

## REGIONAL ARTIST PROJECT GRANTS APPLICATION GUIDELINES & FAQs

### **PROGRAM PURPOSE**

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The Regional Artist Project Grant Program provides an award for individuals and groups of unincorporated artists to pursue projects that further enhance their artistic development. Applicants may be either **emerging** or **established** artists, but in either case must have a record of artistic achievement appropriate to the stage of their career. An **emerging artist** is defined as an individual who has fewer than ten years of experience and is in the early stages of their career or is changing disciplines. An **established artist** is defined as an individual who has more than ten years of experience and is at a mature stage of their career, with an extensive body of work and a history of public exhibition, etc.

### **PROGRAM PARTNERS**

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The Regional Artist Project Grant Program is administered by the Arts & Science Council, Charlotte-Mecklenburg, Inc., in partnership with the arts councils in Cabarrus, Cleveland, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, Rowan, Rutherford, Stanly and York (SC) counties. The program is supported by the North Carolina Arts Council, a state agency, the Blumenthal Endowment, and the participating arts councils. **Please contact the United Arts Council of Gaston County with questions about the program.**

### **ELIGIBILITY**

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The Regional Artist Project Grant Program alternates disciplines every year. Performing and literary artists will be eligible to apply for the 2007 deadline. Performing artists may include musicians, dancers, composers, choreographers, theatre professionals, storytellers, spoken word performers, etc. Literary artists may include fiction and non-fiction writers, poets, playwrights, songwriters, etc. Visual artists and filmmakers will be eligible to apply in 2008.

- Applicants **must** be a permanent resident (e.g., have resided for a minimum of twelve (12) months prior to the deadline) of one of the following counties: Cabarrus, Cleveland, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Rowan, Rutherford, Stanly, or York (SC).
- Applicants must be 18 years of age or older and must be a US citizen or permanent resident.
- Eligible applicants should have already completed their formal academic training, if any, in their respective art forms. Grant recipients may not enroll in, or be currently enrolled in, an undergraduate or graduate degree program during the time their funded project is in progress.

**Please note:** Artists on the staff of one of the participating arts councils OR artists who received a Regional Artist Project Grant within the last four fiscal years (July 2003 and later) **are not eligible to apply.**

### **DEADLINE**

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All applications and work samples must be submitted no later than **12:00 noon on Wednesday, August 29, 2007**. Unfortunately, applications received after this deadline can not be accepted. All applicants are encouraged to apply through our online application system. Funded projects must take place between January 1, 2008 and December 31, 2008.

Deadline: Wednesday, August 29, 2007 – NOON

Written Notification: Week of November 26, 2007

Grant Cycle: January 1, 2008 – December 31, 2008

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

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### **Q: How much can I request?**

A: Established artists can apply for a maximum of \$5,000. Emerging artists can apply for a maximum of \$3,000. Please note that this is a competitive process; an application is not a guarantee of funding. In FY2007, 85 applications were submitted and 24 (28%) received awards. Applicants are encouraged to develop a strong application and be realistic with regard to project timeline, budget development and funding expectations.

### **Q: Am I required to match the grant?**

A: Although matching funds are not required of Regional Artist Project Grant applicants, they are strongly encouraged. All else being equal, a proposal showing a serious financial commitment from the applicant will be looked upon more favorably than one that does not.

### **Q: How will my application be reviewed?**

A: A panel of professional artists, each selected as a recognized authority in their art form, will review all applications. Examples of past judges include professional artists (including previous grant recipients), college and university professors, professional dancers, award-winning writers, theater managers and directors, etc.

Panelists first review the work samples provided and evaluate **artistic merit** based on the following criteria:

- Evidence of overall artistic excellence (based on individual artistic level).
- Evidence of a commitment to pursuing or maintaining a career as a practicing artist.

The panel determines a cut line and reviews those applications that fall above that line based on **project merit**:

- Evidence that the proposed project contributes to the individual's/group's artistic growth.
- Evidence that the proposed project is feasible and the budget is realistic.

### **Q: What types of projects have been funded in the past?**

A: In the past, artists have been awarded grants for the following types of projects:

- To work with master artists in their field
- To support the cost of an exhibition or production
- To cover studio expenses and/or post-production costs
- To purchase equipment (laptop, art supplies, etc.)
- To pay for conference or workshop fees and associated costs
- To develop or upgrade promotional materials such as website, brochures, DVDs or CD-roms

Please [click here](#) for a list of prior year's grant recipients.

### **Q: What can grant dollars be used for?**

A: Regional Artist Project Grant dollars can be used for project-related fees and expenditures, marketing & advertising expenses, supplies & materials, workshop & conference fees, etc. If you are unsure if you can use grant funds for a specific expense, please see the ineligible costs below or contact the United Arts Council.

### **Q: Is there anything that I am unable to use grant dollars for?**

A: The Regional Artist Project Grant Program will not support:

- Projects that have already taken place.
- Tuition to assist artists in obtaining an undergraduate or graduate degree.
- Projects that do not primarily further your own development as an artist (e.g. teaching, curatorial work, etc.)

### **Q: What assistance is provided to applicants?**

A: The United Arts Council is available to answer questions as you develop your application. Up to five days before the deadline, **by appointment**, a staff member from your local arts council will be available to review a DRAFT of your application. Draft reviews are strongly encouraged. Please note - we are unable to accept requests to review grant applications the week of the grant deadline.

### **Q: If I receive a grant, what will I be required to do?**

A: If you receive a grant, you will be asked to do the following:

- To accept the grant, you must complete and return a signed Grant Agreement, a check request for the first 50% of your award, and a revised budget and narrative (if you receive less than your requested amount).

- Credit the Regional Artist Project Grant consortium, your local arts council, and the North Carolina Arts Council in all printed materials related to the funded project.
- Upon completion of the project, submit your final check request for the remaining 50% of the grant award, the required final report and all additional paperwork, including two forms of project documentation (program, photos, receipts, etc.).

**Q: What type of work samples will I need to submit?**

A: You must submit the following materials documenting work that has been completed in the last three years. Clearly label all support materials with your name, title of work, and date of work.

**For dance and theater artists:** DVD (two (2) copies) – No more than 3 minutes will be reviewed by the panel

**For music:** CD (two (2) copies) – No more than 3 minutes will be reviewed by the panel

**For literary artists:** up to 10 pages of manuscript

Literary artists may upload their work sample through the online application system. All other artists will need to submit work samples to their local arts council. (Performing artists – if you would like to the panel to review a specific 3-minute section, please cue your tape, or note the start point on your work sample.)

In addition to the work samples listed above, you may also submit **reviews of your work**. This includes articles, (newspaper, journal, magazine, etc.), literary reviews, liner notes, etc. **A maximum of five (5) reviews may be submitted.** Reviews can be submitted through the online application system or delivered to your local arts council.

Please note, all work samples and additional support materials must be received by the deadline.

**Q: I have more questions. Where can I get help?**

A: Your local arts council representative is available to answer questions as you develop your application. Please [click here](#) for a list of contacts for each arts council.

**Q: When do I have to turn in my application?**

A: Applications and work samples must be received by 12:00 noon on August 29, 2007. Applications received after 12:00 noon will not be accepted.

**Q: How do I apply?**

A: All applicants are encouraged to apply through our online application system.

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS THE ONLINE APPLICATION FORM](#)

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS A PREVIOUSLY STARTED APPLICATION](#)