



North
Carolina
Arts
Council

A DIVISION OF
DNCR
North Carolina Department of
Natural & Cultural Resources

Artist Support Grant Application Guidelines

2026-2027

Region 2: Beaufort, Dare, Hyde, Martin,
Tyrrell and Washington Counties

APPLY NOW

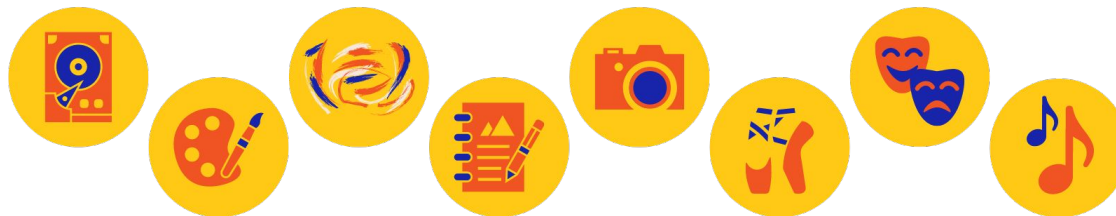
NORTH CAROLINA ARTIST SUPPORT GRANT



North Carolina Arts Council's Artist Support Grant

The Artist Support Grant provides direct support to individual artists for professional and artistic development, either to enhance their skills and abilities to create work, or to improve their business operations and capacity to bring the work to audiences.

Disciplines



The Artist Support Grant is intended to support a broad range of talented visual, performing, literary, and interdisciplinary artists.

18 Regions Award Artist Support Grants



**Eligibility for
application**





Emerging and established artists

Eligible candidates may be either emerging or established artists. Applicants should demonstrate a commitment to spending a significant portion of their time on their work as artists.



Individuals and groups

Individuals and Artist Collectives

Both individual artists and small, unincorporated groups of collaborating artists are eligible to apply.

All members of a collaborating team must be North Carolina residents, live in the region where they are applying, and meet the other eligibility requirements. Résumés documenting residence from all team members should be included with the application.



Residency

Artists should have lived in the region where they are applying continuously for at least one year prior to the consortium's application deadline. An applicant must be at least 18 years old and either a U.S. citizen or a lawful permanent resident. Proof of residence and status may be required by the consortium. Artists who live in more than one region should apply only where they spend the majority of the year.



Who are NOT eligible

Multiple awards

Artists who are sole proprietors of organizations that have already received funding for FY 2026-27 from the NC Arts Council are ineligible to apply. Artists who received an Artist Support Grant in FY 2024-25 and 2025-26 are ineligible to apply.

Conflict of interest

Current board and staff members of the participating partner organizations and their family members are not eligible to apply for the award.

Students

The Artist Support Grant is intended for adult, non-student artists. Artists enrolled full-time in undergraduate or associate degree-granting programs may not apply for the grant.

Scope of funding

What the grant will fund





Completion or presentation of a new work

Cost of resources necessary to complete or present a significant new work.

Examples include:

- Purchasing art supplies
- Equipment
- Space rental



Career promotion

Projects aimed at advertising artists' work and/or demonstrating their skill level.

Examples include:

- Websites
- Portfolios
- Audio-visual documentation
- Online presentation



Training

Costs to attend a class or workshop (in-person or virtual) aimed at either enhancing the artists' skill level or professional development.

- Such as attending a master class or workshop taught by acknowledged authorities in their medium.



Travel

Costs of transportation, lodging, and food for training, professional conferences, or research.



Artists fees

Up to **50% of grant amount** may be used towards artist fees!



What the grant will NOT fund

- Scholarships for undergraduate- or graduate-level education
- Projects that support or oppose a particular candidate for public office
- Projects that are exclusive to members of a particular religious faith group
- Non-profit initiatives
- Projects that do not have a direct effect on the applicant's growth as an artist

Evaluation criteria





Artistic merit

- Demonstrated talent in an art form and overall excellence of the artist's work
- Clear commitment to a career as a practicing professional artist



Project Merit

- Benefit of the proposed project to the artist's professional growth
- Feasibility of the proposed project

The application



Project narrative

Your Project Narrative should explain your proposed project and how it will have an impact on your career as an artist. Include a detailed project description:

- Describe your project and the proposed use of funds.
- Explain what this project will enable you to do that you are unable to do now.
- Summarize how this project will advance your career or development as an artist.

Your proposal **is** competitive. Make sure it is:

Feasible

Don't propose a project that seems beyond your capacity either in terms of cost, access, or other factors.

A logical step for you

It should make sense why the workshop tuition, studio equipment, etc. is relevant and helpful to you at this point in your career.

Project narrative: Additional tips

Use simple, declarative sentences, active voice—and get to the point. Observe the space or page limits.

Say what you need to say as efficiently as possible.

The narrative is not an artist statement.

Keep your answers focused on the practical needs and outcomes of your project.

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

If you find, after you've answered the application queries, that you haven't addressed one or more of the questions above, you might want to revisit your responses.

Budget/Expenses: Provide as much detail as possible

Expenses

Provide your project expenses, describing what will be paid for using your grant award and what will be paid for with supplemental funding. Grant expenses must be cash, but matching funds may include in-kind costs. This is not a matching grant, so the matching amount is not required. You may apply for the total amount of your project, provided it is within the funding range for the grant.

Grant Amount Requested *

The amount you are seeking from this Artist Support Grant.

Expenses Table: Add additional rows as necessary for each expense. *

Description*

Amount*

Add New

Budget/Expenses: Provide supporting documentation

- For most equipment, airfares, and materials, prices can be found online. For professional services, request an estimate.
- Always provide documentation for class, workshop, or conference registration costs.
- If studying with a specific teacher is part of your proposal, explain why it is important to your growth and provide documentation of the teacher's credentials.

Budget/Income

Income

Provide any projected income, including personal funds, additional grant funds, or other sources contributing to your match amount. List different sources separately. The total income amount should equal the total expenses listed above. Identify in-kind support as appropriate. If additional funds beyond the grant will be necessary to complete the project, indicate the amount and anticipated source on the below income table.

Income Table: Start with the Artist Support Grant amount requested. Add additional rows as necessary for each income source. *

Income Source*

Amount*

^
v

Add New

Budget/Income: You are not required to spend your own money!

- A match is **NOT** required
- But, if you have other other sources of income that will contribute to the budget for the project, include that in the budget sheet.



Work sample descriptions and labeling

- An inventory list of work samples should accompany the work samples you provide.
- Work samples should be recent -three years or less.

The basic information is specific to each discipline. This will be explained in further detail on the next slides.



Visual art and craft work samples

Up to 5 images of your work.

Images must be high quality – not blurry or pixelated.

Description

In the inventory list, provide the title, date of completion, medium, and dimensions of the work you have uploaded to the application.



Music work samples

Documentation of up to three recorded performances. Audio or video samples should not exceed a total time of ten minutes.

Description

In the inventory list, include date and location of performance, title of piece, names of conductors, lead performers/musicians, etc. A short summary may also be included.

Composers and songwriters should also submit scores, lyrics, and/or lead sheets, as appropriate.



Film work samples

Documentation of one or more completed films.

Video clips should not exceed five minutes.

Description

In the inventory list, include date of work sample, title of piece, names and roles of key people, including directors, lead performers/actors, etc. A short summary may also be included.



Dance and performing arts work samples

Documentation of up to three recorded performances.

Videos should not exceed a total time of ten minutes.

Description

In the inventory sheet, include date and location of performance, title of piece, names and roles of key people, including choreographers and lead performers/dancers, etc. A short summary may also be included.



Writing work samples

Fiction, creative nonfiction, and playwrights may submit no more than 12 pages each of one to two manuscripts.

- Poets may submit up to five poems.
- Playwrights may also submit documentation of a recorded performance or staged reading of their plays (videos not to exceed five minutes.)
- Inventory list should include title of piece, when published, etc.

Support materials – résumés or bios

As a rule, they should be:

Artist résumés

Focus on your activities as an artist, including exhibitions, performances, readings, screenings, commissions, collections that have acquired your work, publishing history, residencies, articles and reviews of your work, workshops taught or taken, lectures, panels, education, employment, awards, etc.

Abbreviated

A suggested length is two-to-three pages.

If you have limited experience as an artist, focus on your existing artistic achievements in your resume and condense your other work experience into broad background information.

Make the case that the grant is especially important in taking a meaningful step forward in your artistic career.



Letters of Recommendation

Letters of recommendation are optional and they should always be the least important part of your proposal.

Have qualified references who can speak specifically and enthusiastically about your abilities as an artist.

Consider the following when choosing 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?

Review

Application checklist





Application checklist

- ☐ **Application Profile**
- ☐ **Artist Statement & Résumé**
- ☐ **Project Narrative**
- ☐ **Budget Support**
- ☐ **Work Samples & Inventory List**
- ☐ **Support Materials**



If you receive a grant

You will enter into a contractual agreement with Dare County Arts Council.

Promotional and marketing materials for the proposed project must use the N.C. Arts Council logo and credit line.

Funds must be spent by **June 30, 2027**.

Projects must be completed before **December 31, 2027**.



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Thank you