

WHAT IS IT?

Artist Opportunity Grants support Arizona artists as they take advantage of specific, unique opportunities that have the potential to significantly impact their professional growth.

WHO IS IT FOR?

Applicants must be individuals and may submit only one application per cycle. Organizations are not eligible to apply. At the time an application is submitted and the grant is awarded an applicant must be:

- 18 years of age or older and
- a resident of Arizona.

Full-time faculty at a college or university are not eligible to apply. Adjunct faculty are eligible to apply. An individual may receive only one Opportunity Grant in any category each fiscal year.

WHAT IS AN ELIGIBLE OPPORTUNITY?

As this grant is available to artists working in all disciplines and at any stage in their career, a wide array of opportunities could be considered eligible, so long as there is potential for significant impact in one or more of these three categories:

Introduce Your Work to New Audiences

An opportunity to present your work in a significant way that will expose your work to new audiences or raise your artistic profile.

Develop New Skills

An opportunity to develop new artistic skills through participation in activities such as conferences, artist residencies, workshops, fellowships, master classes, or apprenticeships.

Develop Your Artistic Entrepreneurship

An opportunity to expand your entrepreneurial capacity, such as the production of marketing materials, website development, payment of professional fees (lawyers, accountants, etc.), and any practice-related capital expenses (like equipment purchases, materials, services, rental fees for equipment or facility, etc.)

Keep in mind you will be asked to describe how engaging in the proposed opportunity will advance your work. Further, the opportunity should not duplicate previous work or experiences, but should represent a new or further developing professional endeavor.

CONTENTS

What is it?	1
Who is it for?	1
What is an eligible opportunity?	1
Eligible Expenses	2
Before you apply	2
How to apply	2
The Application	3
Evaluation Criteria	5
Review Process	6
Funding Restrictions	6
Evaluation Rubric	8

AWARD AMOUNT

Artists may request **between \$500 and \$1,500** in funding. The number of grants awarded is dependent upon the amount of funds available. No match is required.

FUNDING PERIOD AND DUE DATES

Eligible opportunities must take place during the funding period dates of the cycle in which they are submitted.

CYCLE A	Application Due
	June 22, 2023, 11:59 pm
CYCLE B	Funding Period
	July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024
CYCLE B	Application Due
	October 23, 2023 11:59 pm
CYCLE B	Funding Period
	December 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

PRIMARY STAFF CONTACT

Kesha Bruce
Director of Artist Programs
Phone: (602) 771-6530
Email: kbruce@azarts.gov

AOG ARTIST OPPORTUNITY GRANT

ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

Grant funds may be used for any of the following (this list is not comprehensive):

- Equipment purchases, materials, or services needed to fulfill/engage in the opportunity
- Rental fees, including equipment, instruments, facility (including short-term space and studio rentals), etc., which support the artistic opportunity
- Preparation, freight, and/or shipping costs
- Costs associated with documentation of the opportunity
- Travel necessary to engage in the opportunity (see Funding Restrictions for more information)
- Registration fees
- Professional fees which support the artistic opportunity

Grant funds cannot be used for any projects, or days of a project, that take place before the start date of the cycle in which they are submitted, and/or after the end of the fiscal year (June 30, 2024). If your full project timeline starts before or ends after the funding period, you are still eligible to apply and should articulate the full timeline in your application, but should only request and use grant funds for project activities taking place within the funding period.

BEFORE YOU APPLY

Applicants are encouraged to do the following prior to beginning their application:

Request Accommodations

If you require accommodation in completing this application, or otherwise participating in the grant application process, please contact Director of Artist Programs Kesha Bruce at kbruce@azarts.gov or (602) 771-6530.

Prepare Narrative Responses

You can type your proposal narrative or you can upload audio recordings of your responses. For each narrative question you will find a maximum word count (not character) and a maximum recording length. If you share your proposal narrative via audio recordings, keep it simple and to the point. Don't worry about impressing the panelists with your recording technique, just make sure we can hear and understand you. All audio files must be uploaded as MP3 files (.mp3).

Some applicants find it helpful to develop the narrative portion of the application using word processing software, outside the application platform. This allows them to thoughtfully draft their responses and monitor their word counts for each question. A Word document version of the narrative questions can be downloaded at <https://azarts.gov/grant/artist-opportunity/>.

Create an Account

In the interest of improving the user experience for applicants and reviewers, the Arizona Commission on the Arts has transitioned to a new submission platform this year: SurveyMonkey Apply. Whether you are a new or returning applicant, you will need to create an account on our new platform at <https://azarts.smapply.io/>.

HOW TO APPLY

When you're ready, go to <https://azarts.gov/grant/artist-opportunity/> and click on "Apply Now." You do not have to complete the application in one session; at any point you can save a draft of your application and complete or submit it later.

AOG ARTIST OPPORTUNITY GRANT

THE APPLICATION

NARRATIVE PROPOSAL DETAILS

Answer each of these questions.

You can type up your proposal narrative,
or

You can upload it in a video or audio recording (no more than 6 minutes in length).

- a) Describe the opportunity you will engage in with the grant funds. What are your specific proposed activities? (250 words)
- b) Tell us about your artistic practice and why this opportunity is appropriate and vital to your work at this stage of your career. (250 words)
- c) How will engaging in this opportunity address at least one of the eligible opportunity categories (introduce your work to new audiences, develop new skills, or develop your artistic entrepreneurship)? (250 words)
- d) What next steps in your artistic career would be made possible after completing this opportunity? How does it tie to your future artistic goals and trajectory? (250 words)

If you share your proposal narrative in a video or audio recording keep it simple and to the point. The recording should be just you, describing your proposal and answering the four questions listed above.

Please do not include edits of your work samples or special effects. Production quality of this recording will not be considered in your review. Just make sure we can hear and understand you and keep editing and post-production embellishment to a minimum.

TIMELINE OF PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

Provide a timeline that details the proposed activities related to your opportunity.

Please format the timeline as "Date/Month Year: Name of Activity." Indicate which dates are finalized with an asterisk at the end of the Name of the Activity.

This may be a single date, such as "April 12, 2022: Day of Workshop*" or a bullet point list like the following:

- January-February 2022: Preparing Sheet Music for Printing & Rehearsing Flute Solo.
- March 3-5, 2022: Record with Jane Doe at AZArtsy Recording Studio Solo Pieces*
- March 6-8, 2022: Record with Jane Doe at AZArtsy Recording Studio Finalized Group Compositions*

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

If you encounter any technical issues with the online application platform, click on the info icon (like the one to the right) in the black ribbon at the top of the application page. You can then select to explore the platform's FAQ page or submit a request for technical assistance.

Note: technical support hours are Monday to Friday from 8:00 am - 8:00 pm **Eastern Time**, and Sundays from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm **Eastern Time**.



AOG ARTIST OPPORTUNITY GRANT

THE APPLICATION

[CONTINUED]

WORK SAMPLES

Submit work samples you've completed within the last 10 years which are relevant to the opportunity. From the list to the right, please choose the most appropriate artistic work sample format to represent your discipline:

- 3 minutes of recorded audio, or
- 3 minutes of recorded video, or
- 6 images, or
- 3 pages of double-spaced text, or
- Combination of materials listed above: Please edit accordingly for no more than a total of 3 minutes of reviewing time (2 images = 1 min. 1 page = 1 min.)

You will be asked to provide the following information (as applicable) for each work sample you submit.:

- Title of work
- Date completed/premiered
- Location/site of exhibitions or presentation of work
- Dimensions of work
- Medium of work
- Collaborators

Please do not submit promotional materials. Panelists can't assess your work based on an exhibition poster, an event program, or a published review. Remember to test your work samples as you upload them.

WORK SAMPLES DESCRIPTION

Provide a brief description explaining how the submitted work sample(s) relate to your opportunity. What is the overall relevance of these work samples to your proposal ? (150 words)

EXPERIENCE LIST AND DESCRIPTION

Provide 3 to 10 arts-based experiences you have engaged in over the past 10 years that relate to the opportunity you want to engage in and briefly describe how each experience demonstrates progression of your artistic trajectory leading to the opportunity.

The experience list helps the panel situate the opportunity you propose in a broader context; please briefly describe the overall relevancy of the experiences you listed to the opportunity. (up to 200 words)

EXPENSES LIST

List eligible expenses ONLY (equipment, materials, services, rental fees, facility fees, preparation, freight, shipping, documentation, travel, professional fees, etc.) related to your proposal.

GRANT AMOUNT REQUESTED

Indicate the grant amount you are requesting, based on eligible expenses, between \$500 and \$1,500.

BUDGET NARRATIVE

If your eligible expenses exceed \$1,500 please tell us how you will fund the rest of your proposed activities. (up to 200 words)

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Your application materials will be reviewed by agency staff members according to the following criteria. Please note: need is not a criterion. Application merit is based upon strength of responses in relation to the following review criteria:

Quality of Proposed Opportunity

Application clearly outlines the specific details of the opportunity and outlines how the opportunity is unique, relevant, and specifically important in relation to applicant's current artistic trajectory.

Is the opportunity clear and consistent throughout? Is there an understanding of the past work in relation to the current opportunity and intended future goals?

Potential Impact to the Artist

Application clearly describes the potential impact to the artist's work, including what next steps would be possible and its ties to their future artistic goals and clearly describes the potential of the opportunity to address at least one of the three eligible opportunity categories.

Is it clear what next steps are possible after the opportunity? Is there a clear set of activities that will allow the applicant to develop & advance their artistic trajectory? Is the potential to introduce work to new audiences, develop new artistic skills, or support the development of the entrepreneurship connected to the proposed activities?

Feasibility

Application demonstrates substantial evidence that the proposal will be realized within the funding period and includes a reasonable expenses list for the scope and scale of the proposed activities. The experiences described in the application are relevant to the opportunity proposed.

Do the materials demonstrate that the opportunity will be completed by June 30th? Is the expense list clearly connected to the opportunity described and logical to what is proposed? Does the experience list demonstrate ability to complete the opportunity and connect to trajectory shared in narrative?

Integrity

Application demonstrates a commitment to high ethical standards and equitable professional practices regarding proposed actions, values, methods, and goals.

Is there connection or relationship with proposed communities, collaborators, or mentors, and is there intent to compensate these parties for their contributions? Are potential barriers to access being discussed openly and intentionally within the application?

EVALUATION RUBRIC

To assist in their evaluation, reviewers will use a rubric. This evaluation tool can be found on pages 8 and 9 of this document. Applicants may find it helpful to refer to the rubric as they prepare their applications.

AOG ARTIST OPPORTUNITY GRANT

GRANT TIMELINE

CYCLE A

APPLICATION DUE
JUNE 22, 2023

PANEL REVIEW
JULY 2023

GRANTEES NOTIFIED
AUGUST 21, 2023

FUNDING PERIOD
JULY 1, 2023 - JUNE 30, 2024

CYCLE B

APPLICATION DUE
OCTOBER 23, 2023

PANEL REVIEW
NOVEMBER 2023

GRANTEES NOTIFIED
DECEMBER 15, 2023

FUNDING PERIOD
DEC 1, 2023 - JUNE 30, 2024

Funds are delivered approximately 6-8 weeks after all necessary paperwork has been submitted by the grantee. This includes the award agreement, state W-9 and payment form.

FUNDING RESTRICTIONS

This program does not fund the following:

- Support for opportunities, activities, or projects which would otherwise be eligible for another Arts Commission grant, such as the Research & Development Grant or Festival Grant;
- Teaching artist residencies;
- Opportunities that take place outside of the funding period;
- Ongoing studio or space rental;
- Equipment not related to the opportunity;
- Costs related to activities for which the applicant is employed or contracted;
- Opportunities related to academic research or formal study toward an academic or professional degree, such as capstone projects;
- Fundraising projects, food and beverages for any purpose;
- Grant administration, overhead, or processing fees taken by an umbrella/parent organization.
- Costs for nonrefundable travel expenses which are cancelled or postponed beyond the funding period end date.

** Due to the continuously evolving nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, please be aware that if travel plans are cancelled or postponed for beyond June 30, 2022, grantees will need to adjust their project budget accordingly to redirect awarded funds to other eligible expenses and/or return a portion of the grant funds.*

Additionally, according to the Arts Commission's enabling statutes, "Notwithstanding any other law, no monies from the Arizona Commission on the Arts may be spent for payment to any person or entity for use in desecrating, casting contempt on, mutilating, defacing, defiling, burning, trampling or otherwise dishonoring or causing to bring dishonor on religious objects, the flag of the United States or the flag of this state." Recipients of Arts Commission support are further instructed to "take into consideration general standards of decency and respect for the diverse beliefs and values of the American public" within funded programs.

AOG ARTIST OPPORTUNITY GRANT

INVESTING IN ARIZONA'S INNOVATORS AND CREATIVE CONTRIBUTORS

In 2018, the Arizona Commission on the Arts and the Arizona Community Foundation (ACF) embarked upon a public-philanthropic partnership supported in part by funding from the Newton and Betty Rosenzweig Fund for the Arts, an endowment held at ACF. The collaboration aims to increase strategic investments in artists, supporting the work they do as innovators and creative contributors to Arizona's future.

Both partners believe that Arizona is home to many artists who lead with creativity, resourcefulness, and ingenuity, and that supporting their work can enhance our state's creative capacity for years to come. View the comprehensive partnership announcement at <https://azarts.gov/acf-partnership>.



ARIZONA
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

AOG ARTIST OPPORTUNITY GRANT

EVALUATION RUBRIC

Viewed as a whole, the application...

Criterion	Needs Development	Acceptable	Well Developed	Exceeds
Quality of Proposed Opportunity	lacks necessary articulation of the opportunity. The proposed activities and/or a plan for completion require further detail. The scope of the activities is too wide and would benefit from a narrower focus.	outlines an opportunity and discusses the activities in relation to the applicant's career	and... clearly outlines the specific details of the opportunity and how the opportunity is unique, relevant, and specifically important in relation to the applicant's current artistic trajectory.	and... demonstrates how the proposed activities uphold the applicant's artistic values, showing forethought and research into the specific need the opportunity fills
Potential Impact	lacks information about the impact of the opportunity on the applicant's career, how the intended impact can be reached through the proposed activities, and connection to the selected funding category.	shares future goals in the context of their artistic trajectory and references this to one or more of the funding categories below:	and... shares what next steps are possible after the opportunity and how it relates to the applicant's artistic goals in the context of the selected funding category.	and... materials provide context into the arch of the applicant's career and evidence the intended impact for the selected funding category will be reached.
		• Introduce Work to New Audiences	specifically outlines who new audience is	and... details the previous audience and need for shift
		• Develop New Artistic Skills	provides learning goals and plan	and... reasoning for selected training/ mentors
		• Develop Artistic Entrepreneurship	ties activities and expenses to the sustainability of their artistic career	and... expanded capacity as an artist

AOG ARTIST OPPORTUNITY GRANT

Criterion	Needs Development	Acceptable	Well Developed	Exceeds
Feasibility	<p>lacks evidence that the opportunity will be completed and the funds will be spent within the funding period.</p> <p>Examples of evidence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work Samples/Experience list show capacity to reach intended goals. • The expenses list reflects current costs/necessary elements are present • Includes reasonable description of how expenses beyond the grant amount will be accounted for. • Collaborators/mentors/communities mentioned have been directly engaged or communicated with 	demonstrates evidence that the proposal will be realized within the funding period	and... includes a reasonable expenses list for the scope and scale of the proposed activities. The experiences described are relevant to the opportunity. Viewed as a whole, the elements of the application provide a consistent vision.	and... work samples and experience painting a clear picture of the potential for the proposed impacts to come to fruition. There is a clear prioritization of wellness and sustainability for the artist and any collaborators/communities.
Integrity	<p>raises concerns of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • inadequate compensation, • cultural appropriation, • deficit-based language, • inconsistency between proposed activities and artistic goals, • creating barriers to access 	demonstrates a connection between the applicant's artistic practice, values, and goals	and... articulates efforts within the proposed activities to provide adequate compensation to collaborators, avoid barriers to access, and directly engage with any referenced communities.	and... exhibits an understanding of the implications of their artistry within the larger arts ecosystem and refers to said ecosystem/community with asset-based language