

Still images

Audio/video

Written

Mix

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).