



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

Phone: 419.254.2787 Ext. 1018

