



ART PROJECT GRANT FOR INDIVIDUALS PROGRAM GUIDELINES

ART PROJECT GRANTS FOR ARTISTS Fiscal Year 2026

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

Applications will be accepted during two funding cycles in Fiscal Year 2026:

SPRING APPLICATION CYCLE CALENDAR

April 22, 2025 | Fiscal Year 2026 Application April Deadline

The deadline to submit an online application is 11:59 PM on April 22, 2025, for the funding period July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026.

June 2025 | April Funding Decision Notification

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

July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026 | Eligible Funding Period

The Eligible Funding Period is July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026. All grant project expenses must be incurred and activities must be completed within the eligible funding period.

August 1, 2026 | Final Report Deadline

Grant recipients are required to complete a final report by August 1, 2026

FALL APPLICATION CYCLE CALENDAR

September 23, 2025 | Fiscal Year 2026 Application September Deadline

The deadline to submit an online application is 11:59 PM on September 23, 2025, for the funding period November 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026.

November 2025 | April Funding Decision Notification

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

November 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026 | Eligible Funding Period

The Eligible Funding Period is November 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026. All grant project expenses must be incurred and activities must be completed within the eligible funding period.

August 1, 2026 | Final Report Deadline

Grant recipients are required to complete a final report by August 1, 2026.

GRANT AMOUNTS AND DISBURSEMENT

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

Fiscal year 2025 grant awards ranged from \$1,000 - \$10,000 with an average grant award of \$5,721.

The IEDA reserves the right to award a portion of the requested grant amount to ensure statewide distribution of grant funds.

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 matching funds were 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.

- U.S. citizen or possessing a Permanent Resident Card (i.e. “Green Card”) or in the process of obtaining a Permanent Resident Card, who is a full-time Iowa resident domiciled in Iowa or maintaining a permanent place of abode in Iowa. For purposes of these Guidelines, the terms “domiciled” and “permanent place of abode” are defined in [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 2026 Iowa Artist Fellowship, fiscal year 2026 Art Project Grant for Artists (if awarded during the April round) or have an active Greenlight Grant contract.
- 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 Iowans 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

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. studio space, stages, scissor lift)
 - Only the portion of rental space/facilities costs that are directly allocable to the project are eligible
- Shipping costs (e.g. to transport artwork, instruments)
- Supplies the cost of which is less than \$10,000 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 \$10,000
- 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
- Costs for planning, staffing and supplying social activities
- 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
- Visa costs paid to the federal government

Match Requirement

Applicants are required to demonstrate investment in the project by providing one to one matching funds to the total grant amount requested from the IEDA. For example, an applicant that requests \$10,000 in grant funds needs at least \$10,000 in matching funds for a minimum total grant project budget of \$20,000.

The required matching funds must be dedicated to one-time project expenses that are legitimate parts of the proposed project. Matching funds may be all cash or a combination of cash and in-kind contributions. Applicants will need to include any in-kind contributions as direct costs in the project budget to balance the budget. The applicant is not required to secure the matching funds at the time of application but must secure them by the end of the eligible funding period and identify them in the final report due August 1, 2026.

- Cash match is actual cash, like cash donations, grants, and revenues that are received for the project.
- The applicant's own goods or services (i.e. time, materials) dedicated to the project can be included as part of the cash match.

- In-kind match is non-cash goods or services provided at no charge to the project by a third party. The use and value of third-party contributions must be properly documented. All third-party contributions must be necessary and reasonable for the project.
- Expenses used for matching funds must adhere to the same expense eligibility requirements as detailed in the budget requirements section of these guidelines.
- 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 locally designated Cultural and Entertainment District. For projects happening in a locally designated Cultural and Entertainment District, 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 eight 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 50 points.

Applicant Overview – This section is not scored.

Artistic Vision Statement

State the artistic vision for the applicant’s overall creative practice. 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.

Project Description

Describe the project activities that will take place during the funding period, including:

- What the project activities are and how they will be accessible to the public.
- Where the project activities will take place.
- Why applicant is proposing to do this project.
- 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 how the grant funds will be used to supplement, enhance, or otherwise provide additional opportunities that the applicant has not been able to offer in the past with the existing programming.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: 5 points possible		
5	3	1
Project description is clear. The value and appropriateness of the project to artistic field, artist, audience, and/or community is clear. Project activities that engage the public are exemplary, clearly defined, and accessible.	Project description is satisfactory. The value and appropriateness of the project to artistic field, artist, audience, and/or community is considered. Project activities that engage the public are described and accessibility is considered.	Project description is inadequate. The value and appropriateness of the project to the artistic field, artist, audience, and/or community is unclear. Project activities that engage the public are not described or accessibility is unclear.

Individuals and Organizations Involved

Applicant Qualifications

Describe the applicant’s qualifications as they relate to the applicant’s role in the proposed project. This may include applicant’s educational background, artistic practice and/or work with similar artistic medium(s) or on similar project(s). Also include a list of notable skills or achievements applicable to the proposed project.

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

Project Partners & Key Individuals

Complete the table below outlining up to ten key individuals (such as other artists, teaching artists, collaborators, consultants, mentors) and/or partner organizations involved in the project. Because all projects require matching resources from non-federal or state sources, individuals or organizations that only provide money are not considered partners. Funders are not excluded from being partners, but they must also supply human resources or information capital or actively participate in another way to be considered partners. Include the individual or partner organization’s name and if they are tentative or committed to partnering on the project.

Project Partners & Key Individuals Description

Describe why the applicant had chosen the identified partners for this project, what their role will be, and their biographical experience or knowledge relative to this project.

INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED: 5 points possible		
5	3	1
Applicant is well qualified for their role in the proposed project. Project partners and key individuals listed have well-defined responsibilities, the majority are committed to the project, and their experience will clearly enhance the project.	Applicant has some relevant experience for their role in the proposed project. Project partners and key individuals listed have identified responsibilities, some are committed to the project, and their experience may enhance the project.	Applicant has unclear or inadequate experience for their role in the proposed project. Project partners and key individuals listed do not have identified responsibilities, most have not committed to the project, and it is unclear if their experience will enhance the project.

Schedule of Key Project Dates

Provide a timeline of when project activities outlined in the Project Description will occur. 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 2025”, rather than a specific date.

SCHEDULE OF KEY PROJECT DATES: 5 points possible		
5	3	1
Confident project will successfully happen through	Project is achievable through the identified timeline of tasks.	Multiple concerns about project achievability. Timeline of tasks is insufficient.

a clear, detailed timeline of tasks.		
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Community Involvement

Describe the intended communities, participants, and/or audiences involved in the project activities, including:

- Key Demographics.
- Specific plans to engage the identified groups in the project activities.
- How they will benefit from project activities.
- Plans to provide equitable access to project activities.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT: 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 Goal and Monitoring

State at least one distinct and measurable goal for the project. Effective goals are specific, measurable, achievable, and relevant to the project. They will articulate what the applicant or the intended audience will learn or experience by participating in the proposed arts activities. 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.
- Reinforce and elevate the essential role artists as citizens serve in their communities
- Bridge urban, rural and suburban parts of our state through shared resources and greater collaboration.

PROJECT GOAL AND MONITORING: 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

Direct Project Expenses

Itemize the eligible direct grant project expenses covered by both the requested Iowa Arts Council funds and the Matching Funds in the table below. These are costs that are expended specifically for the project during the period of performance. Review the list of eligible and ineligible expenses found in the grant program guidelines. Do not include 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 the next column. Round to the nearest dollar. Do not include dollar signs, decimals or commas.

Total Project Costs/Expenses

Enter the total direct costs outlined in the table above. Round to the nearest dollar. Do not include dollar signs, decimals or commas.

Enter the Amount Requested from the Iowa Arts Council

Round to the nearest dollar. Do not include dollar signs, decimals or commas.

Matching Funds - Cash

Itemize each source of funding for the cash match, the amount from each source, and whether the funds have been secured. The funding source is where the cash match is coming from. This may include sources like private foundations; corporate or individual donors; ticket sales; or the value of the applicant's own goods or services (i.e. time) dedicated to the project. Be as specific as possible in listing the source.

If listed as a source of cash match, the value of the applicant's own goods and services (i.e. time) dedicated to the project must also be included as direct costs in the Direct Costs form above to balance the budget.

Matching Funds – In-Kind

Itemize third-party contributions to the project. These are non-cash goods and services that are necessary and reasonable for the project. The in-kind contributions must also be included as direct costs in the Direct Costs form above to balance the budget.

Total Project Revenue

Enter the total of the amount requested from the Iowa Arts Council and the matching funding outlined above. To meet the one-to-one match requirement, ensure the sum of cash and in-kind match is greater than or equal to the amount requested from the Iowa Arts Council. This amount should be equal to the Total Project Costs/Expenses. Round to the nearest dollar. Do not include dollar signs, decimals or commas.

Additional Project Budget Notes

Provide information to clarify any line item included in the project budget, or to provide further details on the scope of your project budget. If matching funds 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.

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 project goal. Numerous sources of matching support are identified. Evidence of direct compensation to artists, makers, art collectives, and/or art workers is clear.	Budget and the intended use of requested funds are identified. It is unclear if they will help the applicant to achieve the intended project goal. Some sources of matching support are identified. Some evidence of direct compensation to artists, makers, art collectives, and/or art workers.	Budget and the intended use of requested funds are unclear or inadequate. Only one source of matching support is identified. Evidence of direct compensation to artists, makers, art collectives, and/or art workers is unclear.

Artistic Work Samples

Submit 3-5 artistic work samples that are as relevant to the proposed art project as possible. Artistic work samples should demonstrate the quality of the artistic work highlighted in proposed project or the quality of the applicant’s past work as it relates to the proposed project. Artistic work samples should be recent, high quality, and must represent an artistic work or performance. It can also include images or videos of past events or classes. For festival events, it can include maps of the festival grounds. Artistic work samples DO NOT include links to websites, 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 three pages each.
- Each PDF should only represent one work sample (i.e. one poem would be considered one work sample).
- Panelists will not be required to view more than three pages of a work sample or more than three minutes of an audio or video file.

Include a description with each sample, including:

- Title of the sample
- Date of the work or activity
- Names of artist(s) featured if applicable
- Relevance of the work sample to the proposed project
- If an audio or video sample is longer than three minutes, indicate the segment the panel should view.
- If a visual art sample, note the artistic medium being presented in the sample and the dimensions of the actual piece.

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 locally-designated Cultural and Entertainment District 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 excellence, merit, and case for support.

OVERALL ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE: 5 points possible		
5	3	1
Project provides an exceptional arts service or experience.	Project provides a quality arts service or experience.	It is unclear if the project will provide a quality arts service or experience.

OVERALL ARTISTIC MERIT: 5 points possible		
5	3	1
Value of the project to lowans is clear. The project is relevant to the audience or communities the applicant aims to serve.	The project may be of value to lowans. The project may be relevant to the audience or communities the applicant aims to serve.	Value of the project to lowans is unclear. It is unclear if the project will be relevant to the audience or communities the applicant aims to serve.

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.