



Arts
Foundation
of Cape Cod

Grants

Creative Individuals | March 2025

Welcome to the Arts Foundation of Cape Cod's online application for our **Community Equity Grants for Creative Individuals**. Funding of our 2025 grants is through support from both the Arts Foundation of Cape Cod and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).

Grants for Creative Individuals equitably advance creativity throughout Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard, and Nantucket by providing funding to individuals who demonstrate achievement of creative expression and commitment to their artistic/cultural practice.

We welcome applications from Barnstable County, Dukes County, and Nantucket County artists, culture bearers, and creative practitioners in all artistic/creative disciplines.

Please read the 2025 Artist Annual Grant Program Guidelines below before completing this application. You will find the following info:

- o Grant info session links
- o Are you eligible
- o Award amount
- o Timeline & Grant reports
- o Application process
- o Budget template
- o Funding goals
- o Program eligibility
- o Unallowable expenses
- o Review process & **rubric**

Grant Info Sessions

- Wednesday, March 19, at 10 am for artists (9 am for organizations) **RSVP here**
- Friday, April 4, at 10 am for artists (9 am for organizations) **RSVP here**

Join us for an Info Session on the Arts Foundation of Cape Cod's Community Equity Grants for Creative Individuals. We'll cover eligibility, project ideas, budget, the application process, and tips for crafting a compelling proposal.

Please reach out with any questions you may have at info@artsfoundation.org.

2025 | Grants for Creative Individuals | Guidelines



Who is Eligible

- Applicants must meet the following requirements to be eligible for funding:
- Applicant must be a practicing artist. Community Equity Grants for Individuals defines a practicing artist as an individual recognized by their peers, critics, or other professionals as committed to producing art on a regular basis. Artists meeting this criterion are typically paid for their work, earning a portion of their living from their creative work. Artists of all disciplines (performing, visual, literary, media, etc.) are encouraged to apply.
- Applicant must be 18 years old or older.
- Students pursuing any degree are NOT eligible.
- Applicant has at least a two-year history of public engagement, presentation, or publication.
- Applicant must be the lead artist in every aspect of their project.
- Applicant cannot be disbarred, suspended, or have any other exclusions or disqualifications from receiving federal funding.
- Applicant must maintain a residence in Barnstable County, Dukes County, or Nantucket County and expect to do so through the grant period: June 2025 - June 30, 2026.
- Applicant must produce arts and/or culture that benefits and focuses primarily on Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard, and/or Nantucket.
- Applicant must be a U.S. Citizen with a Social Security number to be provided upon notification of a grant award.
- **Applicant must use funding within the grant year - June 2025 - June 30, 2026**

Award Amount

- \$2,500 to \$10,000

Timeline

Applications Open: Friday, March 7, 2025 at 9 AM

Application Deadline: Friday, May 2, 2025 at 11:59 PM

Grant Awards: Late May/Early June 2025

Grants Funding Period: June 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026

Grant Reports: A mid-year progress report will be due on December 5, 2025.

Grant recipients will be expected to complete their grant activities by June 30, 2026, and submit a final report 30 days after completing the awarded project or initiative. All reports are due no later than 30 days after the end of the funding period or by July 30, 2026. Final reports will be completed and submitted through the online application system.



Application Process

This application will be completed and submitted through an online system using Submittable. It is highly recommended that you begin your online application process well before the deadline to ensure there is proper time to submit your application.

The most successful applications we have received have clear evidence that significant time was spent in preparation of the narrative, the budget, and all sections of the application. We advise applicants not to wait until the final day to start their application process or to submit their application in the last few minutes before the deadline.

Project Budget

Please note that your project budget should include both income and expenses. Income should include the grant amount you are seeking from the Arts Foundation. Your income should equal your expenses. [You must use the provided template here.](#)

Funding Goals

Community Equity funding provides stipends to artists conducting arts and culture projects or programs that create access to the arts for all, breaking down barriers and fostering connection across Cape Cod. These projects aim to engage audiences of all ages and abilities, while addressing critical community challenges.

The Arts Foundation is dedicated to removing barriers to participation in the arts, ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to experience the transformative power of creativity. We believe in the arts as a platform for connection, empowering artists to bring people out of isolation, inspire dialogue, and amplify voices in their communities.

Sample eligible activities include:

- Innovative projects that expand access to arts and culture for underserved communities or which tackle pressing community challenges through creative engagement.
- Art exhibitions, workshops, or programs that celebrate and promote the art, culture, or experiences of diverse and historically underrepresented populations.
- Collaborative programs that foster connection, create inclusive spaces, and encourage participation across all demographics and communities.
- These examples are not exhaustive but provide a glimpse into the types of projects that align with this funding opportunity.

[View our 2024 Artist Grants here](#) for more details on the type of projects we have funded in the past.



Eligibility for Funding 2025

Applicants must meet the following requirements to be eligible for funding:

- **Applicant must be a practicing artist.** Community Equity Grants for Individuals defines a practicing artist as an individual recognized by their peers, critics, or other professionals as committed to producing art on a regular basis. Artists meeting this criterion are typically paid for their work, earning a portion of their living from their creative work. Artists of all disciplines (performing, visual, literary, media, etc.) are encouraged to apply.
- Applicant **must be 18 years old or older.**
- Students pursuing any degree are **NOT** eligible.
- Applicant has at least a two-year history of public engagement, presentation, or publication.
- Applicant must be the lead artist in every aspect of their project.
- Applicant cannot be disbarred, suspended, or have any other exclusions or disqualifications from receiving federal funding.
- Applicant must **maintain a residence in Barnstable County, Dukes County, or Nantucket County** and expect to do so through the grant period: June 2025 - June 30, 2026

Additional Eligibility Considerations

- Grants will not be awarded for similar activities for more than one year.
- Applicants with incomplete or outstanding grant obligations or past-due reports from previous Arts Foundation grants are not eligible to apply. Feel free to contact us if you are unsure at info@ArtsFoundation.org.
- Grants will not be awarded to two or more parties for the same project, program, etc.
Collaborative efforts will need to determine one eligible lead artist to be the applicant responsible for the application and disbursement of funds to partners and required reporting on the progress of the project, if awarded.



Unallowable Activities & Expenses

This document outlines expenses that are NOT allowable for grant funding under this program for creative individuals. Award funds cannot be used for the following:

- **Costs of entertainment**, including amusement, diversion, and social activities such as receptions, parties, galas, community dinners, picnics, and potlucks. Generalaly, this also includes activities at venues such as bars, wineries, and breweries where the consumption of alcohol/social activity is the primary purpose of the venue.
- **Commercial (for-profit) enterprises or activities**, including arts markets, concessions, food, T-shirts, artwork, or other items for resale. This includes online or virtual sales/shops.
- Costs for the creation of new organizations.
- **“Artist relief”** programs where the funding is intended to alleviate financial hardship (e.g., rent or food assistance) and does not require the artist to undertake work.
- Alcoholic beverages and/or catering expenses.
- **Commercial (for-profit) enterprises or activities**, including concessions, food, clothing, artwork, or other items for resale. This includes online or virtual sales/shops.
- Construction, purchase, or renovation of facilities.
- **General fundraising** for yourself or another entity.
- General miscellaneous or contingency costs.
- Land purchase costs.
- **Lobbying**, including activities intended to influence elections or government officials regarding pending legislation, either directly or through public appeals.
- Mortgage interest, fines and penalties, bad debt costs, or deficit reduction.
- Rental costs for a home office workspace owned by individuals or entities affiliated with the applicant organization.
- Social activities such as receptions, parties, galas, community dinners, picnics, and potlucks.
- Subawards to replace lost revenue.
- **Subsidized works**. An artist who has been invited to collaborate on a project with a nonprofit at a predetermined rate or fee. In such cases, the artist cannot seek additional funding to subsidize or expand the project beyond the agreed-upon terms.
- Travel costs.
- Vehicle purchases.
- Visa costs paid to the U.S. government.
- Voter registration drives and related activities.
- Costs already supported by other federal funding, whether received directly from a federal agency or indirectly through a pass-through organization such as a state arts agency, regional arts organization, or a grant made to another entity.
- Expenditures related to compensation for foreign nationals that are not in compliance with U.S. Treasury Department Office of Foreign Assets Control regulations. (For more information, visit: Treasury Department OFAC)
- **Costs incurred before the beginning or after the completion** of the official grant period.
- All other unallowable costs as defined by 2 CFR 200 and other applicable laws.



How are Grants Reviewed

The 2025 Community Equity Grants will be reviewed by a panel of professional arts experts with experience across various disciplines, including writers, visual artists, performance artists, and digital media artists. Each application will be evaluated using **this rubric** to ensure a fair and transparent selection process.

Reviewers will assess applications based on the following key areas:

- Artistic Merit – The quality, creativity, and originality of the proposed project.
- Access and Inclusion – How the project expands access to the arts and engages underserved or underrepresented communities.
- Community Need and Impact – The project’s potential to address a clear community need and create meaningful change.
- Project Feasibility and Budget – The clarity and feasibility of the plan, including a realistic timeline and budget.
- Artist’s Commitment and Engagement – The applicant’s dedication to their artistic practice, community involvement, and using art as a platform for impact.

Applicants are encouraged to refer to the grant rubric for detailed evaluation criteria. The review process ensures that funding supports projects that align with the program’s mission of fostering artistic excellence, community engagement, and accessibility in the arts.

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