R&D RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT GRANT
ADVANCE YOUR PRACTICE · EXPAND YOUR CREATIVE HORIZONS · DEEPEN YOUR IMPACT

FISCAL YEAR 2024

WHAT IS IT?

Research & Development (R&D) Grants provide funding support to Arizona artists as they work to advance their artistic practice, expand their creative horizons, and deepen the impact of their work.

WHO IS IT FOR?

Whether you're just getting started or you have already experienced many career successes, the R&D Grant is available to help you take your artistic practice to the next level, including:

- exploration of new techniques
- experimentation with new materials or technologies
- creation of new work
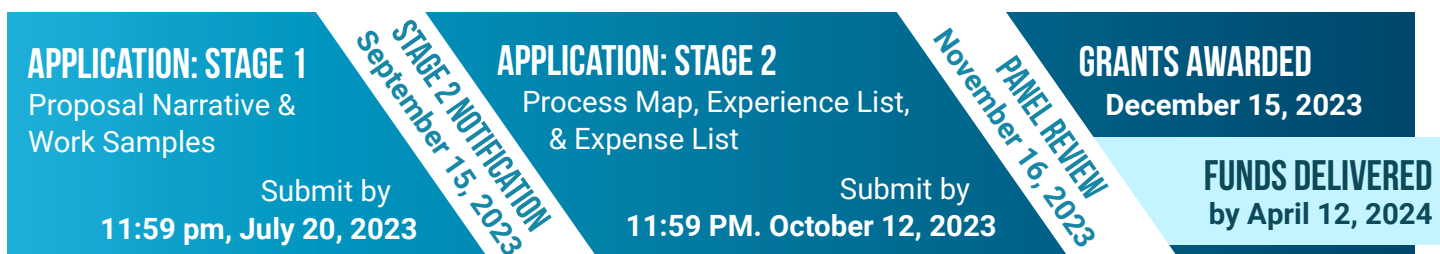- development of new strategies for engaging your community of practice

This grant is available to Arizona artists working in any discipline. Applicants must be individuals and may submit only one application per year. 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;
- not enrolled for more than three credit hours at a college or university;
- and a resident of Arizona.

Recipients of the R&D Grant must wait 4 years to reapply and may receive a maximum of 4 awards in their lifetime.

GRANT TIMELINE

The R&D Grant application is split into two stages. All applicants submit a Proposal Narrative and Work Samples. Applications determined to be most competitive according to evaluation criteria move on to Stage 2.

HOW MUCH IS IT?

$3,000-$5,000

Applicants may request a minimum of $3,000 and a maximum of $5,000. Up to 20 grants will be awarded this year.

WHAT CAN I SPEND IT ON?

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

- Stipend to grantee
- Stipends to collaborators
- Materials
- Travel costs
- Technology
- Equipment
- Space rental
- Marketing costs
- Production costs
- Documentation
- Rehearsal time

The funding period is January 2024 - January 2025. Proposed activities may be underway prior to the time of application but must be completed by January 31, 2025.

PRIMARY STAFF CONTACT

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

APPLICATION: STAGE 1	STAGE 2 NOTIFICATION September 15, 2023	APPLICATION: STAGE 2	PANEL REVIEW November 16, 2023	GRANTS AWARDED
Proposal Narrative & Work Samples		Process Map, Experience List, & Expense List		December 15, 2023
Submit by 11:59 pm, July 20, 2023		Submit by 11:59 PM. October 12, 2023		FUNDS DELIVERED by April 12, 2024

IS THIS THE RIGHT GRANT TO SUPPORT MY GOALS?

As the name implies, Research & Development Grants are designed to support artists as they engage in the kind of deep and intentional work required to take one's practice to the next level. A $5,000 award isn't likely to change an artist's life, but we hope it can empower them to make a significant investment in themselves as artists.

The work you propose in your R&D Grant application should reflect an ambition, vision, and focus beyond basic career maintenance, pre-packaged professional development opportunities, or "business as usual" projects (whatever that might mean for your practice). All of these things are very important, but not really what R&D Grants are designed to support.

Fortunately, the Arts Commission offers grants designed to support all kinds of work, such as Festival Grants, Youth Arts Engagement Grants, and Artist Opportunity Grants. We encourage you to visit https://azarts.gov/grants/ to review the full slate and find the best grant program to support your goals!

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-research-and-development/.

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-research-and-development/ 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.

STAGE 1: THE APPLICATION   DUE BY 11:59PM, JULY 20, 2023

When you're ready, go to https://azarts.gov/grant/artist-research-and-development/ and click on "Apply Now." This will take you to a website called Submittable where you'll submit your application materials.

NARRATIVE PROPOSAL DETAILS

Answer each of these questions.

You can type up your proposal narrative (1200 words),

or

You can upload it in an audio recording (no more than 8 minutes in length).

a) Describe the work you propose to do with the grant funds. What are your specific proposed activities?

b) Tell us about your community of practice as it relates to (or is specific for) your proposed activities.

c) How will the work you propose to do reflect, impact, or otherwise respond to your community of practice?

d) How does this proposal relate to the work you currently do?

e) How would receiving this grant deepen your overall artistic practice?

f) If you have collaborators, who are they and how do they contribute to your proposed work? (For the purposes of this application, collaborators are people with whom you will be working in close creative partnership on the proposed activities. If you have no collaborator(s), you do not need to address this question.)

Narrative Proposal Reminders and Tips

Do not include links to external websites or video hosting platforms such as YouTube or Vimeo.

If you share your proposal narrative in an audio recording, keep it simple and to the point. The recording should be just you, describing your proposal and answering the five questions listed above. Please do not include edits of your work samples. 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.

WHAT IS A COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE?

Community can mean different things to different people in different contexts, and we encourage you to define your community in a way that makes sense for your artistic practice and this proposal.

Your community of practice might be an intended audience or it might be others working within your artistic discipline or field of study. It might be defined by shared geography or by common cultural experience. Even if the work you propose will be done on your own and never be seen outside your studio, it is part of a larger conversation about art, craft, and/or culture. What community is your work in conversation with?

For further examples visit https://azarts.gov/grants/rd-grant-applicant-resources/

STAGE 1: THE APPLICATION [CONTINUED]

WORK SAMPLES

Submit work samples you've completed in the last 5 years.

From the list to the right, please choose the most appropriate artistic work sample format to represent your discipline:

Applicant work samples

- 5 minutes of recorded audio
- 5 minutes of recorded video
- 10 images
- 5 pages of double-spaced text
- Combination of materials listed above. Please edit accordingly for no more than a total of 5 minutes of reviewing time (2 images=1 minute. 1 page = 1 minute.)

Work Sample Reminders and Tips
- *Always test your work samples as you upload them!*
- ***Do not*** *submit promotional materials, exhibition posters, event programs, or published reviews as work samples.*
- ***Do not*** *include URL links to external websites or video hosting platforms.*

WORK SAMPLES DESCRIPTION

Provide a brief description explaining how the submitted work sample(s) relate to your proposal. Why did you choose them?

Include the following for each work sample:

- Artist's name
- Title of the work
- Date completed/premiered

If applicable:
- Location/site of exhibition or presentation
- Dimensions and medium of the work

If you have collaborators you may include one work sample per person, for up to 3 collaborators:

Collaborator(s) work samples
- 1 minute of recorded audio
- 1 minute of recorded video
- 2 images
- 1 page of double-spaced text or 1-2 poems
- Combination of materials listed above: Please edit accordingly for no more than a total of 1 minute of reviewing time (2 images=1 minute. 1 page = 1 minute.)

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**.

STAGE 1: EVALUATION CRITERIA

Your application materials will be reviewed 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:

Potential Impact to Artist
The application clearly describes the potential impact to the artist's personal craft and/or body of work.

Potential Impact to Artist's Community of Practice
The application clearly defines the artist's community of practice and describes how the proposed activities will impact, reflect, or respond to the applicant's artistic discipline, audience, field of study, place-based community, or broader community.

Artistic Strength
The submitted work samples reflect the artist's distinct vision and originality. The work sample description conveys a clear understanding of the artist's craft—the techniques you use and the intention behind them—and a commitment to artistic achievement.

Integrity of Proposal
Viewed as a whole, the application demonstrates the integrity with which the artist approaches their artistic practice and their defined community of practice. The application materials demonstrate a commitment to high ethical standards and equitable professional practices in regard to the proposed actions, values, methods, and goals.

A rubric used by panelists to aid in their evaluation can be found on pages 10 & 11.

REVIEW PROCESS: STAGE 1

All applications submitted by 11:59 pm, July 20, 2023 will be reviewed by a panel of independent arts professionals from communities throughout the state. Applicants whose applications are determined to be most competitive according to evaluation criteria will be invited to submit additional materials and move on to Stage 2 of the application process.

You will be notified whether or not your application will advance to Stage 2 no later than September 15, 2023.

STAGE 2: THE APPLICATION   DUE BY 11:59 PM, OCTOBER 12, 2023

Applicants who advance to Stage 2 of review will be invited to submit additional information including a process map, an experience list, and an expense list. Panelists will review the application as a whole and convene for a public panel meeting to make final funding recommendations.

PROCESS MAP

Map the course of your creative process for this proposal by identifying 3 to 5 specific steps you will take during the funding period. These steps may include research, travel, activities or events, achievements, or anything else you will use to organize and track your artistic process and progress.

You will be asked to upload a 1-page Process Map (.jpg or .pdf) describing the specific steps you will take to complete your proposed work. You can provide a numbered list of steps, a timeline (with or without specific activity dates), a flow chart, drawing, sketch, other visual, or simply a written narrative.

EXPERIENCE LIST

Provide 3 to 5 personal, professional, and/or community-based experiences you have engaged in within the past 5 years that are relevant to your proposal. You may include 1-2 experiences that took place more than 5 years ago so long as they are especially relevant to your current proposal. Briefly describe how each experience has prepared you for the work you propose to undertake.

Experience List Reminders and Tips

Please do not simply include a list of highlights or accomplishments from your CV or resume. Instead, include experiences that clearly demonstrate that you have the knowledge and skill set necessary to complete the activities you've proposed in your application.

Collaborator's Experience List
Provide 1 to 3 personal, professional, and/or community-based experiences that each of your collaborators engaged in the past 5 years. Briefly describe how each experience is relevant to your proposal and has prepared your collaborators for the work you propose to undertake.

EXPENSES LIST

List total eligible expenses (artist stipends, including your own artist stipend, materials, travel costs, equipment, space rental, production costs, documentation, marketing, rehearsal time, childcare, etc.) related to your proposal.

Please include expenses even if you are not seeking funding for them and tell us about any additional income in the Budget Narrative section below.

BUDGET NARRATIVE

Describe anything in the expenses list that would benefit from additional clarification. For example, if your expenses exceed $5,000, please tell us how you will fund the rest of your proposed activities.

STAGE 2: EVALUATION CRITERIA

As you develop your application materials for Stage 2, consider that the panelists will be thinking about Stage 1 Application Materials and Evaluation Criteria in addition to the following:

Feasibility

The application provides substantial evidence that the proposal will be realized within the funding period. The application includes a reasonable expenses list for the scope and scale of the proposed activities. The process map and experience list provide evidence of the applicant's ability and capacity to successfully realize the proposal. The experiences described in the experience list are relevant to the proposed activities. The process map presents a clear path to the completion of the proposed activities.

A rubric used by panelists to aid in their evaluation can be found on pages 10 & 11.

REVIEW PROCESS: STAGE 2

After the October 13 due date, your Stage 1 and Stage 2 application materials will be evaluated by each member of the review panel individually, according to the evaluation criteria.

On November 18, 2022, the panelists will convene in Phoenix to discuss the applications as a group. This meeting is open to the public and applicants being reviewed will be notified of listening options. At the conclusion of the meeting, panelists will finalize their scores and recommend up to 30 applications for funding. These recommendations will then be sent to the Arts Commission's Governor-appointed board of commissioners for approval.

Grantees will be notified by December 15, 2023, and will receive grant funds by April 12, 2024.

BILL DESMOND WRITING AWARD

The Bill Desmond Writing Award provides funding support in the amount of $1,000 to excelling nonfiction writers for specific project-related costs. The award is available to a nonfiction writer applying for the R&D Grant and can be offered independent of or in addition to the R&D award. No additional application materials are required.

Funding for the Bill Desmond Writing Award is generously provided by the Bill and Kathy Desmond Endowment.

FUNDING RESTRICTIONS

This program does not fund the following:

- Support for activities which would otherwise be more appropriate for another Arts Commission grant, such as the Artist Opportunity Grants or Youth Arts Engagement Grant.
- Support for projects which do not adhere to the intentions or scope of the Research and Development Grant program.
- Organizations or individuals debarred or suspended from receiving Federal funds (2 CFR 180 Subpart C).
- Teaching artist residencies.
- Documentation of existing arts projects.
- Costs related to activities for which the applicant is employed or contracted.
- Costs related to academic research or formal study toward an academic or professional degree.
- Expenses incurred in the presentation of final work, such as self-publishing, promotion, catalogs published by the artist(s), exhibition expenses, and self-presenting. Such expenses may be one component of the proposal but cannot be the sole purpose of the requested funds.
- Fundraising projects.
- Food and beverages for any purpose.
- Scholarships, awards, and competitions.
- Grant administration, overhead, or processing fees taken by an umbrella/parent organization.
- Organizations or individuals debarred or suspended from receiving Federal funds (2 CFR 180 Subpart C).

This list is not comprehensive.

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.

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.

Assessing Arizona's arts-funding landscape, ACF and the Arts Commission determined that there was a clear shortage of support for individual artists compared to other regions. Thanks to ACF's investment, the Arts Commission will double the number of artist grants awarded annually, with ACF matching state funding, dollar-for-dollar.

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.

EVALUATION RUBRIC

Viewed as a whole, the application..

Criteria	Needs Development	Acceptable	Well Developed	Exceeds
Artistic Strength	Work samples do not offer a clear understanding of the applicant's creative practice and/or do not demonstrate a clear connection to the proposed activities.	Work samples offer a basic understanding of the applicant's creative practice and show a clear connection to the proposed activities to be funded.	*and...* offer strong evidence of the applicant's commitment to craft and technique.	*and...* clearly reflect the applicant's distinct creative vision, originality, and intention behind the work—and a commitment to artistic achievement.
Potential Impact to Artist	Application narrative does not clearly describe how the proposed activities would impact the applicant's career and/or creative practice.	Application narrative clearly describes the potential impact of the proposed activities to the applicant's career and/or creative practice.	*and...* positions the proposed activities within the broader context of the applicant's overall artistic practice, process, and/or career trajectory.	*and...* clearly outlines future goals in the context of the applicant's overall artistic practice, process, or career trajectory.
Potential Impact to Artist's Community of Practice	Application narrative does not define the applicant's Community of Practice and/or does not articulate the intended impact of the proposed activities on the applicant's Community of Practice.	Application narrative provides a general definition of the applicant's Community of Practice and describes how the proposed activities will impact, reflect, or respond to this community.	*and...* demonstrates the applicant's authentic relationship to their Community of Practice and describes how the proposed work will deepen the impact of the work the applicant has previously done within this community.	*and...* offers evidence of the applicant's commitment to ongoing reciprocal engagement with their Community of Practice.

Criteria	Needs Development	Acceptable	Well Developed	Exceeds
Feasibility	Application lacks evidence that the proposed activities will be completed and the funds will be spent within the funding period.	Application provides reasonable evidence that the proposal will be realized within the funding period.	*and...* clearly displays the scope and scale of the proposed activities. Viewed as a whole, the elements of the application provide a consistent vision.	*and...* clearly articulates applicant's commitment to wellbeing and sustainability for themselves, their collaborators, and any communities engaged.
	Examples of evidence: • Stated goals are reasonable and attainable • Expenses List includes accurate costs. • Process map is clear and concise. • Applicant has established relationship with collaborators/communities mentioned.			
Integrity	Application raises concerns around the integrity of the applicant's practices, inconsistency between proposed activities and stated goals, and/or significant barriers to access.	Application raises little to no concern around the integrity of the applicant's practices, demonstrates a connection between proposed activities and stated goals, and presents minimal barriers to access.	*and...* clearly describes thoughtful and effective strategies to provide adequate compensation to collaborators, remove barriers to access, and engage ethically with any communities involved.	*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
	Examples of concerns: • Inadequate compensation • Cultural appropriation • Unethical engagement of vulnerable communities • Exploitative practices			