

PART 3: Guidelines & Scoring Criteria:

Artist Community Collaboration Grants

PROGRAM GUIDELINES

Artist Community Collaboration grants are available for up to **\$10,000**.

No match is required for this grant, which means that artists do not need use any of their own funds for their project, unless their costs are greater than the amount they can request.

The intent of the Artist Community Collaboration grant program is to fund projects that bring an artist and a community together in a creative and collaborative relationship. These projects should have a lasting impact on both the artist and the community.

Artist Community Collaboration grants are open to:

- Adults, age 18+ by the time of signing a grant contract.
- Residents of one of the 18 counties of the SMAC service region. You must be a region resident for at least six months before submitting an application and remain a resident through the contract period.
- Artists in any discipline, at any stage of their careers.

Arts Disciplines may include:

- *Dance*: ballet, ethnic/jazz/folk-inspired and modern
- *Music*: band, chamber, choral, experimental/electronic, ethnic-folk inspired, jazz, popular, solo/recital and orchestral
- *Opera/Music Theatre*
- *Theatre*: classical, contemporary, experimental, mime, puppet, young audiences, storytelling
- *Visual*: experimental, graphics/printmaking/ book arts, painting, sculpture
- *Craft*: clay, fiber, glass, leather, metal, paper, plastic, wood, mixed media
- *Photography*
- *Media Arts*: film, audio, video, technology/ experimental
- *Literature*: fiction, nonfiction, playwriting, poetry
- *Interdisciplinary*: Pertaining to art forms/art works that integrate more than one arts discipline to form a single work (e.g., collaboration between/among the performing and/or visual arts).
- *Folk/Traditional Arts*: Pertaining to oral, customary, material and performance traditions informally learned and transmitted in contexts characteristic of ethnic, religious, linguistic, occupational, and/or regional groups -- folk/traditional dance, music, crafts & visual arts, oral traditions

Eligible projects will have an equal focus on:

- the artist reaching a new level in their artistic development through the creation of a major new work
- the artist collaborating with the community to introduce them to the arts in a new way, reaching a segment of the population that is not normally exposed to the art form

Other requirements include:

- The applicant must be one artist, not a pair or group of artists
- The project's activities should reflect the community's energy and qualities
- The artist must have an active Community Partner (city government, chamber of commerce, arts council, historical society, etc.) that will support and assist with the project.

The following are *not eligible* for Artist Community Collaboration grants:

- Fees for entering juried competitions or shows
- Traveling for research
- Taking classes or workshops
- Equipment requests not specifically tied to the proposed project
- Requests for new building construction or purchase of real estate
- 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
- Activities for the religious socialization of the participants or audience
- Activities that attempt to influence any state or federal legislation
- Applicants with a past SMAC grant project still in progress

SCORING CRITERIA

Merit of the community project: 0-10 pts (23%)

- The applicant's artistic vision is clear, leading to a completed project of high artistic quality.
- The project develops knowledge, skills, and understanding of the arts for community members, especially for those not normally exposed to this art form.
- The project will leave an arts legacy for the community/the people of Minnesota.
- Community members will have input and involvement in the project, which is suited to meet the artistic needs of this particular community.
- The applicant is able to identify the underserved and/or underrepresented groups in their community and attempts to reach one or more of those groups to enable them to participate in the project.
- The applicant is making an effort in regard to ADA accessibility.

Feasibility of the project: 0-5 pts (12%)

- The applicant has secured an appropriate community partner who will contribute to the success of the project.
- The application details a clear plan with reasonable time lines and appropriate publicity.
- The budget is clearly itemized, responsible, and meets the needs of the project.

Excellence of work/demonstration of exceptional talent: 0-18 pts (42%)

- The resume shows the artist's training and accomplishments.
- The work samples clearly show artistic quality and promise in the artistic discipline presented.

Project's contribution to the applicant's artistic growth: 0-10 pts (23%)

- The artist shows that this project will play an important role in their artistic development.
- The project meets the artistic needs of the applicant.
- The applicant has identified specific proposed changes for themselves and the community to take place as a result of their project and a has plan to measure or prove whether those changes have taken place. Providing a sample evaluation tool is optional.

Defining "Artistic Quality"

Artistic Quality is the perceived artistic merit or value of any given work of art, so it is subjective. However, for the purposes of this process, we ask you to look for the following attributes in the applicants' work:

- *Authenticity or originality*
- *Technical skill*
- *Personal artistic vision/voice*
- *Professional commitment*
- *Work that evokes or provokes emotion, intellectual inquiry, or other response from an audience*

For folk/traditional art, consider:

- *Authenticity*
- *Technical skill*
- *Commitment to the art form*
- *Recognition from the community to which the art form belongs*

Later in the process, applicants will also be awarded one additional *percentage* point for each of the following criteria they meet:

- First time SMAC applicant
- BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, & People of Color) or LGBTQIA2+ applicant or person with a disability
- Applicant from a county that has received three or fewer SMAC grants in the last fiscal year