

Regional Artist Project Grant 2017 Guidelines & FAQs

Purpose: The Regional Artist Project Grant Program (RAPG) provides funds for individuals and groups of unincorporated artists to pursue projects that further enhance their artistic development by attending a professional development experience or purchasing/renting a piece of equipment.

Eligibility: The Regional Artist Project Grant Program is open to all disciplines. Additionally,

- Applicants must be a permanent resident of the region (e.g., have resided for a minimum of twelve (12) months prior to the deadline) of one the following counties: Cabarrus, Cleveland, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Rowan, Rutherford, Stanly, Union or York (SC).
- Applicants must be 18 years of age or older and a US citizen or permanent resident.
- Applicants and recipients may not enroll in, or be currently enrolled in, an undergraduate or graduate degree-granting program during the time their funded project is in progress.

Please note: Artists on the staff of one of the participating arts councils OR artists who received a Regional Artist Project Grant within the last 2 calendar years (Projects that took place on or after January 2015) are not eligible to apply.

Funding Partners: The program is administered by the Arts & Science Council, Charlotte-Mecklenburg, Inc., in partnership with the arts councils in Cabarrus, Cleveland, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, Rowan, Rutherford, Stanly, Union and York (SC) counties. The program is supported by the North Carolina Arts Council, a division of the Department of Cultural Resources; the Blumenthal Endowment; and the participating arts councils. Please contact the [Arts Council representative](#) in your county with questions about the program.

Maximum Grant Amount: Artists may ask for a maximum of \$2,000. Only one application per individual will be accepted annually.

Match Requirement: Matching funds are not required. However, if the cost of the request exceeds the maximum grant amount, the applicant must show additional funding source(s).

Application Deadline: All applications and work samples must be submitted no later than **12:00 NOON on Friday, September 16, 2016**. Unfortunately, applications received after this deadline cannot be accepted. All applicants must apply through the online application system.

Notification: Electronically on December 1, 2016.

Support Period: Funded projects must take place between January 1, 2017 and December 31, 2017. The grant funds cannot be spent prior to this period.

Artist Resources:

[Click here](#) to download Grantwriting Tips

[How to Photograph Your Artwork](#) - link to You Tube video

How to Apply: All applicants are required to apply through our online application system.

Mecklenburg County Artists: [Click here](#) to begin a new application.

Non-Mecklenburg County Artists: [Click here](#) to begin a new application. (Note: You will need to contact your Local Arts Council Representative to obtain the application password.)

[Click here](#) to continue a previously started application

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: What can grant dollars be used for?

A: Regional Artist Project Grant dollars must be used to support a single purpose. In most cases, this means support for a single item – workshop or conference fee, taking a master class, purchase or rental of a piece of equipment or supply materials. In some instances there may be shared or related expenses that are also legitimate. For instance, attendance at a conference AND travel costs to attend; or, a major piece of equipment AND a necessary additional component (a saw AND a blade). If you are unsure if you can use grant funds for a specific expense, please see the ineligible costs below or contact your [local arts council](#). Applicants are required to attach support for the request and request amount. For example, a write-up and pricing of conference fee, a draft invoice, or an online price quote, etc.

Q: How much can I request?

A: The maximum request is \$2,000. If granted, the award will be for the full amount requested; no partial grants will be awarded with this program.

Q: Am I required to match the grant?

A: Although matching funds are not required of Regional Artist Project Grant applicants, if the cost of the request exceeds the maximum grant amount, the applicant must show additional funding source(s).

Q: Am I an emerging or established artist?

A: This is up to the applicant to determine. In general, an emerging artist is defined as an individual who has fewer than ten years of experience and is in the early stages of their career or is changing disciplines. An established artist is defined as an individual who has more than ten years of experience and is at a mature stage of their career, with an extensive body of work and a history of public exhibition, etc. Applicants may be either emerging or established artists, but in either case must have a record of artistic achievement appropriate to the stage of their career.

Q: How will my application be reviewed?

A: A panel of professional artists, each selected as a recognized authority in their art form, will review all applications. Examples of past judges include professional artists (including previous grant recipients), college and university professors, gallery owners, professional dancers, award-winning writers, theatre managers/directors, museum curators, etc.

Panelists review applications based on artistic and project merit based on the following criteria:

- Evidence of overall artistic excellence (based on individual artistic level).
 - Evidence of a commitment to pursuing or maintaining a career as a practicing artist.
 - Evidence that the request contributes to the individual's/group's artistic growth.
 - Evidence that the request is feasible and the request is realistic.
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Q: What types of projects have been funded in the past?

A: In the past, artists have been awarded grants for the following types of projects:

- To work with master artists in their field
 - To purchase equipment (laptop, art supplies, etc.)
 - To pay for conference or workshop fees
 - To rent studio time for the completion of a specific project
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Q: Is there anything that I am unable to use grant dollars for?

A: The Regional Artist Project Grant Program will not support:

- Projects that have already taken place.
- Tuition to assist artists in obtaining an undergraduate or graduate degree.
- Projects that do not primarily further your own development as an artist (e.g. teaching, curatorial work, etc).
- Requests to purchase/rent multiple items
- Food/ per diem expenses

- Multiple professional development experiences
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Q: What assistance is provided to applicants?

A: It is strongly encouraged that you contact the [Arts Council representative](#) in your county as you develop your application. Those applicants who are interested may email a Draft of their Full Application for review by their local arts council representative between September 5-9, 2016. Drafts may be emailed by clicking the “Email Draft” button from inside the Full Application form online. Drafts should be directed to the email address of your local Arts Council representative. Please note, Drafts must be emailed by September 9 at 12noon in order to be reviewed.

For helpful grant-writing tips, [click here](#).

Artist Info Sessions introducing the Regional Artist Project Grant have passed.

To view a taping of the workshop, [click here](#).

To view the PowerPoint presentation, [click here](#).

Q: If I receive a grant, what will I be required to do?

- To accept the grant, you must complete and return a signed Grant Agreement. Upon receipt of the signed agreement you will receive the full grant award (100%).
- Credit the Regional Artist Project Grant consortium, your local arts council, and the North Carolina Arts Council in all printed materials related to the funded project.

In order to apply for future funding from any of the supporting arts councils, you will need to submit your final report within 30 days of your project end date. Final paperwork includes a report, at least two forms of project documentation (program, photos, receipts, etc.), and other paperwork as required.

Please note, all grant recipients are required to pay any required state, local or federal taxes on grant awards.

Q: What type of work samples will I need to submit?

A: The following materials documenting work that has been completed in the last three years must be submitted with your application. Clearly label all support materials with your name, title of work, and date of work. All work samples must be submitted by the grant deadline date & time.

Visual Artists – Eight (8) digital images upload through the online application system.

Music, Dance, Theatre, and Film/Media Artists – Links stated in work sample list or mail four (4) DVDs to your local arts council. No more than 3 minutes will be reviewed by the panel. Please indicate which 3 minutes you want the panel to view on your work sample list. If no indication is given, the panel will review the first three minutes.

Literary Artists – Up to ten (10) pages of manuscript. Literary artists must upload their work sample through the online application system.

ORIGINAL WORK SAMPLES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. (Original works can be defined as the actual pieces of artwork, original recordings, master copies, etc.)

Q: What other materials will I need to submit?

A: In addition to the work samples listed above, you will be asked to upload a work sample list, resume, and price quote onto your online application form. No additional support materials will be accepted. Please note, artists who reside outside of Mecklenburg County are required to submit a letter of acknowledgement from their local county arts council. More information about these materials is available in the online application form. All work samples must be received by the deadline.

Q: I have more questions. Where can I get help?

A: Your local arts council representative is available to answer questions as you develop your application. Please [click here](#) for a list of contacts for each arts council.

Q: When do I have to turn in my application?

A: Applications and work samples must be received by **12:00 NOON on Friday, September 16, 2016**.

Upon submitting your online application, you will immediately receive an e-mail confirmation. If you do not receive this confirmation e-mail, your application has not been successfully submitted.

Unfortunately, applications submitted after 12:00 noon will not be accepted.