NEW HAMPSHIRE
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

Piscataqua Region Artist Advancement Grant

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. How are an artist's current work and their advancement plan weighed when selecting grant recipients?

A. Applications are evaluated based on artistic merit and the strength of the proposed advancement plan. Jurors consider where an artist is in their career, with an emphasis on the artist's trajectory and potential for growth. While current work provides important context, greater weight is placed on how the grant would support meaningful artistic and career advancement.

Q. Are applications evaluated based on the artist's current work, with the advancement plan reviewed next?

A.Yes. With the Artist Advancement Grant, art leads. First, jurors evaluate the artist's work. Be sure to use the description field for each media file to provide more information and story for each piece. Traditionally, one-half to two-thirds of the applications move on to the next phase of the application review.

Q:Can grant funds be used in part toward an artist residency or retreat?

A: Yes, unless the grant recipient plans 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). Travel directly related to the advancement plan and within the grant cycle time frame is acceptable.

Q: How many examples of my work will I be able to submit in the application?

A: You may submit up to twelve (12) items. This can include a copy of your resume and/or budget formatted as a PDF.

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

A: Yes. Ten (10) slots are reserved for completed works unless a disciplinary transition is part of your plan, and these sketches are part of a clear description.

NEW HAMPSHIRE
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

Q: Can one of those ten attachments be used to upload multiple pieces?

A: No.

Q: If an artist has a multidisciplinary practice, should they submit work highlighting all focuses or one?

A: Applicants should present their strongest body of work, particularly work that best aligns with the advancement plan outlined in the application.

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

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

Q: Will applicants be notified if their application does not advance in the review process, or only when final award decisions are announced?

A: The recipient and finalist(s) will be announced in July and applicants who are not selected will be alerted at the same time. Feedback from the jurors is available upon request.

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

A: There is no restriction on submitting work that has been included in a previous application. Applicants are encouraged to use their best judgment and select work that best supports the story, trajectory, and advancement plan outlined in the current application.

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?

NEW HAMPSHIRE
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

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 lengthy resumes.

Q: Is information published about how previous recipients have utilized the funding?

A: The Foundation announces the recipient and finalists on its website and in its September or October e-newsletter. Some details about how the artist plans to use the funds are included in that article, but not a full account of how funds are used.

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 be allocated toward taxes.

Q. What happens if a juror knows an applicant?

A. Jurors are selected before the application period closes and are not informed of the applicant pool in advance of the review process. If a juror has a personal or professional connection with any of the applicants, they are required to to recuse themselves from deliberation related to that applicant.

Q. If I am submitting an advancement plan for a specific project but haven't completed any pieces yet, Do I need to create work to support the direction of my advancement plan prior to submission? Or can I submit previous work?

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. If I have multiple project ideas, do I need to apply with a specific project proposal, or can I submit a broader set of ideas for the grant period?

NEW HAMPSHIRE
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

A. Applicants are not required to propose a single, specific project. The advancement plan is reviewed as a standalone document and may include multiple ideas, as long as they support a clear overall direction. The plan must outline your goals, the steps you will take, and how the grant will help that process.

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

A. You can submit photos of up to ten (10) 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. Does the recipient have to use all the grant funds within twelve months?

A. It is expected that the recipient will use the entirety of the grant within the 12-month grant period. Recipients should contact Charitable Foundation staff to request an exception.

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. Applicants are encouraged to have potential mentors in mind and to develop an estimate 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 grantyear.

Q. How much flexibility is there for grant funds to be used differently than originally proposed? How are situations handled where planned travel or in-person activities are unable to occur?

A. Do your best to capture what you think is going to happen. We ask recipients to do their best to be consistent and stick to the plan but recognize there may be shifts and changes. The recipient can refer to the Terms of Award, if selected. If you receive the grant, changes over $500 can be discussed with the AAG program consultant at the 6-month check-in period. We would expect that there would not be significant deviations from the proposed plan, such as a $5,000 expense that is suddenly $15,000. We ask that you contact Charitable Foundation staff regarding atypical or unexpected changes in expenses or plans.

NEW HAMPSHIRE
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

Q. Can I apply for a grant to create media that teaches about my craft?

The purpose of the Artist Advancement Grant is to support an artist's own artistic growth and career development. Jurors will consider whether the project meaningfully contributes to the applicant's advancement as an artist, rather than functioning primarily as instructional or educational content.

While teaching is valuable, projects that are largely focused on instruction may be less competitive if they do not clearly relate to the growth of the artist. Applicants may wish to propose a different component of their practice that centers on their artistic trajectory, while noting that grant support could help free up time or resources to create instructional resources.

Q. When building a portfolio for the application, should artists highlight the diversity of their work or focus on a more specific subset?

A. We recommend showing the breadth of your past work, but in your advancement plan, be more specific about how you plan to grow. 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.

Recommendation from a past recipient and juror: Gather your best images and put 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.

Q. Are all eligible art forms evaluated equally? For example, would a zine be reviewed differently than book art?

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

Q. Can grant funds be used, as a whole or in part, toward publication-related expenses?

A. Yes. Grant funds may support publication-related expenses as long as the project contributes to your advancement as an artist, is included in your advancement plan, and is planned to occur during the award period.

The New Hampshire Charitable Foundation works closely with a program consultant to support the application process. If you have any additional questions, please reach out to Maria Sillari, AAG Program Consultant, at msillari14@gmail.com or 603-305-0422