



NEW HAMPSHIRE
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

Piscataqua Artist Advancement Grant Frequently Asked Questions

When is the grant recipient announced?

The grant recipient and any finalists are notified no later than mid-September.

How many artists apply for the grant?

The number of applicants has ranged from 20 to 50 in the 14 years the grant has been offered.

Is there an advantage to submitting a proposal for less than the full \$25,000?

No, there is no advantage to submitting a proposal for less than the full \$25,000. While you are not required to submit a proposal for *exactly* \$25,000, requests for significantly less than the full amount are generally not competitive and are strongly discouraged.

Is financial need a factor in selecting the grant recipient?

No, financial need is not considered when selecting the grant recipient.

I am employed, either part- or full-time, outside of my work as an artist. Does this disqualify me or reduce my chances of receiving the grant?

The jurors recognize that working artists may be employed for a number of reasons, and employment does not impact the jurors' decisions.

May grant funds be used to undertake, continue or complete a specific project?

The focus of the Artist Advancement Grant is to artistically advance the applicant. If the advancement plan includes a specific project it must be a logical component of and fit into the overall Advancement Plan. If the proposal is simply to execute a specific project, the proposal will likely not be competitive.

Who reviews the applications?

A panel of independent jurors comprised of curators, art educators, artists, museum professionals, artists, arts educators, business professionals, funders, art collectors and/or arts professionals, some from outside the region, review the applications and select the grant recipient.

Are the jurors the same each year or do they change?

Actually, both. The Foundation strives to maintain a mix of new and seasoned jurors, and no juror can serve more than three consecutive years.

How long is the review process?

The review process is completed in three stages and begins May 1st when the Program Consultant reviews each submission to ensure it is complete and meets the eligibility guidelines. Applications that are complete and meet eligibility guidelines move to Stage One, which generally starts by May 15th. Stage Two is usually completed by mid-to late June, with the final stage, a full-day selection meeting of all seven jurors, taking place in late June or early July. Results are generally announced no later than mid-September.

How are applications reviewed?

The selection process is designed to ensure that it reflects the intended purpose and criteria of the grant program and is fair to all applicants. The review process is competitive and includes three stages.

STAGE ONE is focused on the applicant's art. Jurors consider whether the artist's body of work, as evidenced by the work samples submitted, shows high artistic quality and a strong artistic vision.

The juror panel may be comprised of curators, art educators, artists, or museum professionals, some from outside the region. Jurors will review work samples and artist's statements. All applicants are evaluated on the relative strength of their submission. At this stage jurors may determine that the applicant's work does not exhibit the level of artistic quality and/or vision to merit further review and the application will not progress to Stage Two.

Past jurors have included representatives from Currier Museum of Art, Society of Arts and Crafts, Montserrat College of Art Gallery, DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park, Fuller Craft Museum, Portland Museum of Art and Addison Gallery of American Art at Phillips Academy.

STAGE TWO of the review focuses on the applicant's career and advancement plan. Jurors different from those reviewing the artist's body of work in Stage One, consider the following criteria:

- The artist's body of work and resume demonstrate perseverance and a commitment to their artistic career.
- The proposed Advancement Plan is clear, well-reasoned and clearly articulates how the Plan will significantly impact the artist's work and future direction.
- The amount requested and proposed use of funds supports the Advancement Plan and will make a significant impact on the artist's development.
- The impact will be sustained beyond the grant period.

This juror panel is comprised of artists, arts educators, business professionals, funders, art collectors and/or arts professionals will review the plans and rate all applicants on the relative strength of their plan. Past jurors have included representatives from New England Foundation for the Arts, The MacDowell Colony, New Hampshire Department of Cultural Resources, Maine FiberArts, and artists and patrons of the arts from the Piscataqua Region.

Applicants exhibiting *both* the strongest artistic work *and* plan are moved forward to the final stage.

The **FINAL STAGE** of the review brings together the two independent juror panels to consider all of the applications that proceeded to Stage Two. Jurors discuss each application as a group and generally winnow the pool to a small group of applications that exhibit the strongest combination of high artistic quality and vision *and* a sound, compelling plan. From this smaller group a final selection is made.

What do jurors look for when selecting the grant recipient?

Jurors look for the applicant with the strongest combination of the following:

- The artist's body of work, as evidenced by work samples, shows high artistic quality and a strong artistic vision.
- The artist's body of work and resume demonstrate perseverance and a commitment to their artistic career.
- The artist's proposed Advancement Plan is clear and well-reasoned and is likely to make a significant impact on the artist's work and future direction.
- The requested amount and use of funds supports the Advancement Plan and will make a significant impact on the artist's development and that impact will be sustained beyond the grant period.
- How grant funding will advance the recipient artistically, intellectually and personally; how the plan will advance the recipient's artistic growth, well-being and career.
- How the grant will foster artistic well-being and growth in the short and long term.

Does the Foundation share the jurors' critiques?

Juror feedback is available upon request at the conclusion of the grant cycle by e-mailing or calling the Program Consultant.

Additional tips for a successful application:

- Read all of the AAG supporting documents available on the Foundation website.
- Ask questions of past recipients.
- Ask one or more people to critically review your proposal.
- Ensure your proposal is well written, clear, and free of jargon and typographical errors.

HAVE A QUESTION THAT'S NOT ANSWERED HERE?

Contact Program Consultant Maria Sillari at msillari14@gmail.com, or 603-305-0422.