ARTIST OPPORTUNITY GRANT
New Audiences · New Skills · Next Level

FISCAL YEAR 2027

WHAT IS IT?

A grant is a form of financial assistance. The State of Arizona sets aside a certain amount of money to invest in projects that have strong potential for public benefit.

Through Artist Opportunity Grants (AOGs) the State of Arizona invests in one of its greatest resources: artists.

Artist Opportunity Grants help Arizona artists take advantage of unique opportunities that can significantly boost their careers.

WHO CAN APPLY?

This grant is open to artists of all disciplines and career stages.

- You must be an individual artist (not an organization).
- You can only apply once per cycle.
- You must be at least 18 years old.
- You must live in Arizona.

You can receive only one Artist Opportunity Grant every two fiscal years. The fiscal year is different from a calendar year and runs from July 1 of one year to June 30 of the next.

WHAT KIND OF OPPORTUNITIES DOES IT SUPPORT?

A variety of time-based opportunities may be eligible as long as they have a significant impact in one or more of these areas:

Introducing Your Work to New Audiences

An opportunity to showcase your work in a way that expands your audience or raises your artistic profile.

Developing New Skills

An opportunity to grow your artistic abilities by participating in conferences, residencies, workshops, fellowships, master classes, or apprenticeships.

Building Your Artistic Career

An opportunity to strengthen your business skills, such as creating marketing materials, developing a website, covering professional fees (for lawyers, accountants, etc.), or investing in essential tools like equipment, materials, or rental fees.

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.

APPLICATION TIMELINE

CYCLE A

Application Closed

CYCLE B

Application Opens
August 6. 2026

Application Due Date
September 24, 2026, 11:59pm

Funding Period
December 1, 2026- June 30, 2027

STAFF CONTACT

Gabriela Muñoz
Director of Grants
Phone: (602) 771-6537
Email: gmunoz@azarts.gov

IMPORTANT

You'll need to explain how this opportunity will help advance your work. It should be a new or evolving professional step, not something you've already done before.

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WHAT CAN THE GRANT FUNDS BE USED FOR?

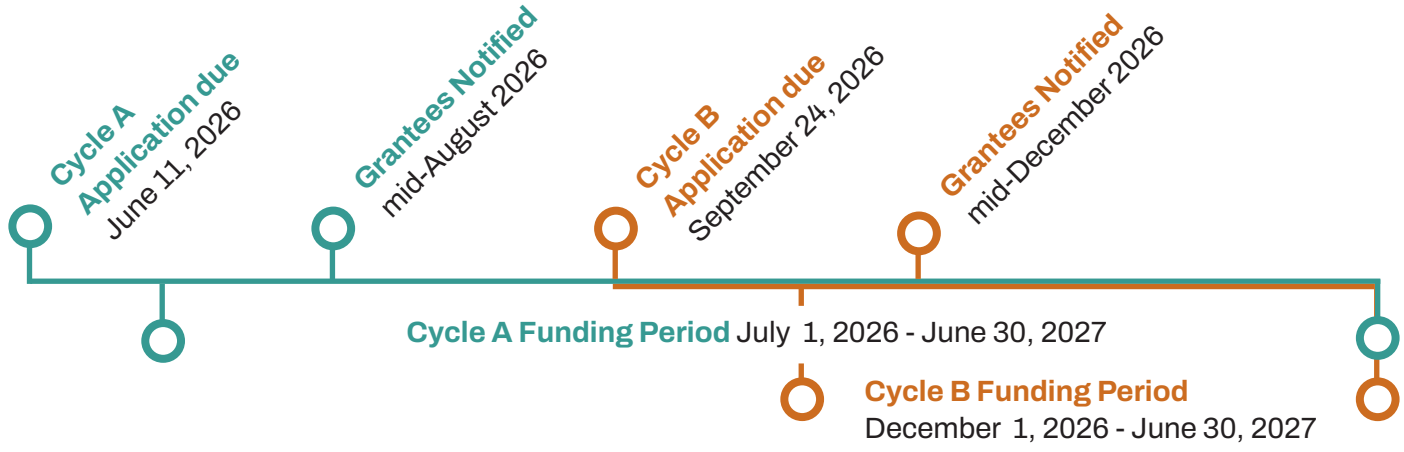
You can use the grant money for various expenses related to your time-based opportunity, including:

- Buying equipment, materials, or services needed for the opportunity
- Renting equipment or instruments
- Short-term rental space of studios or facilities related to opportunity
- Shipping, freight, or preparation costs
- Documenting your experience (such as photography or video)
- Travel costs necessary for participation (see funding restrictions for details)
- Registration fees
- Professional fees that support your artistic opportunity

IMPORTANT

Grant funds **cannot** be used for any part of a project that takes place before the grant cycle start date or after the end of the fiscal year (June 30, 2027). If your project timeline extends beyond the funding period, you can still apply—just make sure to request funds only for activities happening within the eligible timeframe.

GRANT TIMELINE



Funding Delivery

Funds are generally delivered 8-10 weeks after the necessary paperwork (award agreement, state W-9, and payment form) is submitted.

- Earliest funding date for Cycle A: October 30, 2026
- Earliest funding date for Cycle B: March 10, 2027

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BEFORE YOU APPLY

Before starting your application, consider these steps:

Request Accommodations

If you need assistance completing the application or participating in the process, contact Gabriela Muñoz at gmunoz@azarts.gov

Prepare Your Narrative Responses

- You can either **type your responses** or **upload audio recordings** of your answers.
- Each question has a **word limit** (if typed) or a **maximum recording length** (if audio).
- If recording, keep it simple—just make sure your voice is clear. Fancy production isn't necessary.
- Audio files must be in **MP3 format (.mp3)**.

Many applicants find it helpful to draft their responses in a word processor before entering them into the application system. This helps with word count tracking and editing. You can download a Word document with the application questions at https://azarts.gov/grant/artist-opportunity/

Set Up or Update Your SurveyMonkey Apply Account

You'll submit your application through SurveyMonkey Apply.

- **New applicants** need to create an account at https://azarts.smapply.io/.
- **Returning applicants** should log in and update their information if needed.

For step-by-step instructions on creating or updating your account, visit the applicant resources page: https://azarts.gov/grants/applicant-resources/

Once you've read through these guidelines and completed these tasks, watch one of the Information Sessions provided by the grant manager. You can find these the applicant resources page: https://azarts.gov/grants/applicant-resources/

If you have any questions left about your funding category, eligible expenses, tips for a successful application, or tech issues, reach out to Gabriela Muñoz at gmunoz@azarts.gov with written questions or to schedule a call.

HOW TO APPLY

When you're ready, visit https://azarts.gov/grant/artist-opportunity/ and click "Apply Now."

- You don't have to finish the application in one session.
- You can save a draft at any time and return later to complete or submit it.

APPLICATION

NARRATIVE PROPOSAL DETAILS

Answer the following questions in one of two ways:

- Type your responses (each answer should be 250 words or less).
- Upload an audio recording (maximum 6 minutes).

QUESTIONS TO ANSWER:

1. Describe the opportunity you will engage in with the grant funds. What are your specific proposed activities? (250 words)
2. Tell us about your artistic practice and values and why this opportunity is appropriate and vital to your work at this stage of your career. (250 words)
3. How will engaging in this opportunity directly address at least one of the eligible opportunity categories (introduce your work to new audiences, develop new skills, or Building your Artistic Career)? (250 words)
4. 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)

TIPS FOR AUDIO SUBMISSIONS

- Keep it simple and direct—just you explaining your proposal and answering the questions.
- Do not include edits of your work samples or special effects.
- Production quality won't affect your review, but make sure your voice is clear and understandable with minimal editing.

TIMELINE OF PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

In your application, provide a detailed timeline of activities related to your opportunity.

- You'll enter your timeline in a table with up to 15 rows, listing:
  - » Activity Name
  - » Date
- If a date is finalized, mark it with an asterisk (*) at the end of the activity name.

Example:

Activity 1	Preparing Sheet Music for Printing & Rehearsing Flute Solo	January-February 2027
Activity 2	Record with Jane Doe at AZArtsy Recording Studio Solo Pieces*	March 3-5, 2027
Activity 3	Record with Jane Doe at AZArtsy Recording Studio Finalized Group Compositions*	March 6-8, 2027

Be as clear and specific as possible to show the reviewers how your activities are planned within the grant timeline.

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WORK SAMPLES

Submit work samples that are relevant to the opportunity and completed in the last 10 years. Choose the most appropriate format for your discipline from the options below:

- 5 minutes of recorded audio, or
- 5 minutes of recorded video, or
- 10 images, or
- 5 pages of double-spaced text, or
- A combination of the above (total review time should not exceed 5 minutes). For example:
  - » 2 images = 1 minute
  - » 1 page of text = 1 minute

For each work sample, provide the following details:

- Title of the work
- Date completed or premiered
- Location/site of exhibitions or presentations
- Dimensions (if applicable)
- Medium
- Collaborators (if any)

IMPORTANT

Please do not submit promotional materials, event posters, social media stats, or reviews. Panelists cannot assess your work based on these materials. Consider the format that best showcases your work. For example, a video of a dancer gives the panelists a better sense of their skill and artistry than a still image.

WORK SAMPLES DESCRIPTION

For each work sample, include a brief description that explains how the work connects to your opportunity. Artistic skill is not a criterion for this grant, so panelists are not deciding whether your work is strong or not, but rather if the work aligns with the proposed opportunity. What makes these samples relevant to your proposal?

APPLICATION CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

If you encounter any technical issues with SurveyMonkey Apply, 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**.

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EXPERIENCE LIST AND DESCRIPTION

List 3 to 10 arts-based experiences from the past 10 years that are related to the opportunity you're applying for. Briefly describe how each experience contributes to your artistic development and leads to this opportunity.

While this can be similar to a resume, feel free to include a range of professional and personal experiences. This helps the panel understand the broader context of your proposed opportunity. You can include a 200-word summary of the relevance of these experiences.

EXPENSES LIST

List only eligible expenses related to your proposal, such as:

- Equipment
- Materials
- Services
- Rental fees
- Facility fees
- Preparation, freight, or shipping costs
- Documentation
- Travel
- Professional fees

If your opportunity requires funding beyond the grant amount, feel free to include those additional expenses.

GRANT AMOUNT REQUESTED

Indicate the amount you're requesting, based on eligible expenses, within the range of $500 to $1,500.

BUDGET NARRATIVE

Here you can explain any additional details about your budget, such as how you determined the listed costs (research, quote from a professional). If your eligible expenses exceed $1,500, explain how you plan to cover the remaining costs of your proposed activities. You can describe other sources of funding, such as personal funds, additional grants, or crowdfunding. Keep your response within 200 words.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Your application will be reviewed by panelists based on the following criteria. Note that need is not a criterion—what matters is the strength of your application responses in relation to these areas:

Quality of Proposed Opportunity

The application should clearly describe the opportunity and explain why it is unique, relevant, and important for your current artistic path.

- Is the opportunity clearly outlined?
- Does the application show an understanding of past work in relation to the current opportunity and future goals?

Potential Impact to the Artist

The application should explain the potential impact on your artistic work, including how the opportunity will help you move forward in your career. It should also describe how the opportunity will address at least one of the three eligible categories (introduce work to new audiences, develop new skills, or support artistic entrepreneurship).

- Does the application describe clear next steps after the opportunity?
- Is there a clear plan for advancing your artistic trajectory?
- Does the opportunity align with at least one of the three categories?

Feasibility

The application should demonstrate that the proposed activities can be completed within the grant period and that the expenses are reasonable for the scope of the project. The experiences listed should be relevant to the proposed opportunity.

- Can the opportunity be completed by June 30th?
- Is the expense list logical and connected to the proposal?
- Does the experience list show you have the ability to carry out the opportunity?

Integrity

The application should show a commitment to ethical standards and equitable practices regarding proposed actions, values, and goals.

- Are collaborators, mentors, or communities involved in the project?
- Will they be compensated for their contributions?
- Does the application address potential barriers to access and inclusion?

EVALUATION RUBRIC

Reviewers will use a rubric to evaluate your application. You can find this rubric on pages 8 and 9 of the guidelines document. We recommend referring to it as you prepare your application to ensure your responses align with the evaluation criteria.

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EVALUATION RUBRIC

Quality of the Proposed Opportunity

Needs Improvement	Acceptable	Well-Developed	Exceeds
The opportunity isn't clearly described. The activities and plans need more detail or focus. The scope of the activities may be too broad.	Describes the opportunity and activities and connects them to the applicant's career.	Clearly explains the opportunity, why it is important and unique, and how it fits the applicant's current artistic goals. Shows thoughtful planning and research.	Demonstrates how the opportunity reflects the applicant's artistic values and meets a specific need in their career.

Potential Impact

Needs Improvement	Acceptable	Well-Developed	Exceeds
Doesn't explain how the opportunity will impact the applicant's career, how the activities will achieve this impact, or how it connects to the funding category.	Discusses career goals and connects them to one or more funding categories:	Provides evidence of how the opportunity will create meaningful impact.	Outlines steps beyond opportunity, connects them to career goals.
	Introduce work to new audiences.	Specifically defines new audience.	Details the previous audience and need for shift
	Develop new Skills	Provides learning goals and plan.	Provides reasoning for selected training/ mentors
	Build artistic career	Ties activities and expenses to the sustainability of their artistic career.	Ties activities and expenses to expanded capacity as an artist.

Feasibility

Needs Improvement	Acceptable	Well-Developed	Exceeds
Doesn't show enough evidence that the activities can be completed or the funds spent within the grant period.	Provides evidence that the activities can be completed within the timeline.	Includes a reasonable expense list and shows how the activities align with the applicant's goals. The application presents a clear and consistent vision.	Demonstrates strong potential for success, supported by work samples and experience. Shows a thoughtful approach to balancing artistic goals with personal or community well-being.
Examples of evidence include: • Clear work samples and experience that show capability. • An expense list that reflects realistic costs. • Plans for covering costs beyond the grant amount. • Direct engagement with collaborators or communities.			

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Integrity

Needs Improvement	Acceptable	Well-Developed	Exceeds
Raises concerns such as: • Not providing fair payment to collaborators. • Misusing or misrepresenting cultural practices. • Using negative or dismissive language. • Proposing activities that don't align with artistic goals. • Creating barriers to access.	Shows alignment between the applicant's artistic goals and values. Uses respectful, positive language.	Demonstrates fair payment, inclusive practices, and engagement with collaborators or communities.	Shows a deep understanding of how their work fits into the broader arts community and promotes accessibility.

FUNDING RESTRICTIONS

This grant does not cover the following:

- Opportunities that are eligible for other Arts Commission grants
- Teaching artist residencies
- Opportunities outside the funding period
- Ongoing studio or space rentals
- Any capital expenditures or home-studio construction/building improvements[
- Equipment not related to the opportunity
- Costs for activities that the applicant is employed or contracted for
- Academic research or formal study (e.g., capstone projects, degrees)
- Fundraising projects or food and beverages for any purpose
- Grant administration, overhead, or processing fees taken by an umbrella/parent organization
- Non-refundable travel expenses for canceled or postponed travel beyond the funding period

This list is not comprehensive

Note: If travel plans are canceled or postponed beyond June 30, 2027, grantees must adjust their budgets to reallocate funds to other eligible expenses or return a portion of the funds.

Additionally, the Arts Commission's enabling statutes prohibit the use of funds for activities that desecrate or dishonor religious objects, the U.S. or Arizona state flags, or other similar actions. 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.

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ARIZONA COMMISSION ON THE ARTS

The Arizona Commission on the Arts strengthens arts and culture by investing in artists, organizations, and creative workforce development to enrich communities and quality of life for all Arizonans.

For more information, contact us at (602) 771-6501 or email info@azarts.gov or visit azarts.gov. To request this or any other publication in an alternate format, contact the Arts Commission offices. An equal employment opportunity agency.