



2026 ARTIST SUPPORT GRANT GUIDELINES

Artist Support Grants fund up to \$1,500 for professional and artistic development for emerging and established artists to create work, improve their artistic operations, or bring their work to new audiences. Artist Support Grants support a broad range of talented artists in the genres of visual arts, performing arts, literary arts, and interdisciplinary arts.

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Direct questions to:

Kelly Schrader, Community Arts Coordinator

Kschrader@unitedarts.org

ELIGIBILITY

Artist Support Grants fund professional and artistic development for emerging or established artists to create work, improve their artistic operations, or bring their work to new audiences.

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

- Both individual artists and small, unincorporated groups of collaborating artists are eligible to apply.
- Applicants must be at least 18 years old and either a U.S. citizen or a permanent resident alien.
- Artists should have lived continuously in Chatham, Harnett, Johnston, Lee, or Wake County for at least one year prior to the September 1, 2025 application deadline. Proof of residence may be required.
- If applying as a group of collaborating artists, all members must live in Chatham, Harnett, Johnston, Lee, or Wake County, and meet the other eligibility requirements.
- Artists who are sole proprietors of organizations that have received funding for FY2025–2026 from the N.C. Arts Council are ineligible to apply.
- Current board and staff members of Chatham Arts Council, Harnett County Government, Johnston County Arts Council, Lee County Arts Council, United Arts Wake County, and their immediate family members are not eligible to apply.
- Artists enrolled in degree-seeking programs are not eligible to apply. 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.
- Applicants who have previously received funding through this program must wait at least two cycles after their award year to become eligible to reapply. **Grantees from 2024 and 2025 are not eligible to reapply for 2026.**

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS AND COSTS

- Artist Fees: Up to 50 percent of the grant may be used to pay the artist applicant for their work on the project – these are funds kept by the applicant as income.
- Completion/Presentation of New Work: Cost of resources necessary to complete or present a new work (e.g., purchasing art supplies or equipment (digital may qualify) or 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 either at 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.

MAXIMUM GRANT REQUEST

- Grant awards are up to \$1,500.
- Applicants are not required to match the grant award.
- Awarded projects may receive full or partial funding.
- Funding decisions will be based on panel scores and available dollars.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Applications will be rated on three criteria: artistic merit, project feasibility, and contribution to the development of the artist's career. Please review the [application rubric](#) for more details on evaluation criteria.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Information Session

Although not required, it is strongly recommended that applicants review the information session or schedule a one-on-one consultation with appropriate staff at their designated regional arts partner (see Regional Arts contacts listed below). United Arts and regional arts partners are available to help applicants submit complete and competitive proposals.

Information sessions provide information about the grant process and tips on strengthening your application. To register for this year's session on **Thursday, July 17 at 12:00 pm**:

<https://form.jotform.com/231703014270037>

Application Link

Link to the online application: <https://unitedarts.submittable.com/submit/0bf2ccb7-255b-48b1-bae4-b378ed912bc5/2026-artist-support-grant-application>

Deadline: Monday, September 1, 2025 before midnight.

Budget Preparation Tips

- Project Expenses must occur during the project period, January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2026.
- Itemize a list of ALL project expenses in the Project Budget table provided within the online application.
- The proposed project's expenses should be provided in detail.
- The budget should be consistent with the project described in the project narrative.
- Review figures for accuracy.
- Round figures to the nearest dollar.
- Do not include "\$" signs, only numbers.
- Up to 50% of the grant may be used to pay the artist applicant for their work on the project.
- Include materials and supplies, equipment rental or purchase, space rental, and promotion and marketing fees.
- Be sure to list any other expenses related to your proposed project. These may include additional artist fees—for example, dancers, other musicians, scene designers, etc. And they can also encompass professional fees—for photographers, consultants, sound technicians, etc. Take time to research the fair value of each of these expenses by getting quotes from several different sources.

- If applicable, your budget should also include additional sources of income for your proposed project, including grants, donations, or funding from other sources. Contributing your own personal funds towards the project budget is not required; nevertheless, if you can show you are investing your own funds (over and above your time) to accomplish a project, your commitment to it will be obvious.

REVIEW PROCESS

Panel Review

All complete applications will be reviewed by a multi-county panel of professional artists, college-level instructors/administrators, and arts advocates with experience in various disciplines. Panelists will score each application based on the evaluation criteria and rubric and make funding recommendations for selected projects. Grant awards are made by vote of the Board of the United Arts Council Wake County.

TIMELINE

June 1, 2025	Application opens
July 17, 2025	Applicant information session, recorded and shared on UAC website: https://form.jotform.com/231703014270037
September 1, 2025	Application deadline
October-November 2025	Application review & panel meetings
December 2025	Grant notifications & agreements
January 2026	Grant payments issued
January 1 – December 31, 2026	Grant project period
January 15, 2027	Final Reports Due

REGIONAL ARTS PARTNERS CONTACT INFO

COUNTY	CONTACT	EMAIL	PHONE
Chatham County Arts Council	Heather O'Shaughnessy, Investing in Artists Program Manager	heather@chathamartscouncil.org	919-542-0394
Harnett County Government	Desiree Patrick, Community Relations Coordinator	dpatrick@harnett.org	919-814-6001

Johnston County Arts Council	Darlene Williford, Executive Director	info@jcartscouncil.org	919-938-0306
Lee County Arts Council	Victoria Naegele, Director of Programs and Events	leecountyarts@gmail.com	919-774-6139
United Arts Wake County	Kelly Schrader, Community Arts Coordinator	Kschrader@unitedarts.org	984-263-0269