



Southwest Minnesota Arts Council

www.swmnarts.org • 507-537-1471 • info@swmnarts.org

Serving Big Stone, Chippewa, Cottonwood, Jackson, Kandiyohi, Lac qui Parle, Lincoln, Lyon, McLeod, Meeker, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, Redwood, Renville, Rock, Swift & Yellow Medicine counties

ARTIST EQUITY GRANTS

Fiscal Year 2021 Guidelines

Effective July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021

The grants described in this guide are dependent on appropriations to the SW MN Arts Council from the State of Minnesota's arts and cultural heritage fund. Grants to individuals are taxable income; for further information, contact your tax preparer.

Deadlines:

Ongoing, September 1, 2020 through May 1, 2021 or until funding for the year has been expended.

Applications received by the 1st of the month will be reviewed and acted on by the end of that month.

Applicants may fill out and submit their application in several ways:

- through our online grant system, accessed on our website (swmnarts.org)
- in a Word document, submitted by email along with required attachments (info@swmnarts.org). The document can be found on the Artist Equity Grant page of our website.
- on paper with required attachments, submitted by mail or dropped off at our office (PO Box 55, 114 N 3rd St, Marshall, MN 56258). Print out a questions document from our website, or contact us to request a paper copy.

Earliest project start date: Your project start date must be at least 30 days after the date you submit your application. Your start date must also be after the date your request is acted on by the SW MN Arts Council (SMAC) board. Depending on how close your submission date is to the next board meeting, your start date may need to be further out. If so, staff will contact you after you have submitted your application.

The start date for a SMAC grant is defined as the point at which the project is set in motion (e.g. ordering and/or paying for supplies, payment of fees, holding auditions or rehearsals, advertising and public notification, etc.). **No funds can be expended prior to the project start date.** Funds spent before the project start date, such as a deposit on a contract, cannot be included in the grant project budget. **No advertising by the applicant can take place before the start date,** whether or not it will be paid for through the grant. However, posting basic information such as event dates is allowed. **Projects must be concluded no later than June 30, 2022.**

Program Intent & Eligibility

Intent: The intent of this Artist Equity grant is to aid Black, Indigenous, Latinx, and other artists of color with projects that will advance their skills and artistic careers. SW MN Arts Council acknowledges that systems currently in place have historically marginalized and underserved indigenous people of the Americas and communities of color. We are committed to closing access gaps in the arts, breaking down barriers, and building bridges across communities. It is vital that we support artists in writing their own narratives, and we hope to do so by providing dedicated resources and recognition to artists of color in our region.

Applicants to the Artist Equity grant program may be at any stage of their artistic career. All arts disciplines are accepted.

Projects may include but are not limited to:

- Creation of cultural or traditional art
- Purchase of supplies necessary to complete a body of work
- Compensated time for work on a specific body of work
- Day care costs while working on a specific body of work
- One-on-one study with a mentor
- Attendance at workshops or conferences for professional or artistic development

- Rental of facilities for presenting work or for studio space
- Research
- Portfolio production
- Framing
- Recording
- Editing or other costs related to publishing

Eligibility: The Artist Equity grant program is open to indigenous artists and artists of color, including those who are:

- Native American
- Black/African/African American
- Afro Latino
- Caribbean
- Chicano/Mexican
- Central American
- South American
- Middle Eastern/North African
- Southeast Asian/Asian/Pacific Islander
- Immigrants
- Refugees

and who are permanent residents within the eighteen counties of the SMAC service region (*Big Stone, Chippewa, Cottonwood, Jackson, Kandiyohi, Lac qui Parle, Lincoln, Lyon, McLeod, Meeker, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, Redwood, Renville, Rock, Swift, and Yellow Medicine counties*) or on tribal lands within our service area. We acknowledge that this region occupies the traditional, ancestral, and contemporary lands of the Dakota people, who have stewarded these lands throughout the generations.

Applicants must be a region resident for at least six months prior to submitting an application and remain a resident throughout the contract period. Applicants may be asked to provide proof of residency, which must be demonstrated by the following, each showing an eligible address: 1) A valid MN state ID/driver's license or other federally recognized documentation and 2) Bills for utilities or mortgage/rent.

Applicants must be at least 18 years old by the time of signing their grant contract. Applicants must also have no outstanding final reports due to SMAC. An artist may not apply for a second project that runs concurrently with another SMAC-funded individual artist grant project.

Grant panelists who will be reviewing grants for this program in the current fiscal year and immediate family members of SMAC Board and staff members are ineligible to apply for this grant program. SMAC board members are not eligible to apply for this program during their tenure on the Board or until two years following their resignation from the Board.

In addition to the restrictions listed in SMAC's general grant guidelines, the following are NOT eligible for Artist Equity grants:

- Equipment requests not specifically tied to the proposed project.
- Credits or materials necessary to fulfill degree requirements for students, including tuition, class projects, and school-related exhibits, performances, or shows.
- Projects that primarily involve developing curriculum plans, teaching materials, or other related activities intended to advance your professional teaching career; or applications that are primarily educational projects within a school system.
- Applications that support strictly commercial activities; projects intended for mass-market distribution or those that have profit as the primary motive.

Grant Amount: Up to **\$4,000** in funding, no match required. **Grant funding counts toward your taxable income.**

Review Criteria

The grant review panel will score your application based on:

- the overall excellence of work and demonstration of exceptional talent (58%)
- the project's contribution to the artist's professional growth (32%)
- feasibility of the project (10%)

The panel's evaluation scoresheet is available on the SMAC website. Read more about the grant review process in the SMAC's general grant guidelines.