

Artist Support Grant Guidelines

Applications due by September 30, 2026

Award Range: \$500 - \$1,500



Eligibility and Scope

The Artist Support Grant is intended to support a broad range of talented artists across multiple disciplines, including visual arts, performing arts, literary arts, craft, and more. 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 Artist Collectives — Both individual artists and small, unincorporated groups of collaborating artists are eligible to apply.

Residency — Artists should have lived continuously in the region in which they are applying 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 permanent resident alien. The consortium may require proof of residence and status. Artists who live in more than one region should apply only where they spend most of the year.

All members of a collaborating team must be North Carolina residents, live in the region in which they are applying, and meet the other eligibility requirements.

Résumés for all team members documenting residence should be included with the application.

Multiple Awards — Artists who are sole proprietors of organizations that have already received funding for FY 2026-2027 from the N.C. Arts Council are ineligible to apply. Awardees must also wait at least two years after the award year before becoming eligible to reapply.

Conflict of Interest — Current board and staff members of any regional arts agency partner organizations and their immediate family members are not eligible to apply.

Student Status — The Artist Support Grant is intended for adult, nonstudent artists. Artists enrolled full-time in undergraduate or associate degree granting programs may not apply for the grant. Artists in certificate programs are generally eligible. Artists pursuing graduate degrees in subjects other than their art form may be eligible if they meet the other eligibility criteria. Other questions and special circumstances should be discussed with N.C. Arts Council staff.

Eligible Projects and Costs

Up to 50 percent of the grant amount may be used for artist fees.

Completion/Presentation of a New Work — Cost of resources necessary to complete or present a significant new work (e.g., purchasing art supplies or equipment, space rental)

Career Promotion — Projects aimed at advertising artists' work and/or demonstrating their skill level (e.g., websites, portfolios, audio-visual documentation, and online presentation)

Training — Costs to attend a class or workshop (in-person or virtual) aimed at either enhancing the artist's skill level or professional development (e.g., a master class or workshop taught by acknowledged authorities in the applicant artist's medium)

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

Ineligible Projects and Costs

- 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
- Nonprofit 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)

Instructions for Application and Deadline

All applicants must contact an arts agency in their county of residence to set up an appointment before beginning your application. Contact information for each county is listed at the bottom of this page. The online application link will be provided following your initial meeting with an arts council representative. Applications must be completed and submitted online by September 30, 2026.

Evaluation Criteria

All complete applications will be reviewed by a panel of arts professionals with experience in various disciplines. Panelists will score each application based on the following evaluation criteria:

Artistic Merit - Work samples provided show artistic excellence, and there is originality, inventiveness, and/or cultural significance in the project proposed.

Project Merit - The project proposal is clear and well-organized, showing preparation and planning. The proposal's goals are realistic and achievable. The project budget shows forethought and consideration.

Professional Development - The project is consistent with the applicant's career stage and will be meaningful in expanding and/or promoting the applicant's artistic career.

Information and Assistance

Region 14 Artist Support Grant Webinar: August 31, 2026, 10:00 AM - Register at ArtsCatawba.org

Region 14 Arts Council Contact Information

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