

Artist Opportunities

Professional Development and Project Support for Individual Artists

Artist Opportunities grants support Ohio artists who have opportunities that will significantly impact their professional growth or have projects that will contribute to the vitality of their community. This grant is open to artists of all disciplines, at any stage of their career, and include all types of artistic practice.

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. Individuals may submit one application per year. Artist Opportunities grantees can anticipate receiving their full request.

Note: For the purposes of this 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), and, if awarded funding, remain a resident during the grant period.
- Have exhibited, performed, or published work as an artist within the past three years.
- Be at least 18 years of age. Students attending high school or students pursuing undergraduate or graduate degrees at the time of application may not apply.

Note: Applicants may not receive both an Artists with Disabilities Access Program grant and an Artist Opportunities grant in the same fiscal year. Artists who have received an Individual Excellence Award (in any discipline) are ineligible to apply for an Artist Opportunities award for five years.

HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS: The Artist Opportunities program provides support to individual artists to:

- introduce their work to new audiences and raise their artistic profile through exhibitions, performances, or screenings.
- develop a new artistic skill through participation in domestic 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.

The opportunity should represent a new or further development or professional endeavor. It should not duplicate previous work or experiences.

HOW TO APPLY: Artist Opportunities program applications and support materials must be submitted via the [ARTIE](#) system. Please refer to [ARTIE: Individual Artist Grant Applications](#) for a description of the process.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

May 1 annually (for up to 12 months of activities taking place July 1—next June 30) at 5 p.m.

STAFF CONTACT

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SUPPORT MATERIALS: Applications for this program must include support materials, including work samples, 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

EVALUATION AND SCORING: A panel of arts and cultural professionals, educators, artists, and other community members evaluate and score Artist Opportunities 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](#).

During 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 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 quality plan for using the grant funds
- Project will advance the artist’s career
- Goals align with intended program’s outcome to develop the artistic careers of Ohio artists
- 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 Artist Opportunities 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 2022	November 2023
Application Deadline at 5 p.m. (For 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