ARTIST ACCESS GRANT
An intro for applying to art related grants
WHAT IS AN ART GRANT?

a sum of money offered to an individual or organization to fund a particular purpose – such as an arts event, an art project, or living support so the person/persons are free to concentrate on a body of work.
WHERE DOES GRANT MONEY COME FROM?

As one of the 11 regional arts councils in Minnesota, ARAC's funding is derived from appropriations from the Minnesota State Legislature with money from the State's general fund and Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund (Legacy Amendment) as appropriated by the Minnesota State Legislature with money from the vote of the people of Minnesota on November 4, 2008.

ARAC also receives a generous grant from The McKnight Foundation.
WHAT IS ARAC?

ARAC MISSION
The Arrowhead Regional Arts Council’s mission is 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.

ARAC VISION
We believe that art strengthens communities, stimulates diversity of expression and communication, and commemorates communities and cultures. ARAC believes all people should have opportunities to engage in the arts.

Accordingly, ARAC’s vision for the region is that:
- The arts are integrated into the social, political, and economic fabric and identity of every community in the region.
- Artists, arts organizations, and arts activities thrive and contribute to the regional economy.
- Community members and audiences are arts literate.
The ARAC office is located in the “biggest small town” of Duluth and serves the seven counties of the Arrowhead region of northeastern Minnesota.

Staff consists of 4.5 staff members: Executive Director, Operations/Systems Manager, Office Coordinator, Grants Manager and an Intern.

The Arrowhead Regional Arts Council funds artists, organizations, and groups with an average of 150 grants awarded per year.

Through our programs, ARAC is working to help the Arts touch the lives of everyone living in the Arrowhead region.
ARAC serves 7 counties of the Arrowhead Region and we strive to have artist/art enthusiast representation from each of those counties on our review panels and board.

After the deadline arrives, all grants are checked by the ARAC staff to be sure they qualify and everything is in order, after which the grants are released electronically to the review panel, where they review and do initial scoring. Next, we have a review panel meeting where each grant application is reviewed and discussed followed by official scoring. At the end of the meeting the computer system tallies all scoring.

The final step in the grant process is the board voting on each grant on the basis of the review panel recommendations. This entire cycle takes approximately 6-8 weeks.
The Artist Access grant 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.

Equipment or technology purchases are allowed but must be integral to the artistic project proposed. An approved project must begin within six months.
EVALUATION CRITERIA

IMPACT (50%):
The impact of your project is determined by the project’s appropriateness to furthering or achieving your artistic goals.

ARTISTIC QUALITY (25%):
Your proposal should demonstrate an understanding of your discipline or medium, a level of competency in your work, and clarity of vision.

ABILITY (25%):
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.
GOALS & OUTCOMES

• Goal Statement and Measurable Outcome
  Think: What am I trying to accomplish?

• Evaluation Plan
  Think: How will I know whether I accomplished this?

• Another Way of looking at it
  Conception → Production → Reflection
ARTIST STATEMENT

• Describe your work. **(WHAT)**
• Describe the process used to create the work. **(HOW)**
• Describe why you create the work. **(WHY)**
• Describe how your work is evolving. What are you working on? **(GOALS)**

**Questions to consider:**
What drives you to make what you make?
What traditions are you working from? Do you have influences?
Do you play with convention? If so, how?
Why does making the work matter?
Is there a message you hope to convey?
How do people respond to your work?
WHAT YOU WANT YOUR ARTIST STATEMENT TO CONVEY

Knowledge about your discipline and your place in it.

Clear individual artistic vision.

Realistic self outcomes.

Passion.
EDUCATION/TRAINING
• What you provide should give the reviewers information about how you learned to do what you do. Don’t assume you have to list a school!

EMPLOYMENT
• If you have employment history related to your creative practice, Congratulations! If not, don’t worry about it.

VOLUNTEER WORK

EXHIBITIONS/PERFORMANCES/PUBLICATIONS, ETC.
• If you have a long list, use your judgment given the space allowed. You can use all recent, or focus on ‘biggies’.

AWARDS
• If you have them and they are relevant, share them. If not, don’t panic!

OTHER POSSIBLE HEADINGS
• Presentations/Commissions/Panels/Committees.
Treat the resume as if you are applying for ‘the job’ of doing your project and focus on conveying that you are ready and equipped to undertake the project described in your application.

Try not to get too hung up on the minutiae of the format -- what you have or don’t have.

Focus on what you want the reviewers to understand about you and your artistic practice.
Plan ahead and fully read the program guidelines. It takes time to write a good application.

Once you have accessed the application page in the online granting system, you have the option of printing off the question set list and requirements.

Have a person not involved in your project read your application. It helps to have a fresh set of eyes look at your application.
When you answer the narrative questions, be sure your answers are framed in the SMART model:

**S** = specific  
**M** = measurable  
**A** = achievable  
**R** = realistic  
**T** = time-bound
First time applicants are strongly encouraged to call the ARAC office at 218-722-0952 or 800-569-8134 or email grants@aracouncil.org to discuss the eligibility of their activity or project.

*You may request technical and grant writing assistance, but this in no way guarantees you receiving funding.
QUESTIONS?

218-722-0952
or 800-569-8134

www.aracouncil.org
grants@aracouncil.org