The **Artist Access** program provides up to $1,000 to artists who have never received a grant from the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council. The funding is designed to allow you to carry out a well-planned project that will allow you to grow as an artist or to take advantage of an impending opportunity. Funding for projects that include out-of-state activities is prohibited in this program.

**Application Deadlines for FY20:**
- For projects beginning October 1, 2019
  - **Friday, July 26, 2019 at 4:30 p.m.**
- For projects beginning April 1, 2020
  - **Friday, January 31, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.**

Applications open six weeks prior to the deadline.
For both deadlines, your project must be completed and grant funds spent by June 30, 2021.

For Fiscal Year 2020, ARAC has budgeted $16,000, which we plan to divide equally between the two rounds of grantmaking.

**Criteria**
- Artistic Quality, both of past work and of the proposal presented
- Impact of the project on the artist’s career.
- Ability to carry out the project
  - Equipment or technology purchases are allowed but must be integral to the artistic project proposed. An approved project must begin within six months.

**Eligibility**
To be eligible to apply for this program, you must be at least eighteen years old, a U.S. citizen or have permanent resident status, and be a resident of Aitkin, Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake, or St. Louis County for at least six months, and remain a Minnesota resident for the duration of the project. Individuals enrolled in arts-related degree programs are INELIGIBLE to apply.

**Coordination with Minnesota State Arts Board Support**
Projects seeking financial support from both ARAC and the Minnesota State Arts Board (MSAB) may do so only after consulting with ARAC staff.
How Many ARAC Grants Can an Individual Receive in One Year?

In a single ARAC fiscal year (July 1-June 30), you may receive one grant from each eligible program, as long as they are each for separate projects.

What Kinds of Things are INELIGIBLE for Funding?
- The project attempts to influence any state or federal legislation
- The request includes making improvements to the applicant’s private property
- The project requires excessive entry or exhibition fees, includes tuition, fees or work toward a degree
- The project primarily involves developing school curriculum plans or teaching materials
- The project is primarily intended to support teaching related activities that will advance your teaching career
- The project promotes religious socialization
- The project was once supported by state general fund appropriations

Note: ARAC has attempted to provide a thorough and clear articulation of its eligibility rules, but it reserves the right to declare an application ineligible for reasons not explicitly stated here. If you have questions about the eligibility of your project, please contact the office. Grantees are responsible for complying with all federal, state, and local laws, rules, regulations, and ordinances in relation to the use of these funds. Failure to comply may result in termination or forfeiture of the grant.

Tips on Applying for Grants
- If you have any questions, or if you are a first-time applicant, you are encouraged to contact ARAC staff at 218-722-0952, 800-569-8134, or grants@aracouncil.org.
- ARAC staff can review your grant application if you request that review two weeks or more before the grant deadline. Staff assistance in no way implies your grant request will be funded.
- Please review our website for our Grants FAQ.

Grant Questions

Artistic Quality
Your answers in this section should demonstrate an understanding of your discipline or medium, a level of competency in your work, and clarity of vision.
- What do you propose to do with this grant?
- Describe your artistic work (including your focus and motivation). Tell us your current goals and describe where you want your work to go in the future.

You’ll be asked to attach a sample of your work.

Impact and Evaluation
The impact of your project is determined by the project’s appropriateness to furthering or achieving your artistic goals.
- How does this opportunity/project advance your artistic career?

This section is for you to tell us about your goals and how you plan to know whether you succeeded in reaching them. The first section is really about your conception of the work. If you don’t know how to answer this question, please contact us and talk the issue through with our Grants Manager. Don’t wait until the final two weeks before the deadline, as they may be too busy to provide much help. Know that goal statements such as "I want to finish a set of
paintings," are acceptable, but might receive a very low score. Outcomes such as, "I finished the performance," are also potentially low scoring.

- What goals/outcomes do you hope to address or achieve through engaging in this activity?
- How will you know if you’ve been successful?

**Ability**

Your capacity to undertake your project. This includes: providing a budget that is realistic, feasible, and demonstrates a clear understanding of the scope of your project; adequate support materials; as well as narrative responses articulating your readiness to undertake the project. We also look at timetables, past work successes, and confirmation of partnerships (if applicable).

- How will you use the ARAC funding requested for this opportunity? Be as specific as possible.
- Explain any technology or equipment you will be purchasing, or any services or training you will engage (if appropriate).

You’ll be asked to attach an artistic resume, and if applicable, resumes for other individuals participating in your project.

**Optional Questions:**

- Is there anything else you would like to tell us about yourself or your proposal?

**What happens after I apply?**

1. The staff reviews all applications and materials for completeness and eligibility.
2. Eligible applications are reviewed electronically by a panel of Board members, and the panel’s recommendations are approved by the full Board of ARAC. All board meetings are open to the public.
3. Applicants will be notified via email of the Board’s decision within fourteen days of the board grant review. Successful applicants will be assigned a grant agreement and a final report form. The final report must be completed and submitted within thirty days of completion of the project. Applicants must receive approval from ARAC in writing for any major changes to their proposed project.
4. The Board’s funding decisions may be appealed solely on alleged procedural errors. An applicant must request an appeal within thirty days of notification of the Board decision. A board subcommittee, consisting of at least three members appointed by the ARAC chair, will consider any appeals. The subcommittee reports its findings and recommendations to the full ARAC Board for action.

**Our website includes tip sheets about:**

- Applying for grants generally
- How to fill out our budget document
- How to use our Foundant grant website
About Us

Mission: The Arrowhead Regional Arts Council (ARAC) seeks to facilitate and encourage local arts development. This mission statement grows from a conviction that the arts improve the quality of life in the region.

Legislative Mandate: ARAC is one of eleven regional arts councils designated by the State of Minnesota “to make final decisions on the use of legislative appropriations for local/regional arts development.” ARAC is charged to assess the needs of the seven counties in the Arrowhead Region and to plan and administer programs and services based on its assessment.

Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund Mandate:
ARAC receives funding from the Legacy Amendment which was appropriated by the State Legislature with money from the vote of the people of Minnesota on November 4, 2008. The intent of this funding is to support and create access to the arts for artists, arts organizations, and communities; to support arts education for Minnesotans of all ages; and to support diverse ethnic and cultural arts traditions represented in this state.