

Artists with Disabilities Access Program

Professional Development Support for Artists with Disabilities

The Artists with Disabilities Access Program (ADAP) provides funding that gives individual artists with disabilities the resources they need to further their artistic development. Creative expression by artists of all abilities is essential to building dynamic and diverse communities throughout Ohio. ADAP awards help artists with disabilities advance their artistic practices, making Ohio a more accessible and inclusive place to build an artistic career.

GRANT AWARDS: Grants are awarded to individual artists at both the emerging artist level (\$500) and professional artist level (up to \$2,500), with no cash match required. Applicants may receive only one ADAP award per year. Artists with Disabilities Access Program grantees generally receive their full request.

Note: For the purposes of the ADAP program, **emerging artists** are individuals who have consistently worked in their chosen art form for more than three years, have demonstrated strong artistic potential, and want to develop their careers. **Professional artists** are individuals who devote a major portion of their time to creating, practicing, performing, or teaching their chosen artform and receive some type of monetary support from this endeavor.

ELIGIBILITY: All applying **artists** must:

- Be an Ohio resident (the OAC defines an Ohio resident as someone who spends at least eight months of the year living and working in Ohio);
- Remain a resident during the grant period if awarded funding;
- Have exhibited, performed, or published work as an artist within the past three years;
- Have a disability (per Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) guidelines);
- Be at least 18 years of age; and
- Not be a student attending high school or pursuing an undergraduate or graduate degree at the time of application.

Note: Applicants may not receive both an Artists with Disabilities Access Program grant and an Artist Opportunities grant in the same fiscal year.

Both creative and performing artists who have a disability and are residents of Ohio may apply to this program. The OAC uses the definition of disability contained in Sec. 12102 of the ADA, as amended by the ADA Amendments Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-325), which went into effect on January 1, 2009. This act is available online: ada.gov/pubs/ada.htm.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

May 1 annually (for up to 12 months of activities taking place July 1 – next June 30) and, if program funds are not exhausted, November 1 annually (for up to six months of activities taking place January 1 – June 30)

STAFF CONTACT

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HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS: The Artists with Disabilities Access Program provides support to individual artists with disabilities to:

- introduce their work to new audiences and to raise their artistic profile, through exhibitions, performances, or screenings.
- develop a new artistic skill through participation in activities such as conferences, artist residencies, workshops, fellowships, master classes, or apprenticeships.
- advance their career through activities like production of marketing materials, website development, equipment purchases (not to exceed \$1,500), materials, services, or rental fees for equipment or facilities.

Note: *Projects must focus on a new professional endeavor, not a duplication of previous work or experiences.*

HOW TO APPLY: Interested applicants are strongly encouraged to contact this program's coordinator to initiate the application process. Accommodations can be made for the application process.

ADAP applications are submitted electronically via the [ARTIE](#) system. If an applicant needs support in applying (in-person explanation, data entry, transcription, technology, etc.) the applicant or his or her designee can contact the OAC.

SUPPORT MATERIALS: Applications for this program must include support materials, including work samples, in order to be accepted.

The following support materials are REQUIRED for **emerging artists**:

1. Artist résumé or biography
2. Work samples – may include up to 12 images, or at least two audio, video, or writing samples, not more than three years old

The following support materials are REQUIRED for **professional artists**:

1. Artist résumé
2. Professional biography or artist statement
3. Work samples – may include up to 12 images, or at least two audio, video, or writing samples, not more than three years old

Note: *If applicable, materials describing proposed class, conference, or workshop, as well as résumé(s) of proposed instructor(s), teaching artist(s), or consultant(s), may also be submitted.*

EVALUATION AND SCORING: A panel of arts and cultural professionals, educators, artists, and other community members evaluate and score ADAP grant applications. Panel meetings are open to the public through a free video conferencing platform. Applicants are strongly encouraged to listen online. For details on panel meeting dates, times, and instructions for participating, visit the [OAC online grants calendar](#).

At the panel meeting, panelists discuss how well each application satisfies the program's evaluation criteria. Panelists highlight strengths and weaknesses, discussing all aspects of the application and its support materials. Following the public discussion, each panelist provides a final score for each application. Later, OAC staff use averages of these scores to determine funding award recommendations. The OAC Board is the only body authorized to make final funding decisions and must approve grant awards. The review process is competitive, and not all applications are funded.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to include as much information as possible in their responses to narrative questions in order to provide panelists with a complete picture of how the grant funding will advance the artists' professional pursuits.

REVIEW CRITERIA: Criteria are divided into four categories: Program Quality, Community Engagement, Defining and Measuring Success, and Resource Management. Evidence of meeting the criteria may be found in any portion of an application or associated support materials. Each criterion is worth up to five points, for a maximum of 60 points.

Program Quality (15 points)

- Skill is evident in artist’s chosen discipline
- Artistic work shows potential
- Commitment to advancing artist’s art form is demonstrated

Community Engagement (10 points)

- Artistic work is promoted in the community (through public events, website, promotional materials, etc.)
- Project will increase applicant’s ability to share their work with community members in the future

Defining and Measuring Success (25 points)

- Applicant has established a clear plan for using the grant funds
- Project will advance the-career of the artist
- Goals align with intended program outcomes to develop the artistic careers of artists with disabilities
- Goals are clearly stated
- Applicant’s proposed project demonstrates artistic, educational, and/or cultural value

Resource Management (10 points)

- Project budget is complete and supports goals for activity
- Applicant demonstrates the capacity to complete the proposed project

TIMELINE: The following timeline outlines the ADAP grant lifecycle. Any deadline falling on a Saturday, Sunday, or state holiday, is extended until the next business day.

| Task/Deadline | FY 2024 Applications | FY 2025 Applications |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| Application Available in ARTIE | November 2023 | November 2024 |
| Application Deadline at 5 p.m. (For Projects July 1 – next June 30) | May 1, 2023 | May 1, 2024 |
| Grant Award Announcement | August 2023 | August 2024 |
| Grant Agreement Deadline | September 30, 2023 | September 30, 2024 |
| Application Deadline at 5 p.m. (For Projects January 1 – June 30) | November 1, 2023 | November 1, 2024 |
| Grant Award Announcement | February 2024 | February 2025 |
| Grant Agreement Deadline | March 30, 2024 | March 30, 2025 |