

Piscataqua Region Artist Advancement Grant

Q & A from the Info Session on 3-15-23

Q: Can the grant be used in combination for an artist residency or retreat?

A: Yes, unless you plan to be out of the region for months at a time. A requirement of the grant states that the recipient remains in the area for the duration of the grant period (12 months starting from when funds are issued), however, some travel within that time frame is acceptable. In addition, travel should directly relate to the advancement plan.

Q: Could the grant be used for publishing literature about or promoting the art?

A: Funds can be used for publishing literature directly related to the art (e.g. a coffee table book with photos of the art).

Q: Can the grant be used to cover the cost of renting studio space?

A: Yes

Q: Will the document showing what funds can and cannot be used be sent out to applicants?

A: Yes, this information can be found in the slides from this info session as well as on the [website](#).

Q: How many examples can we submit?

A: You can submit 11 examples. This can include a copy of your resume formatted as a PDF.

Q: Can sketches and other conceptual work be included in the application?

A: Yes, but keeping in mind that there are only 11 slots. The majority of those slots should be reserved for completed works unless a disciplinary transition is part of your plan, and these sketches are part of a clear description.

Q: Can one of those 11 slots be used to upload multiple pieces?

A: No

Q: If the artist has a multidisciplinary focus, should they submit work highlighting all focuses or a single one?

A: You want to present your strongest body of work that also speaks to the advancement plan that you have laid out in the application.

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Q: Is there a cut off as to how old submitted work can be?

A: It is recommended that work not be older than four years.

Q: Will applicants be alerted if their application does not move on from a round of judging, or will everyone be alerted when the winners are announced.

A: The recipient and finalist(s) will be announced in July and applicants who did not win will be alerted at the same time. Feedback from the jurors is available upon request as well as whether an application progressed beyond Round 1.

Q: Can applicants submit work that has been submitted in the past?

A: Applicants should use their best judgment and make sure work fits the story and trajectory they are laying out. However, there is no rule against submitting work multiple times.

Q: When will funds be released to the recipient and finalists?

A: Funds will be released in September or October. At the recipient's request, the award can be split into two payments.

Q: Is financial need a factor in selecting the recipient of the grant?

A: No

Q: Will applicants be disqualified if they plan to continue working a day job?

A: No

Q: If work is extremely detailed, should more than one submission slide be dedicated to showing the detail.

A: Utilizing as high a resolution as possible when taking photos and showing one example of the detail will be enough to convey that aspect to the jurors.

Q: How long should resumes be?

A: Applicants should use their best judgment, keeping in mind that jurors will be going through many applications as part of this process and may not be able to fully read through lengthy resumes.

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Q: Is there a place where we can find out what previous winners have utilized the funding?

A: NHCF announces the recipient and finalists in the September or October newsletter. In that article, there are some details around the way in which the artist plans to use the funds, but there is not currently a place where a full account of how funds are used.

Q: Will an example advancement plan be shared?

A: In Step 2 on the [webpage](#), there is a digital download of a sample advancement plan.

Q: Is the grant considered taxable income?

A: Yes, it is considered a windfall and will be taxed. This should be taken into consideration when creating your budget. A portion of the grant funding can go towards taxes.

Q. What is the recognition event?

A. The recognition event is an art show of the recipient's work. Finalists will show a piece as well at the event. This year's exhibition, IMPACT, will take place from April 17 to May 13, 2023 with a celebration event on Thursday, April 20th from 5:30pm-7:00pm.

Questions from previous info sessions

Q. What happens if a Juror knows an applicant?

A. Jurors are selected prior to the end of the application period and are not told in advance who has applied before the review process starts. If a juror has a personal or professional connection with any of the applicants, they will be asked to recuse themselves during deliberation when discussion turns to that particular applicant.

Q. If I am submitting an advancement plan for a specific project but haven't already completed any pieces, will I have to finish work to support the direction of my advancement plan prior to submission? Or can I submit previous work that supports the new direction?

A. Applicants are not required to create new work prior to submission but will have to clearly articulate how this new direction will help them grow as an artist and support their career trajectory.

Q. I have a lot of bucket list projects that I would like to pursue. Do I need a specific project or can it be a generic list of ideas I'd like to pursue throughout the grant period?

A. The advancement plan should be read as a document on its own and does not need to be specific to a project, but an overall direction. It must outline your goals, the steps you will take, and how the grant will help that process.

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Q. I have a partially finished project that the grant would help me finish and I have similar work I've completed previously. Should I submit the finished work as an example, or unfinished examples that reflect the new direction I plan to go in?

A. You can submit photos of up to 10-11 pieces and we encourage you to use these photos and the caption boxes to provide context for each piece. You may want to use one photo to show the unfinished project while also including completed pieces.

Q. Do I have to use the total amount of the Grant within 12 months?

A. It is expected that the recipient use the entirety of the grant within that 12 month period, though it won't be a problem if the money isn't all used at that point.

Q. If I know that I will need training in a certain technique, do I need to have a mentor in mind before submitting my application?

A. It would help to have a few people in mind and it will also help to have an idea of how much their services, plus any travel and additional expenses, will cost. The more specific and detailed you can be in the advancement plan, the better. It demonstrates that you have done your homework and increases confidence that you have a sufficiently detailed plan for the grant year.

Q. Can I be eligible as an out-of-state resident with my business in New Hampshire?

A. No, you would not be eligible. Being a resident of the seacoast region of New Hampshire or Southern Maine is a requirement for eligibility.

Q. I live in New Hampshire but have not lived here for the full two-years required to be eligible for the grant. Is that a hard time and when is the cut-off for that timing if I want to apply in the future?

A. Yes, the two-year residency is a firm requirement. In order to be eligible you would need to have lived here for two years by June of the year you are applying.

Q. Is it a good idea to apply for the application if I have not met the two year period just for the experience of applying?

A. Practice never hurts and you can certainly do that. When we go to review your application, we first assess whether you meet eligibility criteria. Your application will not go on to the next phase if you have not met that two-year period and you will not receive feedback from the jurors. However, you can start your application in SlideRoom and the information you enter will be saved for the next time you access the application (for instance, the following year).

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Q. How much flexibility comes into play when you are looking at how the recipient was actually able to spend the grant versus what the application stated they would do? How does COVID come into play? How do you account for things like travel or in-person activities that were unable to happen this year but that were likely part of the recipient's plans?

A. Do your best to capture what you think is going to happen. We would ask recipients to do their best to be consistent and hold to the plan but we also recognize there would be some shifts and changes. If you receive the grant, we can discuss during the 6-month check-in period what has changed. Where we would hope to not have huge deviations from the project plan is if you say travel would account for \$5k but it ends up being \$20k. As far as applying now given current Covid-19 pandemic conditions, hopefully we will be able to do things like travel again, so we would say go ahead and include things like that in your plan when applying. During deliberations in 2020, the jury judged based on the best intentions of the applicants, and didn't dock any applications for including components that would not be achievable due to Covid-19. We suggest keeping that in mind when you're preparing your application. The plan will be judged on the best intentions with understanding for the changing nature of today's world.

Q. Can I apply for a project that would allow me to make a video that teaches the step-by-step process to make my craft and about the history of it since my craft is a dying component of New England culture.

A. The question is if the video project itself extends yourself as an artist or if that is separate. You would be eligible to apply as long you meet all of the other eligibility requirements. However, if the teaching video is the biggest part of the plan I don't know how competitive that application would be compared to the others because the video could be separate from your own path and growth as an artist. This award itself is geared toward growing yourself as an artist. While teaching is very important, it doesn't fall into this grant specifically. However, you could apply for a different component of your work that focuses on your specific path and acknowledge that would free up some of your existing resources to make that teaching video.

Q. I don't see my work (fashion and clothing) on the list of categories so I am curious if I am eligible and/or where my work would fall in this list.

A. You can feel free to reach out to Rosalind or myself (Erin) if you are wondering if your work itself counts in general. As long as you can fit into one or many of the categories, the category itself doesn't have any bearing on the application. For example, if we received 40 photography applications and two woodworking applications, it doesn't matter. One category isn't better than another. One recommendation is to use the description field when uploading your media in SlideRoom. This is where you would put materials, dimensions, and date you made it. There is also space to really tell your story in that description field. That is where I would advise pushing your category and explaining your story. Looking at any image without any context is hard so using that description field to have orientation for the jurors can be helpful.

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Q. How is the artist's current work versus their advancement plan weighed in deciding the recipients of the grant?

A. The applications themselves will be weighted based on the artwork itself, artistic merit, as well as the advancement plan. We will take into account where you are currently at in your career, but what we are really looking to do with this award is to help catapult people in their career. We want this award to help move artists light-years ahead. So while your current positioning is important, we are mostly focused on the future component.

Q. Phase 1 of the application process seems to be largely based on current work and the advancement plan isn't taken into consideration by jurors until phase two. Is this right?

A. In Phase 1, your entire application will be considered but only your artwork will be scored. As suggested before, use the description field for each media file to add more to your story for each piece. You could tell about what you are currently doing and why it leads you to have different plans in the future. In that way, your current work can help tell the story about your future plans if you want to ensure that is the focus of your application. Traditionally, the majority of applications have moved on from Phase 1 to Phase 2.

Q. Is it possible to see the work of past recipients and the projects that they endeavored on specifically under this award? I see the list of applicants on your website and know that I can look at their websites but I more specifically wanted to look at the work they did under this award.

A. We post a write up and examples of the artist's work on our blog each year when the winners are announced. Here are links to the blog posts about the last five winners: Carl Austin Hyatt (2020), Victoria Elbroch (2019), Sachiko Akiyama (2018), Cathy McLaurin (2017), and Carly Glovinski (2016).

Q. Thinking about portfolio building for the application, I as an artist make many different kinds of media. In general would you recommend showing the diversity of my work or focusing on a subset of my work?

A. We recommend showing the breadth of your past work, but in your advancement plan be more specific about what you want to grow into. Show how your past work has gotten you where you are and how it is a foundation for what you want to grow into next. From my experience as a juror and artist, I (Carly Glovinski) would recommend you gather your best images and dump them in a folder. Then as you are writing your plan, cut down the images in your folder to ones that best support your plan. That way you will end up with 10 images that you know are quality images that are work you are proud of but that also support your application well.

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Q. Because there is an eligibility list of disciplines, are some forms of art going to seem less valid than others. Is a zine going to be viewed equally as book art even though they likely wouldn't be shown in a gallery.

A. An image of a zine is as valid as an image of any other made material. There is no hierarchy.

Q. Would any portion of the money be suited for an end goal of publication?

A. Yes, as long as that is something that is helping you advance as an artist and the actual publication is something that would happen in the year covered by the award and included in the advancement plan.

If you have any additional questions, please reach out to Erin Allgood, the AAG Program Consultant, at (Erin@AllgoodStrategies.com) or 603 953 5765.