Artist Support Grant Workshop

What are the Artist Support Grants?

The Artist Support Grant was created to provide direct support to artists.The initiative will fund professional artists to enhance their skills and abilities to create work, or to improve their business operations and capacity to bring their work to new audiences.

Who May Apply?

- Individual artists and small, unincorporated groups of collaborating artists are eligible to apply.

- Eligible artists include North Carolina residents who have resided in eastern North Carolina for at least 1 year in the following counties: Edgecombe, Greene, Nash, Pitt, Wayne, and Wilson counties. Artists can include musicians, dancers, filmmakers, actors, literary artists, as well as visual artists.

- Applicants must be at least 18 years of age and cannot be currently enrolled in a degree or certificate program.

- Previous award winners CANNOT reapply consecutive years.

What types of projects are eligible?

Artist Support Grants support professional artists at any stage in their careers to pursue projects that further their artistic development. Grant awards to artists generally range
from $500 to $1,000.

Up to 50 percent of the grant amount
may be used for artist fees!

Projects must be completed between
January 1, 2026 and December 31, 2026.

Fundable Projects

- **Completion/Presentation of a New Work** — Cost of resources necessary to complete or present a significant new work (e.g., purchasing art supplies or equipment (digital may qualify) or space rental

- **Career Promotion** — Projects aimed at advertising artists' work and/or demonstrating their skill level (e.g., websites, portfolios, audio-visual documentation, and online presentation)

- **Training** — Costs to attend a class or workshop (in-person or virtual) aimed at either enhancing the artist's skill level or professional development (e.g., a master class or workshop taught by acknowledged authorities in the applicant artist's medium)

- **Travel** — Costs of transportation, lodging, training, professional conferences, or research as allowed or possible while adhering to social distancing guidelines

Your Application

Just like a job application, a grant application represents you. And like all representations, the image can be flattering—or not. You want to make it easy for the reviewer to see and appreciate your work and your project, so the first rules in presenting yourself are:

- **Be professional.**
  - Convey that you are a serious artist and have a feasible project.
  - Type your application and résumé, provide all the requested materials in the order and manner specified
  - Proofread everything before you send it in.

- **Don't get in your own way.**
  - Let your supplemental material show your artistic nature.
  - Expressive gestures that aren't to the point are at best distracting
  - You wouldn't submit anything like that with a job application, so don't treat this process with any less respect.

Meeting the Requirements

Each region in the Artist Support Grant program has its own application and its own list of required forms and materials, but most request a:

- Narrative
- Artist Statement
- Project budget
- Resume or bio
- Work samples
- Letters of recommendation (optional)

The Narrative

You will need to describe your project and explain how the accomplishment of this project will further your development and/or career goals as an artist.

- Be Feasible.

- Be Logical.

- Use simple, declarative sentences, active voice—and get to the point.

- Who, what, when, where, why, and how.

- This is not an artist statement.

- Get a non-arts friend or acquaintance to read your application.

Budget

- Provide detail. As a general rule, more detail is better. Which of the following gives you more confidence that the artist has thought through the project expenses?

--	Equipment (List Type)	$100
--	Workshop Cost	$100
--	Travel Costs	$100
--	Lodging (4 nights @ $85)	$100
--	Supplies (list and identify)	$100
---	Artist Time	$500
--Total		$1000

- Admittedly, some grantors will want you to round your amounts up or down so that the budgets are easier to take in quickly, but if you can show that you're not just picking numbers out of thin air, you will make a stronger case for yourself.

Budget

- **Provide supporting documentation.** Most of us have a general idea of what a hotel room should (and shouldn't) cost, but fewer know what a new lathe or bandsaw runs. Web creation costs and graphic design fees can vary widely. So, it's not a bad idea to get an estimate from the provider to support the numbers you're putting in your application.

- **Show your own financial contribution and other sources of income.** No consortium will require that you spend your own money; nevertheless, if you can show you are investing your own funds (over and above your time) to accomplish a project, your commitment to it will be obvious.

Resume and Bios

- Résumés are required but are generally reviewed as supporting material to the work samples and narrative.

- Make it an Artist resume.

- Abbreviate It.

- Limited Experience as an artist? Lead with what you have on your résumé and condense the rest to the very broadest strokes. Use this situation to make the case that the grant is especially important as a way to take a meaningful step forward in your artistic career.

Work Samples

Even though this is a project grant, your project will not be funded if your work samples are weak. The first stage in every process is an artistic evaluation, so you need to pay attention to what you choose to submit.

With work samples it's a matter of avoiding mistakes first.

- If you're a writer make sure there are no typos in your manuscript and that it's formatted in a readable manner (e.g., adequate margins and line spacing)

- If you're a visual artist avoid out-of-focus, poorly cropped, or cluttered images.

- For everyone – Upload your files

Work Samples

Choose samples that you consider to be:

- **Strong and recent representations of the quality of your work.** If you're submitting more than one sample, it's generally best to stay in genre. Coherence helps anchor your work in the panelist's mind and avoid unflattering comparisons if they sense unevenness.

- **In keeping with the project you have proposed.** Your pastels may be lovely but they don't say much about your ability to do large-scale fresco painting. If it's all you've got then go with it, but understand that the panel may have reservations that you will need to address.

Work Samples Descriptions & Labeling

It is a good idea to also attach a work-sample description page, numbered in the same order as the works on the sample.

- **Visual artists:** title, date of completion, medium, dimensions
- **Composers and songwriters:** title, date of completion, running time of selected segment, and instrumentation
- **Choreographers:** title, date of completion, running time of selected segment, where and when the performance took place, and the performers
- **Filmmakers:** title, date of completion, running time, original format, your role and the role of other key people in the production, relevant technical considerations, and a brief synopsis of complete work
- **Writers:** title, genre, and a brief synopsis of the work as a whole if needed
- **Performers:** instrument or role played, name of production, when and where performance took place, and name of ensemble or company

VISUAL ART WORK SAMPLES:

- Jpeg format only at highest Jpeg setting

- Min. 72 dpi with largest size at 12" or less

- Save each entry as separate file, no power point submissions

- Title each file with artist's name and number

- Submit an accompanying work sample description sheet

MUSIC / STORYTELLING

- Upload file or create a .docx file with links

- Try to eliminate background noise

- Do not introduce or interpret your work

- Label you files

PERFORMING

- Upload file or .docx file with links

- Exclude any extraneous information

LITERARY

- Type your entry

- Use a standard font, 12 pt

- Upload .docx or .pdf file

Some Examples of What Not To Do if you are a Visual Artist

YES!!!

Letters of Recommendation

As a general rule, unless you have known, qualified references who can speak specifically and enthusiastically about your abilities as an artist, their value to you and your application is only that they not damage your credibility. Consider the following as you choose your references:

- First-hand knowledge of your work as an artist

- Professional credentials (this is not a personal recommendation)

- How recent is the reference's encounter with your work

- Ask them!!

- You want to tell your references about the project you're planning and send them a résumé. It's better to know ahead of time than to find out afterwards you asked the wrong person.

Best Advice

- Make all submissions and packets look like they came from a professional ARTIST

- Double check EVERYTHING!
  - Required materials
  - Digital materials
  - Due dates

Finally…

Meet the Deadline!

October 4, 2025 by 11:59pm
Online Applications Only
https://www.pittcountyarts.org/artists/grants/
artist-support-grants

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