

SW MN Arts Council

Grant Panelist Orientation

PART 2: SMAC's Grant Programs & Processes

GRANT PROGRAMS

- *For Organizations & Units of Government (cities/counties):*
 - **Art Project**
 - Provides organizations with up to **\$7,000** to stimulate and encourage the creation, performance and appreciation of the arts.
 - 3 rounds per year; funds divided evenly per round.
 - Arts & Cultural Heritage (ACH) & MN State General funds
 - **Art Legacy Project**
 - Provides organizations with up to **\$20,000** to stimulate and encourage the creation, performance and appreciation of the arts through large-scale projects that will leave an arts legacy in southwest MN.
 - 2 rounds per year; funds divided evenly per round.
 - ACH funds
 - **Quick Support for Organizations**
 - Provides organizations with up to **\$2,500** for activities such as planning for an Art Legacy project, strategic planning or board training, costs to apply for 501(c)(3) status, small equipment purchases, or small arts projects. Some project types are open to arts organizations only.
 - Monthly deadlines August through April, while funds remain
 - ACH funds
- *For Arts Organizations:*
 - **Equipment & Facilities Improvement**
 - Provides arts organizations with up to **\$10,000** for the purchase of equipment items and facilities improvements that will strengthen the organization's capacity to serve the arts needs of the SMAC region.
 - 2 rounds per year; funds divided evenly per round.
 - ACH funds
 - **Operating Support**
 - Based on the size of their average operating budget, organizations with current 501(c)(3) status and at least two years of programming and financials may request 15% or 35% of their operating costs for each of two years.

- 1 round every two years. Applications are open Fall 2021.
 - ACH funds

- *For Public Schools & Youth:*
 - **Arts in the Schools**
 - Grants to schools for artist residencies or field trips that include educator training and community involvement; juried student art exhibits; and prepackaged theater experiences. Up to **\$4,000** (artist residencies) or **\$2,500** (field trips, juried exhibits, or prepackaged theatre).
 - 2 rounds per year; funds divided evenly per round
 - ACH & MN General funds

 - **Art Study Opportunity for Youth**
 - Provides up to **\$500** to allow young artists in grades 5-12 to attend an enrichment camp or specialty study.
 - 1 round per year
 - ACH funds

- *For Individuals:*
 - **Individual Artist: Emerging & Established Career**
 - Provides up to **\$2,500** to emerging artists and up to \$7,000 to established artists for projects that will advance their career.
 - 2 rounds per year; funds divided evenly per round.
 - McKnight Foundation funds

 - **Artist Equity**
 - Provides up to **\$4,000** to aid Black, Indigenous, Latinx, and other artists of color with projects that will advance their skills and artistic career.
 - Ongoing deadline; first come, first served.
 - ACH funds

 - **Quick Support for Artists**
 - Provides artists up to **\$1,000** for activities such as purchasing supplies, attending classes, and small artist-led community projects.
 - Monthly deadlines August through April, while funds remain
 - ACH funds

 - **Individual Artist: Community Collaboration**
 - Provides up to **\$10,000** to artists to create a major new work while collaborating with the community, introducing community members to the arts in a new way.
 - 2 rounds per year; funds divided evenly per round.
 - ACH funds

GRANT PROCESS

- While working on their grant applications, applicants can:
 - attend SMAC webinars and workshops
 - talk to SMAC staff about proposed projects
 - get answers to questions about completing the application
 - receive feedback on their application before submitting it online
- Submitted applications are reviewed by staff for eligibility. Applicants then have 48 hours to correct any major issues, submit missing documents, etc.
- All eligible applications submitted in the current grant round are made available online to the grant review panelists. The panelists who have signed up to review this round of applications are given approximately two weeks to read them and do preliminary scoring.
- Then, panelists meet virtually (or in person at the SMAC office) to discuss the applications and arrive at final scores. SMAC staff members facilitate this discussion, but do not score or comment on the applications.
- The panel's final scores and comments go to the SMAC Board of Directors, which makes the final funding decisions based on the panel's scores and recommendations.
- Applicants are then notified by SMAC staff whether their grant requests have been awarded. They also receive the anonymous panel scores and comments for their application.
- After signing a contract, grantees receive 80% of their grant funds in advance of their project start date.
- A SMAC staff or board member may attend grant activities to complete a site evaluation of the project. (Site evaluations are not taking place this year.)
- Once activities are concluded, grantees complete a final report.
- Upon approval of their final report, grantees receive the remaining 20% of their grant award.