

2025-2026 Inspiration Grant - Round I

ArtsKC - Regional Arts Council

Application

Inspiration grants are project grants for **individual artists** or **small groups of artists**. Visual, dance, music, theater, literature/poetry, fashion, film, and interdisciplinary art applications are welcome. The purpose of these grants is to support ambitious projects of *risk, growth, and change* for the artist and/or projects that make a positive impact on the community.

Applications for assistance with normal, 'business as usual' expenses involved with the applicant's customary art practice or professional activities are not a high priority for funding and are generally not funded.

The application process is **very competitive**. Provide readers with **clear, specific details about what you plan to do**. Be persuasive. Answers that are too brief or vague do not work in your favor.

Grant Amounts: Grants will be \$3,500.

We highly recommend that you read the [https://artskc.org/art-creator/grants/inspiration-grants/Inspiration Grant Information Page](https://artskc.org/art-creator/grants/inspiration-grants/Inspiration%20Grant%20Information%20Page), which includes general grant application advice. Questions? Ask Tara Karaim, ArtsKC Grants Manager: grantmaking@artskc.org.

Project Name*

Please give your project a brief descriptive name.

Character Limit: 100

Project Description*

Please provide a description of the project or activity to be funded. Make sure to include the basic Who, What, Where, When, Why and How details (although you can write this in the way you choose). Include details about marketing, outreach, or advertising to reach your target audience.

Character Limit: 4000

Art Type

Please choose a category for your project. If more than one of these applies, choose "Multidisciplinary Combination." If your project cannot be categorized in any of these ways, please choose Other, and write a quick detail in the next question.

Choices

Visual

Music

Dance
Theatre
Literature / Poetry
Multidisciplinary Combination
Fashion
Film
Other

Art Type - Other detail

Character Limit: 250

Location of project or activity.*

In what geographical location does the project or activity take place? Select all that apply. If elements of the project are planned for both outside and inside the KC area, or in more than one area county, indicate that by choosing more than one item from the list below.

Choices

Clay County, MO
Jackson County, MO
Johnson County, KS
Platte County, MO
Wyandotte County, KS
Outside the Kansas City metro area

Activity Dates*

For this round, supported activities should take place between **September 1, 2025 - March 25, 2026**, although they can extend slightly before and after this period. When will your project take place?

Character Limit: 250

Local Community Impact / Other Artist Involvement*

Who is your target audience? Are there specific communities that you aim to reach or elevate? In what ways do you think this project could have an impact on the local creative community, or the greater community?

If there are other artists involved in your project in a meaningful way, please list them and explain briefly how they are involved.

If you are applying on behalf of a group of artists, please provide the names and artistic disciplines of your group.

Character Limit: 2500

Advancement of Professional Development*

Explain how this project will advance your professional development as an artist.

For example, will it provide valuable training or experience? Will it help you earn more revenue as an artist? Will it help you work more efficiently, or perhaps explore new ideas that expand or change the direction of your work?

It is often helpful to explain how this project relates to your previous art practice or experience, and how it relates to your future.

Character Limit: 2500

Project Cost*

Please enter the total of all expenses. (Upload your complete budget later in the application).

Projects must total at least \$3,500. Expenses may include (but are not limited to) materials, performance fees, artist fees, tools, and/or travel.

Character Limit: 20

Project Budget*

Upload a budget document that includes all project income and all project expenses. In-kind or donated resources should be included. The income should include the amount of your ArtsKC grant request. The total amount for expenses and the total amount of income should be equal to each other, so your budget is balanced.

We have created an OPTIONAL template that can be accessed [https://artskc.org/inspirationgrantinformation/ - tab-id-9https://artskc.org/art-creator/grants/inspiration-grants/here](https://artskc.org/inspirationgrantinformation/-tab-id-9https://artskc.org/art-creator/grants/inspiration-grants/here), under "How to Apply". This template shows examples of what could be included. Please also consider setting aside the final payment - 20% of the grant amount - for potential tax liability.

This file can be an Excel, Word or PDF document.

File Size Limit: 2 MB

Use the Resume, Artist Statement and Bio sections below to tell us about yourself, your experience, and your work in general.

Resume*

Upload your professional resume or cv, OR your artist resume or cv.

File Size Limit: 2 MB

Artist Statement or Bio*

Upload a short Artist Statement or Bio.

File Size Limit: 2 MB

WORK SAMPLES

Include samples of your recent or current work, especially works that are closely related to your proposal. Sketches, outlines, diagrams and works in progress are accepted, especially if it will

help reviewers understand and imagine your proposed project.

Formats and limits

Files can be PDF, JPEG, JPG, GIF, PNG, Doc, Docx, Xls, Xlsx, Txt or CSV.

Images: Include high-quality images that are not blurry or pixelated. Here's an online tool:

<http://resizeimage.net/>

Writing: Provide no more than 10 - 15 pages of material.

Music and Video: Add web links to music, video, YouTube, Vimeo, etc. Do not upload media files, because they do not work with our grants system. Type links in full "http" format in the boxes, and include passwords if needed.

The committee has a limited amount of time to review applications, so short excerpts are best. They are unlikely to sample more than a short section of longer works, so guide them to the most important part.

Work Sample 1*

Upload a sample of your current or recent work, or provide an internet link to it. Provide information about the sample in the box below. Include the most closely related or best work here, as the first sample.

Character Limit: 500 | File Size Limit: 5 MB

Work Sample 2*

Character Limit: 500 | File Size Limit: 5 MB

Work Sample 3*

Character Limit: 500 | File Size Limit: 5 MB

Summary for Representation of your Project by ArtsKC*

Please provide a short summary about your project for ArtsKC to use in potential announcements, promotion and fundraising. For examples, [read about some of our past Inspiration Grantees here](#). This summary may be changed or shortened by ArtsKC Staff as needed for social media or other purposes. Using information from this application, and without adding any new details, please write a summary with this outline:

Your name, type of artist, what you plan to do, why, with whom, where, and how. Grant funds will be used for_____.

Character Limit: 800

Image for ArtsKC's Representation of your Project*

All applicants must include at least one image for ArtsKC to use in public representation of your project, if you are awarded a grant. **By uploading this image, you grant ArtsKC to use it publicly on social media and other promotional items.**

Images of the work itself, or of you working on the project in your studio or other creative space are best.

You can include images that are already included in this application. In this case, please upload it again.

File Size Limit: 5 MB

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Questions

OPTIONAL SECTION

One of the many well-recognized benefits of the arts is their power to bring together people of diverse cultures, backgrounds, ethnicities and socio-economic circumstances. [Click here for our official Diversity Statement.](#)

As part of our commitment to be more equitable, and to evaluate our outreach efforts as we strive to be a model of equity, we are gathering specific information from our applicants. The following questions are intended to help us learn more about the artists that reach out to us, and are **OPTIONAL**.

Answers to these questions are private and are not shared with evaluators or the general public. Answers to these questions do not influence the outcome of your application.

If you are applying on behalf of a small group of artists, choose answers to the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Questions that represent yourself.

If you prefer not to answer these questions, skip to the instruction at the end: "Save, Preview, and Submit..."

Age Range

Mark only one.

Choices

18-24
25-34
35-44
45-54
55-64
65-74
75 or older

Gender

Check all that apply. If you choose Other / Prefer to Self Describe, please write in the next box.

Choices

Female
Male
Non-Binary / Third Gender

Prefer not to say
Other / Prefer to Self Describe

Detail for Gender: Other / Prefer to Self Describe

Character Limit: 250

Do you consider yourself to be Transgender?

Choices

Yes
No
Prefer not to Answer

Pronouns

Mark only one. For Other, write in the next box.

Choices

he / his
she / her
they / their
other

Detail for Pronouns: Other

Character Limit: 250

Ethnicity

Check all that apply. For Other, write in the next box.

Choices

American Indian or Alaska Native
Asian
Black or African American
Caucasian
Hispanic or Latinx
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
Other
Prefer not to say

Detail for Ethnicity: Other

Character Limit: 250

Veteran Status

Choices

Yes
No
Prefer not to answer

Disability

Choices

Yes

No

Prefer not to answer

Sexual Orientation

For Other / Not listed above, write in the next box.

Choices

Asexual

Bisexual

Gay

Heterosexual or Straight

Lesbian

Pansexual

Prefer not to answer

Queer

Other / Not listed above

Detail for Sexual Orientation: Other / Not listed

Character Limit: 250

We recommend clicking "Save Application," then, let the page reload. Next, click on "Application Packet," at the top of the page to **preview your application and attachments as a combined PDF, which is how our committee reviews it.**

Up until the time you hit "Submit Application," or the deadline, you can return to your application online to revise and edit your request.

FINISHED? Be sure to click the **Submit Application** button!