



Innovative Artist Project Grant Guidelines 2026

The Innovative Artist Project Grant, offered annually by Arts Culture Catawba, is made possible by the sale of donated items at a silent auction held annually at Arts Culture Catawba's annual fundraising event, the Jingle Bell Bash. The proceeds from this auction are matched with local county and municipal support.

PURPOSE OF THE GRANT:

- to fund the most innovative projects/experiences **that benefit residents of Catawba County**
- to create **exposure and a focus on Catawba County** with the support of artists

ELIGIBILITY:

- The Innovative Artist Project Grant is open to artists of any discipline for innovative arts projects.
- Due to the source of matching funds, projects must benefit Catawba County residents.
- While there are no restrictions on an applicants' place of residence, priority will be given to individual Catawba County artists.
- Applicants may apply once per year. If an applicant was awarded in the previous year, they may apply again, but priority will be given to new applicants and projects that are truly new or provide a new experience to this area.
- An artist may apply for a project for an arts-related business they own, but the artist must be contributing artistically to the project (i.e., the project must involve the artist's own artistic work)

PROJECT PERIOD: Projects should take place between July 1, 2026 and June 15, 2027. Upon special approval by the grant panel, projects may take place after Arts Culture Catawba's fiscal year-end on June 30, 2027; however, all funds must be requested no later than June 15, 2027.

GRANT AWARD RANGE: \$500-4,000. We do not require the applicant to provide matching funds. The project may be completely funded by this grant.

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Applications must be submitted through the online form on Arts Culture Catawba's website by **Thursday, March 19, 2026**. You will then receive a response indicating that your application has been received and is complete. If you do not receive such a reply, please contact grants@artscatawba.org to ensure that the application has been received electronically.
- Applicants will be required to appear before a grant panel on **Wednesday, April 8, 2026**. Presentations will take place between 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM. We will follow up to set-up your timeslot after all applications have been submitted on March 19th.

REVIEW PROCESS: Grant requests will be evaluated by a panel of Arts Culture Catawba board members and qualified community partners. The criteria upon which applications will be evaluated include innovation/creativity, artistic quality, benefit to Catawba County citizens, and feasibility of the project.

IF FUNDED:

- If funded, the applicant must sign a contract with Arts Culture Catawba and submit a cash request form to receive their funds. The awardee may request the first half of their grant funds before the project takes place. However, they must submit a final report after the project concludes before receiving the second half of their grant.
- Arts Culture Catawba must be recognized in all publicity and printed materials for the project for which funds are granted.
- A final report will be due at the completion of the project, or no later than June 15, 2027.
- Any funds not granted will be carried over to the following year.



Technical Instructions for Online Application Forms

To begin your application, go to our website at artscatawba.org and click on the Grants and Scholarships tab. Under each grant title, there will be a brief description of the grant, downloadable guidelines, and a link to the application form. Click on the Application Form link to begin your application.

The first time you enter an application form, you will be prompted to create an account or log-in so you can save your application and return to it later. Once you have created your account, you will be returned to the application form where there will now be a button labeled "Save for Later". Click this at any point to save your progress. To access your application later, return to our website and log in to your account. Once logged in, there will be a black bar at the top of your screen with a button labeled "My Dashboard". Go to your dashboard and there will be a button labeled "Incomplete Grant and Scholarship Applications". From here, you can access any of your applications that are currently in progress.

We strongly recommend that you complete your work, especially narrative questions, in a separate document first, then paste your answers into the application. This ensures that if any errors occur on the website or by the user, you will not lose your progress. Note that most narrative questions do have a character limit, so keep that in mind when working outside the form.

You will be able to upload attachments directly into the online form, so there is no need to email us anything unless explicitly stated. If an application requires any attachments, such as operating budgets or support materials, there will be a place to do so within the form.

Once the application is complete, you will click on the "Send" button at the very end of the application. You should immediately receive an email stating that your application has been submitted. This email also includes a copy of your answers that you can save for your records. If you do not receive an email, please contact grants@artscatawba.org to confirm if we have received your application.