



Established Regional Artist Program

Deadline: May 29, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.

The **Established Regional Artist Grant Program** provides larger project grants to working professional artists that represent the diversity of our region. For 2020 (our Fiscal Year 2021), we plan to award 6 grants of \$8,000. The criteria for this program includes artistic quality of both past and current work, the ability of the artist to complete the work, and a determination by the panel evaluating the grants that the slate of grants reflects the diversity of our region (with diversity as defined by the state's Office of Grants Management best practices for competitive grants review). This grant will be funded by our support from the McKnight Foundation.

Applications Open: April 17, 2020

Applications Deadline:

Friday, May 29, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.

For Projects beginning August 1, 2020

Your project must be completed and grant funds spent by June 30, 2021.

The panel that reviews these proposals will make their decision based on the criteria set forward but will present a slate of projects that they think best fit the criteria as a whole.

Criteria

- Artistic Quality, both of past work and of the proposal presented
- Ability to carry out the project
- Your strategy to know whether you accomplished what you set out to do (evaluation and assessment of the project)

The committee will also consider how the grants selected would impact our goal of making sure our funds reach a diverse pool of artists. For this purpose, we are using both the goal of reaching a variety of artistic disciplines and the State of Minnesota's definition of diverse populations as stated in their competitive grant review policy:

"Diverse populations include:

- Racial and ethnic communities, including American Indians
- LGBTQI communities
- Disability status
- Veterans
- Geographic diversity within and across Minnesota"

To encourage geographic diversity, only two grants each year can go to any one geographic area within our region, which

This information can be made available in the following alternative formats: Braille, large print, and audio tape. We also can help your group find a language interpreter to translate these guidelines. To accommodate your request, the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council will need at least 10 working days.

Arrowhead Regional Arts Council
The Ordean Building
424 West Superior Street, Suite 104
Duluth, MN 55802
218-722-0952 or 800-569-8134
info@aracouncil.org
MN Relay Service 1-800-627-3529

we define as each county but with St. Louis County divided into two areas: Duluth and the remainder of the county.

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

Reviewers will use your answers in this section to assess the quality of the work you have completed to date and the quality of the work you propose to do. Use the first question to tell us about your previous work. The second is to help us understand the significance of what you propose to do.

- Please tell us about your past work. Include how you place your work within your discipline or medium.
- What have you tried to do as an artist in this work? What is distinguishing about

your work in comparison to others in your discipline?

- Please tell us about the project you want to do. Include details that will allow our panel to assess its artistic quality.
- What can you tell us about the artistic vision for this project? Does it continue the type of work you've completed in the past or are you heading in a different direction?

Assessment & Evaluation

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.

- Goal Statement. What are you trying to accomplish with this work? What are your measurable outcomes?
- How do you plan to know if the work was a success? Please tell us about how you will assess this work. How will you measure the outcomes stated above?

Ability

ARAC looks at a variety of factors as our panels assess your ability to carry out your project. One of those is a realistic budget. Even if ARAC funding is only a small part of the complete project, it is important that we see a realistic budget that takes into account the time that you estimate it will take to complete the project. We also look at timetables, past work successes,

assessment strategies, and confirmation of partnerships (if applicable).

- What is your timetable for completing this project?
- How would you use this grant to complete the project? Be specific about how you would use the funds.
- Tell us about why we should have confidence that you can execute this project.

Public Benefit

ARAC receives money from both the state and McKnight Foundation because they believe the arts are good for our communities.

- In your own words, what is the benefit to your community of your project?

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

Optional Questions:

- Is there anything else you would like to tell us about yourself or your proposal?
- If your project involves a partner or a specific gallery or event space, please attach letters or emails of confirmation from that/those partner(s).
- Please feel free to speak to how you bring diversity to the arts of the region. [See our definition of the diversity we are looking for in the grant criteria above.]

What happens after I apply?

1. The staff reviews all applications and materials for completeness and eligibility.
2. Eligible applications are reviewed by a panel of Board and community members, and the panel's recommendations are approved by the full Board of ARAC. All applicants will be notified of the panel meeting and are allowed to observe the proceedings. All

board and panel meetings are open to the public. Reviewers read grant applications in advance, so each proposal may not be discussed in detail at the meeting, but attendance is recommended so that applicants can understand how their application is received. Applicants are not allowed to address the review panel.

3. Applicants will be notified via email of the Board's decision within fourteen days of the board grant review. Successful applicants will receive a contract and a final report form. The final report must be completed and submitted within thirty days of completion of the project. Applicants are responsible for updating ARAC in writing of 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.

NOTES: