



ART PROJECT GRANT FOR INDIVIDUALS PROGRAM GUIDELINES

ART PROJECT GRANT FOR ARTISTS **Fiscal Year 2025 (*Fall 2024 Applications*)**

BACKGROUND

The Art Project Grants for Artists program is administered by the Iowa Arts Council, which exists within the Iowa Economic Development Authority (the IEDA). Through the program, the IEDA provides financial incentives to Iowa artists and individual arts educators to support a wide variety of arts-related activities. To be eligible, projects must include artistic excellence and service to Iowans. Priority is given to projects that advance the goals of the [Iowa Arts Council 2022-2026 Strategic Plan](#).

The program is funded through an appropriation by the Iowa Legislature to the IEDA and a grant by the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. Applicants must comply with federal requirements, including but not limited to [2 CFR Part 200](#).

Operating and grant policies and definitions set out at 261 Iowa Administrative Code Chapter [305](#) and rules pertaining to organization and operation of the Iowa Arts Council found at 261 Iowa Administrative Code Chapter [304](#) apply to the program. Rules specific to the program can be found at 261 Iowa Administrative Code Chapter [307](#). Additional eligibility requirements and priorities are set out in these guidelines published by the IEDA.

QUESTIONS

Potential applicants, especially first-time applicants, are encouraged to review all published material, including the administrative rules and published guidelines, and contact Grants and Operations Manager Elizabeth Ferreira at elizabeth.ferreira@iowaeda.com well in advance of application deadlines if they have any questions regarding the program.

ACCESSIBILITY

The IEDA is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to eligible applicants. For technical support submitting the online application, please contact the Accessibility Coordinator, Elizabeth Ferreira, at 515-348-6325 or elizabeth.ferreira@iowaeda.com, at least two weeks in advance of the application deadline.

TIMELINE

September 17, 2024 | Fiscal Year 2025 Application Deadline

The deadline to submit an online application is 11:59 PM on September 17, 2024, for the funding period November 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025.

October 2024 | Funding Decision Notification

Typically, applicants are notified of funding decisions within six weeks after the application deadline.

November 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025 | Eligible Funding Period

The Eligible Funding Period is November 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025. All grant project expenses must be incurred and activities must be completed within the eligible funding period.

August 1, 2025 | Final Report Deadline

Grant recipients are required to complete a final report by August 1, 2025.

GRANT AMOUNTS AND REIMBURSEMENT

One-Time Project Expenses

Applicants may request funding for eligible one-time grant project expenses that are incurred and expended during the eligible funding period.

- Minimum grant request: \$1,000
- Maximum grant request: \$10,000

Grant Payment

Grant recipients will receive the full grant amount award upon full execution of the grant agreement. Recipients will need to complete a final report at the end of the eligible funding period outlining how the grant funds and cash match was spent. Any unspent grant funds will need to be returned to the IEDA within 30 days after the final report deadline.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants must meet the following criteria:

- [Individual artist](#), including visual or performing artist, filmmaker, musician or creative writer.
- Current, full-time Iowa resident as defined by [Iowa Code 422.4](#) and [Iowa Administrative Code 701.300.17 \(422\)](#).
- 18 years of age or older.
- Applicants who represent an artist collective, artist team or band must apply as an individual on behalf of the group and clearly state their individual role in the project proposal as the individual legally obligated to comply with the terms of the grant agreement.

Accessibility - Americans with Disabilities Act

Applicant must demonstrate that the project is in compliance or actively working to be in compliance with [Section 504](#) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the [Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990](#). These laws prohibit discrimination against individuals with physical and/or mental disabilities. Both programmatic and structural accessibility must be addressed in the application.

Ineligible Applicants

Ineligible applicants include the following:

- Organizations, including for-profit corporation or business, political party or national service/professional organization. Organizations should apply to the Art Project Grants for Organizations program.
- Individuals that have received a fiscal year 2025 Art Project Grant, Iowa Artist Fellowship, Iowa Screenwriters Grant or Greenlight Grant.

- Individuals that have received grants, loans or other incentives through the Iowa Arts Council or other program administered by the IEDA that are not in compliance with reporting or other requirements or that are listed on the IEDA's funding moratorium list.

ART PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

Eligible Projects

Eligible projects must involve an arts experience or arts learning opportunity and must demonstrate public value to lowans through deliberate public engagement and access to project activities. Types of eligible projects include community events, performances, exhibitions, festivals or workshops dedicated to arts related activities. Grant projects may represent a phase of a larger project with a longer timeline. However, all grant project activities must have a clear beginning and end date during the eligible funding period.

Applicants may apply for support of an annual event or series only if they can demonstrate how the event or series is unique to the eligible funding period and worthy of support. Project content must change from year to year.

Applicants may apply for support of a public art project only if they can demonstrate broad-based community engagement and programming surrounding the project.

Ineligible Projects

Projects that fall outside of the identified types of eligible projects will not receive funding through this program. Ineligible projects include, but are not limited to, the following types of activities:

- Capital Infrastructure, construction, renovation or maintenance
- Non-arts projects
- Ongoing projects or programming
- Grant projects that begin or end prior to or after the eligible funding period (grant projects may represent a phase of a larger project with a longer timeline)
- Social activities such as receptions, parties, galas, community dinners, picnics and potlucks
- Costs for planning, staffing and supplying social activities as described above

BUDGET REQUIREMENTS

Eligible Grant Request Expenses

Art Project Grants support project expenses that are essential to the completion of the proposed project. The grant request must be dedicated to eligible one-time, direct project expenses, and legitimate parts of the proposed project and must be incurred and expended within the eligible funding period. Expenses identified in the grant request should be based on competitive, current market pricing.

Expenses eligible for reimbursement include direct project costs such as:

- Access accommodations (e.g., audio description, sign-language interpretation, closed or open captioning, large-print brochures/labeling)
- Artist fees (e.g. creation, preparation, performance time)
- Costs of items created through project activities (e.g. publishing books or exhibition catalogs, music recordings, films for distribution)

- Domestic travel (e.g. mileage, accommodation, per diem)
- Marketing (e.g. print material, ad buys, design fees)
- Materials (e.g. paint, costumes, props)
- Professional services (e.g. printer, graphic designer, security)
- Rentals (e.g. stages, lighting/sound, scissor lift, portable restrooms)
- Supplies the cost of which is less than \$5,000 per unit (e.g. camera, computers/software, kiln)

Ineligible Grant Request Expenses

Expenses that fall outside of the identified eligible expenses for the project may not be included as part of the grant request.

Ineligible grant request expenses include, but are not limited to:

- Acquisition/purchase of artwork
- Budget shortfalls
- Capital expenditures, including the purchase of fixed assets or tangible personal property, including information technology systems, having a useful life of more than one year and a per-unit cost that is equal to or greater than \$5,000
- Collection maintenance or restoration expenses
- Costs of goods for resale, including concessions or promotional merchandise such as clothing or items purchased for sale
- Costs for the creation of new organizations
- Deficit or debt reduction
- Donations or contributions to other organizations
- Expenses incurred prior to or after the eligible funding period
- Food, beverage and alcohol. Food and beverage may be included if they have a clear programmatic purpose.
- Foreign travel
- Funding cash reserve or endowment accounts or instruments
- Fundraising or benefit activity expenses
- General miscellaneous or contingency costs
- Home studio/office costs or expenses, including utilities and mortgage payments
- Lobbying activity
- Personnel benefits
- Prizes and awards
- Project costs supported by any other federal or state funding
- Property maintenance, restoration or renovation expenses
- Purchase and/or use of gift cards and gift certificates to support project costs
- Purchase of a vehicle
- Tuition, fees or project activity that results in an applicant's undergraduate or graduate course credit, degree or certification
- Unallowable expenses for federal awards as defined in 2 CFR 200 Subpart E - Cost Principles
- Unrealized ticket or event revenue, i.e., providing free tickets or scholarships to attend an event

Match Requirement

Applicants are required to demonstrate investment in the project by providing a cash match that is a minimum of 50% of the total grant amount requested from the IEDA. For example, an applicant that requests \$10,000 in grant funds needs at least \$5,000 in cash match for a minimum total grant project budget of \$15,000.

The required cash match must be dedicated to one-time project expenses that are legitimate parts of the proposed project. Expenses identified in the match should be based on competitive, current market pricing. Applicants will be required to identify all anticipated expenses covered by the cash match in the project budget as well as the anticipated revenue sources that will cover them. The applicant is not required to secure the cash match at the time of application but must secure the cash match by the end of the eligible funding period and identify it in the final report due August 1, 2025.

- Cash match is actual cash contributed to direct project expenses by the applicant or other funding sources.
- The applicant's time dedicated to the project can be included as part of the cash match.
- Expenses used for cash match must adhere to the same grant request expense eligibility requirements as detailed in the budget requirements section of these guidelines.
- In-kind match does not count toward cash match. In-kind match is non-cash goods or services provided at no charge to the project by a third party.
- State or federal funds cannot be used to meet the match requirement.
- Funds provided by units of county or local government may be used to meet the match requirement.

FUNDING PRIORITIES

Priority is given to projects that have high-quality arts production or arts experiences, projects that advance the goals of the [Iowa Arts Council Strategic Plan Framework 2022-2026](#), and projects that occur within a [Cultural and Entertainment District](#) designated by the State of Iowa. Applicants are encouraged to submit a letter of support from the district for their project under support materials. Contact Jon Berg at jon.berg@iowaeda.com for district contact information.

REVIEW PROCESS

Eligibility Review

Submitted applications are reviewed by staff for completion, eligibility, and adherence to published guidelines. Applications are reviewed as submitted, provided that the IEDA may contact applicants if any additional information is required. New application information or subsequent application clarification submitted after a program deadline is not considered unless requested by an IEDA program manager. Staff will also review an applicant's record of compliance and good standing with the Iowa Arts Council, the IEDA, other state agencies, including but not limited to the Iowa Department of Revenue, and federal government agencies or departments. Applications or applicants determined by staff to be ineligible or incomplete will not move forward to panel review. A determination as to eligibility or completeness is final agency action.

Competitive Panel Review

Applications by eligible applicants that are complete and adhere to program requirements will be referred for a competitive review by a panel of professionals with expertise related to the purpose of

the program. Applications will be scored and ranked based on the published scoring rubric. Recommendations for consideration and approval are submitted to the Director of the IEDA.

Decision Notification

Applicants are typically notified of funding decisions, including decisions to decline to fund applications, within six weeks after the application deadline. Applicants are encouraged to refrain from contacting staff for application status updates during the funding decision process.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION

Applicants must submit applications via the Iowa Arts Council’s SlideRoom, an online application portal. Applications will not be accepted in any other format. Late, incomplete or ineligible applications will not be accepted. Applicants can access the current online application requirements at iowaartscouncil.slideroom.com. Applicants must create a login to view the full application requirements for the program. Applicants can visit help.liaisonedu.com for assistance related to the online submission.

Application Questions and Scoring Rubric

The Art Project Grants for Artists program scoring rubric will be used by the review panel to evaluate grant applications. The following application questions are provided for reference only. Applicants must review and complete application requirements in the SlideRoom portal. Each section has criteria and corresponding point values to ensure an unbiased review process. The rubric is on a scale of 45 points.

Applicant Overview

Vision Statement

Describe the artistic vision for the applicant’s overall creative practice and the work samples submitted. This should be the vision for the artist’s work overall, not the vision for the project.

Applicant Profile

Describe how the applicant fulfills their artistic vision through their creative practice. Explain the type of artwork that the applicant creates including concepts and mediums used and how it connects to the artistic vision. Include a description of how the artwork or practice is typically presented to the public.

Career Information

Upload a 1-2 page document that details the applicant’s activity, such as an artist resume, curriculum vitae (CV), or list of career achievements with dates.

APPLICANT OVERVIEW: 5 points possible		
5	3	1
Applicant demonstrates an active practice with strong capabilities in concept and form, and deliberate efforts to make work accessible to the public. Career progress is demonstrated through a record of relevant, notable achievements.	Applicant describes practice, concept, form of work and career progress with some public access identified and some relevant notable achievements.	Career activity, concept and form of work are unclear or inadequate. Public does not have regular access to work. Applicant does not identify career progress through relevant notable achievements.

Project Description

Describe the proposed project, including:

- What the project activities are and how they will be accessible by the public.
- Where the project activities will take place.
- Why applicant is proposing to do this project.
- Who will be involved with the project and their roles and responsibilities.
- If this is a public art focused request, include a statement regarding permission to use the site where the art will be located and why that site was chosen.

Is the project part of regular ongoing programming, like an annual event or exhibit/performing arts series? (Yes/No) If yes, describe why this particular year or project is unique and worthy of funding.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: 5 points possible		
5	3	1
Project description is clear. Key artistic and logistical partners and responsibilities are well-defined and enhance the project. Project activities that engage the public are exemplary, clearly defined, and accessible.	Project description is satisfactory. Key artistic and logistical partners and responsibilities are identified. Project activities that engage the public are described and accessibility is considered.	Project description is inadequate. Artistic or logistical partners and responsibilities are not identified. Project activities that engage the public are not described or accessibility is unclear.

Public Value

Describe why the proposed project is important to the public, including:

- The intended communities, participants, and/or audiences involved in the project activities, and how they will benefit.
- Specific plans to engage these groups in the project activities.
- Plans to provide equitable access to project activities.

PUBLIC VALUE: 5 points possible		
5	3	1
Target population for the project is well-defined. Exemplary plans are in place to engage the public. Community members will clearly benefit from project activities.	Target population for the project is identified. Plans are in place to engage the public. Community members will benefit from project activities.	Target population for the project is not clearly identified. Plans to engage the public are unclear or inadequate. Community members may not benefit from project activities.

Project Timeline

Provide a timeline of project activities. Be sure to include when key artistic decisions will be made, project phases, and events, as applicable. Grant projects may represent a phase of a larger project with a longer timeline. If, for context, you describe activities that occur outside of the eligible funding period,

indicate by adding an asterisk (*). Deadlines can be listed as the month it is set to be complete, such as “September 2024”, rather than a specific date.

PROJECT TIMELINE: 5 points possible		
5	3	1
Confident project will successfully happen through a clear, detailed timeline of tasks.	Project is achievable through the identified timeline of tasks.	Multiple concerns about project achievability. Timeline of tasks is insufficient.

Goals and Evaluation

State at least one distinct and measurable goal for the project. Effective goals are specific, measurable, achievable, and relevant to the project. For example: “The proposed printmaking workshops for educators will advance goals to build my own teaching experience and enhance K-12 visual arts education in the state.”

Describe how the applicant will monitor and evaluate progress toward the stated goal. Examples of evaluation activities include, but are not limited to, surveys of program participants, measuring attendance and third-party program evaluations. If applicable, include plans to share learnings and outcomes.

In addition, select one Iowa Arts Council strategic goal that best aligns with applicant’s stated outcome(s).

- Foster arts programming that seeks to advance individual and community health and well-being.
- Intentionally engage artists in community development initiatives.
- More Iowa K-12 students have access to meaningful arts learning opportunities and career and learning pathways in the arts.
- Nurture and support cross-sector partnerships that include the arts and artists as a core partner to address community needs.
- Promote access to the arts by addressing barriers to promote accessibility and engage new arts participants.

PROJECT GOALS AND EVALUATION: 5 points possible		
5	3	1
Applicant has clearly identified a project goal that is specific, measurable and can be achieved by the proposed activities. Applicant has clear methods in place to collect necessary data to analyze achievement of project goal.	Applicant has identified a project goal that is measurable and is likely to be achieved by the proposed activities. Evaluation methods and measures are satisfactory and may help applicant to collect the necessary data to determine if the project goal was achieved.	Project goal is unclear and/or the identified goal is not likely to be achieved by proposed activities. Evaluation methods and measures are inadequate.

Project Budget

Total Grant Request Amount

Enter the total amount of grant funding being requested to support the grant project. Round to the nearest dollar. Do not include dollar signs, decimals, or commas.

Total Cash Match

Enter the total amount of cash match the applicant will be providing to support the grant project. Be sure this number is at least half of the grant amount requested. Round to the nearest dollar. Do not include dollar signs, decimals or commas.

Grant Project Expenses

Itemize the eligible grant project expenses covered by the grant request and cash match in the table below. Do not include in-kind match or expenses that will be incurred outside the eligible funding period. Include a brief description of each expense and place the numeric dollar amount for that expense in either the grant award column, cash match column or divide the expense between the two columns. Round to the nearest dollar. Do not include dollar signs, decimals or commas. Total the amount of each row in the fourth column.

Cash Match Sources

In the table, list each funding source for the cash match, the amount from each source, and whether the funds have been secured. The funding source is where the money comes from. Be as specific as possible in listing the source.

Budget Narrative

Provide information to clarify any line item included in the project budget or provide further details on the scope of the project budget. If cash match sources are pending, describe the timeline for securing the funds and the level of certainty in securing them. If you intend to purchase any equipment, provide justification for this expenditure and how it relates to the project. If you have in-kind match or expenses that will be incurred outside the eligible funding period, you may include them here.

BUDGET: 5 points possible		
5	3	1
Budget and intended use of requested funds are clear, appropriate and will help the applicant to achieve intended outcome.	Budget and the intended use of requested funds are identified. It is unclear if they will help the applicant to achieve the intended outcome.	Budget and the intended use of requested funds are unclear or inadequate.

Artistic Work Samples

Submit 3-5 artistic work samples that directly relate to the proposed art project. Artistic work samples should demonstrate the quality of the artistic work in the proposed project or the quality of the applicant’s past work as it relates to the proposed project. Artistic work samples must represent an artistic work or performance. Artistic work samples do not include bios, testimonials, news articles or marketing material such as brochures, fliers or posters. These can be uploaded under support material.

- Provide 3-5 items.
- Video and audio files should not exceed three minutes each.
- PDF files should not exceed one page each.
- Panelists will not be required to view more than one page of a document or more than three minutes of an audio or video file.

ARTISTIC WORK SAMPLES: 5 points possible		
5	3	1
Artistic work samples are of high quality, relevant to the proposed project and clearly demonstrate exceptional capabilities in artistic concept and form.	Artistic work samples are of average quality, relevant to the proposed project and demonstrate capabilities in artistic concept and form.	Artistic work samples are of poor quality or demonstrate inadequate capabilities in concept and form.

Optional Support Material

Submit up to two pages of document support material for the proposed project. Support material may include an evaluation tool, sketch of a proposed artwork, letter of support, marketing material, press clipping, lesson plan or artist bios. Applicants whose projects will occur within a [Cultural and Entertainment District](#) designated by the State should submit a letter of support from the District for their project. A list of web links is not acceptable.

Overall Application

The following scoring criteria reference the quality of the proposal and application as a whole and not a particular question. Support materials will be considered in overall artistic vitality and case for support.

OVERALL ARTISTIC VITALITY: 5 points possible		
5	3	1
Project provides lowans an arts service or experience that will substantially impact the vitality of the arts in Iowa.	Project provides lowans an arts service or experience that will reasonably impact the vitality of the arts in Iowa.	Project does not provide lowans an arts service or experience that will adequately impact the vitality of the arts in Iowa.

CASE FOR SUPPORT: 5 points possible		
5	3	1
Case for support is exemplary and merits investment from the state.	Case for support is average.	Case for support is below average or does not merit state investment.

Glossary of Terms and Definitions

Applicants should refer to the [glossary](#) for clarification of program terms and definitions.