

Artist Support Grant

Application
Workshop

August 31, 2026

10:00 am



North
Carolina
Arts
Council



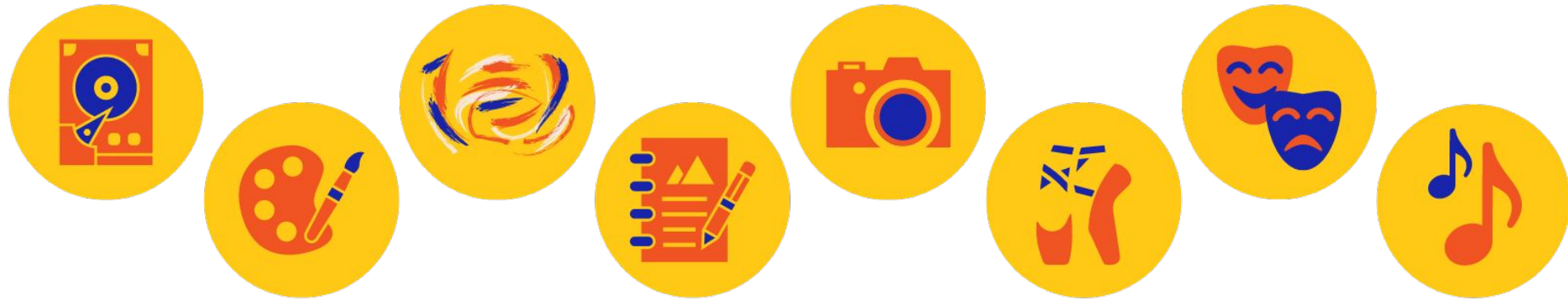
Chris Coffey
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North Carolina Arts Council's Artist Support Grant



The Artist Support Grant provides direct support to individual artists for professional and artistic development, either to enhance their skills and abilities to create work, or to improve their business operations and capacity to bring the work to audiences.

Disciplines



The Artist Support Grant is intended to support a broad range of talented visual, performing, literary, and interdisciplinary artists.

18 Regions Award Artist Support Grants



Key Information

- Grant awards range from \$500 - 1,500
- Applications open September 1 and are due by September 30
- Your project must take place within the 2027 calendar year (January 1 - December 31, 2027)

How to get started?

In our region, **all** applicants are required to contact the arts agency in their county of residence to set up an appointment before beginning their application. The online application link will be shared afterwards.

Region 14 Contacts

Alexander County: Hiddenite Arts & Heritage Center

Kara Smith, karahiddenitearts@gmail.org 828-632-6966

Burke County: Burke Arts Council

Deborah Jones, director@burkearts.org 828-433-7282

Burke County (Valdese): Rock School Arts Foundation

Sharon Bowman, rsaf1893@gmail.com 828-838-9806

Caldwell County: Caldwell Arts Council

Zan Thompson, zan@caldwellarts.com 828-754-2486

Catawba County: Arts Culture Catawba

Chris Coffey, grants@artscatawba.org 828-324-4906 ext. 306

Iredell County: Iredell Arts Council

Sydney Koppelmeyer, mail@iredellartscouncil.org 704-873-6100

McDowell County: McDowell Arts Council Association

Susan Pyatt-Baker, mcdowellarts@gmail.com 828-652-8610

Eligibility for application

Emerging and established artists



Eligible candidates may be either emerging or established artists. Applicants should demonstrate a commitment to spending a significant portion of their time on their work as artists.

Individuals and groups



Individuals and Artist Collectives

Both individual artists and small, unincorporated groups of collaborating artists are eligible to apply.

All members of a collaborating team must be North Carolina residents, live in the region where they are applying, and meet the other eligibility requirements. Résumés documenting residence from all team members should be included with the application.

Residency



Artists should have lived in the region where they are applying continuously for at least one year prior to the consortium's application deadline. An applicant must be at least 18 years old and either a U.S. citizen or a lawful permanent resident. Proof of residence and status may be required by the consortium. Artists who live in more than one region should apply only where they spend the majority of the year.

Who are NOT eligible



- **Multiple awards**

Artists who are sole proprietors of organizations that have already received funding for FY 2025-2026 from the N.C. Arts Council are ineligible to apply.

- **Conflict of interest**

Current board and staff members of the participating partner organizations and their family members are not eligible to apply for the award.

- **Students**

The Artist Support Grant is intended for adult, non-student artists. Artists enrolled full-time in undergraduate or associate degree-granting programs may not apply for the grant.

Scope of funding

What the grant will fund

Completion or presentation of a new work



Cost of resources necessary to complete or present a significant new work.

Examples include:

- Purchasing art supplies
- Equipment
- Space rental

Career promotion



Projects aimed at advertising artists' work and/or demonstrating their skill level.

Examples include:

- Websites
- Portfolios
- Audio-visual documentation
- Online presentation

Training



Costs to attend a class or workshop (in-person or virtual) aimed at either enhancing the artists' skill level or professional development.

- Such as attending a master class or workshop taught by acknowledged authorities in their medium.

Travel



Costs of transportation, lodging, and food for training, professional conferences, or research.

Artists fees



Up to **50%** of grant amount may be used towards artist fees!

What the grant will NOT fund



- Scholarships for undergraduate- or graduate-level education
- Projects that support or oppose a particular candidate for public office
- Projects that are exclusive to members of a particular religious faith group
- Non-profit initiatives
- Projects that do not have a direct effect on the applicant's growth as an artist
 - e.g., the promotion of other artists' work

The Application

Project Narrative

Your Project Narrative should explain your proposed project and how it will have an impact on your career as an artist.

- Describe your project and the proposed use of funds.
- Explain what this project will enable you to do that you are unable to do now.
- Summarize how this project will advance your career or development as an artist.

Project Narrative

Your proposal *is* competitive. Make sure it also:

- Feasible

Don't propose a project that seems beyond your capacity either in terms of cost, access, or other factors.

- A logical step for you

It should make sense why the workshop tuition, computer, brochure, or new studio you want would be relevant and helpful to you at this point in your career.

Project Narrative

- Use simple, declarative sentences, active voice—and get to the point. Observe the space or page limits. Say what you need to say as efficiently as possible.
- The narrative is not an artist statement. Keep your answers focused on the practical needs and outcomes of your project.
- Who, what, when, where, why, and how. If you find, after you've answered the application queries, that you haven't addressed one or more of the questions, you might want to revisit your responses.

Budget

Expenses:

Provide your project expenses, describing what will be paid for using your grant award, and what will be paid for with supplemental funding*. Grant expenses must be cash, but matching funds may include in-kind costs.

Description	Total	Grant	Supplemental Funds
Total Expenses:			

Budget

Expenses:

Provide your project expenses, describing what will be paid for using your grant award, and what will be paid for with supplemental funding*. Grant expenses must be cash, but matching funds may include in-kind costs.

Project Expenses			
Description	Grant	+ Supplemental Funds	= Total
Coffey Deluxe Paint Brush Set	\$ 500		\$ 500
Total Expenses:	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ 500

Budget

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Project Expenses			
Description	Grant	+ Supplemental Funds	= Total
Coffey Super Deluxe Paint Brush Set	\$ 1,500	\$ 500	\$ 2,000
Total Expenses:	\$ 1,500	\$ 500	\$ 2,000

Budget

Provide as much detail as possible.

You can see the difference in the detailed budget on the right:

Example 1

Travel: \$600

Example 2

Mileage (200 mi. @ .535): \$107

Lodging (4 nights @ \$85): 340

Meals (5 days @ \$35): 175

Total: \$622

Budget

Provide supporting documentation.

- For most equipment, airfares, and materials, prices can be found online. For professional services, request an estimate.
- Always provide documentation for class, workshop, or conference registration costs.
- If studying with a specific teacher is part of your proposal, explain why it is important to your growth and provide documentation of the teacher's credentials.

Budget

Income:

Provide any project income including personal funds, additional grant funds, or other sources that contribute towards your match amount. List different sources separately. The **Total Income** amount should equal the **Total Expenses** amount listed above. Identify in-kind support, as appropriate.

Project Income	
Description	Total
N.C. Arts Council Artist Support Grant	\$ 1,500
Applicant Cash	\$ 500
Total Income:	\$ 2,000

Budget

You are not required to spend your own money!

- If applicable, show other sources of income.
- If you are pursuing or have secured donations from others, especially for more ambitious projects, include that information, as well.
- Leave enough room on the expected income side of your budget to make it clear that you do need the grant.

Work sample descriptions and labeling



- An inventory list should accompany the work samples provided.
- Work samples should be recent -three years or less.
- The basic information is specific to each discipline. This will be explained in further detail on the next slides.

Visual art and craft work samples



Up to 15 images of your work.

- Images must be high quality – not blurry or pixelated.

Description

In the inventory list, provide the title, date of completion, medium, and dimensions of the work you have uploaded to the application.

Music work samples



Documentation of up to three recorded performances. Audio or video uploaded may not exceed a total time of ten minutes.

Description

In the inventory list, include date and location of performance, title of piece, names of conductors, lead performers/musicians, etc. A short summary may also be included.

Composers and songwriters should also submit scores, lyrics, and/or lead sheets, as appropriate.

Film work samples



Documentation of one or more completed films.

- Video clips not to exceed five minutes.



Description

In the inventory list, include date of work sample, title of piece, names and roles of key people, including directors, lead performers/actors, etc. A short summary may also be included.

Dance and performing arts work samples

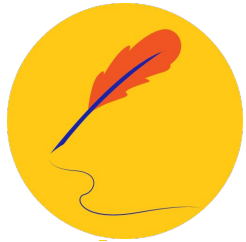


Documentation of up to three recorded performances. Videos uploaded may not exceed a total time of ten minutes.

Description

In the inventory sheet, include date and location of performance, title of piece, names and roles of key people, including choreographers and lead performers/dancers, etc. A short summary may also be included.

Writing work samples



- Fiction, creative nonfiction, and playwrights may submit no more than 12 pages each of one to two manuscripts.
 - Poets may submit five to seven poems.
 - Playwrights may also submit documentation of a recorded performance or staged reading of their plays (videos, clip not to exceed five minutes.)
 - Inventory list should include title of piece, when published, etc.

Artist Statement



Attach an artist statement that describes your work and the key ideas, goals, or cultural practices that drive you to create. (one typed page)

Artist Résumé (1/2)



As a rule, they should be:

Artist résumés

Focus on your activities as an artist, including exhibitions, performances, readings, screenings, commissions, collections that have acquired your work, publishing history, residencies, articles and reviews of your work, workshops taught or taken, lectures, panels, education, employment, awards, etc.

Abbreviated

A suggested length is two-to-four pages.

Artist Résumé (2/2)



If you have limited experience as an artist, foreground your existing artistic achievements in your resume and condense your other work and experience into broad background information.

Use this situation to make the case that the grant is especially important towards taking a meaningful step forward in your artistic career.

Letters of Recommendation



- Letters of recommendation are optional and they should always be the least important part of your proposal.
- Have qualified references who can speak specifically and enthusiastically about your abilities as an artist.
- Consider the following when choosing references:
 - First-hand knowledge of your work as an artist
 - Professional credentials (this is not a personal recommendation)
 - How recent is the reference's encounter with your work?

Evaluation criteria

Artistic merit



- Demonstrated talent in an art form and overall excellence of the artist's work
- Clear commitment to a career as a practicing professional artist

Project Merit



- Benefit of the proposed project to the artist's professional growth
- Feasibility of the proposed project

Review

Application Checklist

Application checklist (1/2)



☐ **Application profile**

☐ **Narrative**

☐ **Project Budget**

☐ **Budget support**

Provide support information for your budget,
i.e. cost of materials, price quote on services, etc.

☐ **Work samples and inventory list**

Application checklist (2/2)



- ☐ **Artist Statement**

Attach an artist statement that describes your work and the key ideas, goals, or cultural practices that drive you to create. (one typed page)

- ☐ **Artist résumé**

Attach an artist résumé that includes education, employment, public presentations of your work, publications, commissions, honors, grant or fellowship awards, and relevant experience. (four pages maximum)

- ☐ **Support materials**

You may submit reviews, programs, catalogs, and other support materials relevant to the project.

If you receive a grant

- You will enter into a contractual agreement with Arts Culture Catawba
- Promotional and marketing materials for the proposed project must use the N.C. Arts Council logo and credit line.
- Funds must be requested by **June 15, 2027.**
- Projects must be completed before **December 31, 2027.**

Questions?

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North Carolina Arts Council
www.NCArts.org



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