



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

INDIVIDUAL ARTIST GRANTS: EMERGING or ESTABLISHED CAREER ARTISTS

Fiscal Year 2022 Guidelines

Effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022

The grants described in this guide are dependent on appropriations to the SW MN Arts Council from the McKnight Foundation. Grants to individuals are taxable income. Applicants who need further information are encouraged to contact a tax preparer.

Deadlines: submitted online by 4:30 pm

Round I deadline: August 4, 2021

Earliest project start date: October 1, 2021

Round II deadline: January 12, 2022

Earliest project start date: March 1, 2022

The start date for a SMAC grant is defined as the point at which the project is set in motion (e.g. auditions, rehearsals, advertising and public notification, payment of fees, ordering and/or paying for supplies or printed material, 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, 2023.**

Program Intent:

The intent of the Individual Artist grant program is to provide resources to artists at varying stages of their careers for activities that foster their artistic development, expand their audience, and increase their ability to live and work in the SW MN Region. All arts disciplines are accepted.

Artists will apply under one of the following categories:

- **Emerging Artists** are at an early or mid-stage in their career development. They are expected to have a limited, yet clearly promising performance, publishing, or exhibition record. Other artists and arts professionals within their chosen field will not yet have acknowledged them as established artists. The term “emerging” refers to professional accomplishments and recognition, not to stylistic evolution. Age is not a factor in determining an emerging artist.
- **Established Career Artists** are at an advanced stage in their career development. They have held significant solo shows or performances or have been published in significant publications (i.e., peer reviewed or professionally edited publications). Eligible professional artists have achieved significant regional recognition in the past five years, and are in the process of progressing to a new level in their professional career. The artistic accomplishments documented in the resume are critical in making a judgment regarding eligibility as an established career artist.

Projects may include but are not limited to:

- 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 Individual Artist grant program is open to 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.

Individual artist grant panelists who will be reviewing grants in a particular round cannot apply in that round. Immediate family members (children, parents, or spouse/partner) of SMAC Board members or SMAC staff 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 Individual Artist 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: Emerging Artists, up to **\$2,500**; Established Career Artists up to **\$7,000** 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%)
- project's contribution to the artist's professional growth (32%)
- feasibility of the project (10%)

Applicants will also be awarded one additional percentage point for each of the following criteria they meet:

- First time SMAC applicant
- Applicant from an underserved community (BIPOC, LGBTQIA2+, people with disabilities)
- Applicant from a county that has received three or fewer SMAC grants in the last fiscal year

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.

*Contact the SW MN Arts Council office with questions, for a draft review,
or if you need accommodations while applying for this grant:
507-537-1471 or 800-622-5284, info@swmnarts.org*