

ValleyCreates Artists: Capacity Grant 2023

Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts

Instructions

Welcome to the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts's ValleyCreates Artists: Capacity Grant 2023 grant application. This grant opportunity is funded by the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts' ValleyCreates Initiative and is administered by Mass MoCA's Assets for Artists Program.

Grant Focus:

The focus is a capacity-building and sustainability initiative for artists who currently live or have studio space in Franklin, Hampshire and Hampden counties in Massachusetts.

Approach:

The program pairs a \$2,000 grant with coaching, workshops, and artist community-building. The Capacity Grant program has been designed so that each artist determines what they need from a broad array of opportunities, which means that each artist's path through the program will look a little different. After being accepted into the program, grantees complete a brief onboarding call to learn more about the resources available to them. This also gives our team a chance to learn more about you and your creative goals.

Program Resources:

When selected for the program, artists will:

- Receive a \$2,000 grant.
- Have the opportunity to take part in an interactive 4-hour in-person workshop, "Making a Plan in a Time of Uncertainty" with Laura Baring-Gould. In this workshop, participants will develop the building blocks for a simple plan toward achieving their personal, creative goals.
- Have the option of a 1-hour individual professional coaching session on a topic of their choice with an artist-expert of their choice.
- Be invited to spend a day at MASS MoCA with other artists from the cohort.
- Receive optional business plan writing resources.
- Receive priority sign-up for Assets for Artists' other free online workshops.
- Receive a monthly invitation to an online or in-person meet up with fellow artists.

(Please note that for most recipients, the artist capacity grant will not be regarded as income for tax purposes, and will not result in a 1099 being issued, which would typically be considered taxable income.)

Application Timeline for 2023:

Applications Open February 20, 2023
Applications due April 7, 2023

Cohort Announced	May 19, 2023
Welcome Phone calls	June 2023
Workshop (In-person)	September 2023
Trip to MASS MoCA	September 2023
Program ends	December 2023

Eligibility:

- Eligible applicants are artists aged 18+ of any discipline (painters, sculptors, installation artists, new media artists, craft artisans, designers, film-makers, photographers, performers, writers, musicians, thespians, dancers, etc.) who live OR have a studio address in Franklin, Hampshire, or Hampden counties.
- These funds are intended to support individual artists only (the Community Foundation has other funding opportunities that support nonprofits).

Funding cannot support the following:

- Artists who are recipients of previous ValleyCreates Working Capital grants or ValleyCreates Project Evolution grants.
- Programming or operations of a 501(c)(3) organization.

Preference will be given to:

- Artists who identify as black, indigenous, or a person of color.
- Artists working in rural communities
- Artists who utilize a socially-engaged practice and/or whose art engages community.

This program promotes equal opportunity and seeks diversity in its applicants and participants. Those who have never received an artist grant are especially encouraged to apply.

Application Deadline:

April 7, 2023 at 11:59 pm EST. Technical support is available Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Questions?

Please contact Nicole Bourdon at Nbourdon@communityfoundation.org for programmatic support or Margaret Everett at meverett@communityfoundation.org for technical support.

Artist Information

Studio Address

Address of studio space if the *home* address is outside of Franklin, Hampden and Hampshire counties.

Character Limit: 350

Age*

I attest that I am over the age of 18.

Choices

- Yes
- No

Anti-Discrimination Policy*

Please click [here](#) to read the CFWM Anti-Discrimination Policy.

I certify that I have read the CFWM Anti-Discrimination policy and agree to comply with this policy. Please choose yes or no.

Choices

- Yes
- No

Years of Practice*

Please indicate how long you have been working in your discipline(s).

Choices

- Less than 3 years
- 3 - 10 years
- More than 10 years

Artist Discipline*

Please indicate your *primary* discipline(s). You may select up to 3 options.

Choices

- Dance
- Design/Craft/Jewelry/Fashion
- Folk and Traditional Arts
- Literacy Arts / Writing
- Media Arts / Film
- Music / Musical Theater / Opera
- Multidisciplinary Work
- Theater
- Visual Arts
- Other

Other Discipline

Other Discipline*

Please indicate your primary discipline(s) if not included in the list above.

Character Limit: 250

Artist Demographics

We are committed to increasing equity and opportunity for all residents of Franklin, Hampden and Hampshire counties. The following questions will help assess how equitably Foundation dollars are allocated and enable us to report to funders (in the aggregate) about the demographics of our applicants for this program. The personal information you provide is kept confidential.

Background*

Check all that apply.

Choices

Asian or Asian American
 Black, African, African American, or part of Africa's Global Diaspora
 Hispanic, Latina/o, Latine/x, or Afro-Latino/a
 Middle Eastern, Arab, Persian, or North African
 Multi-racial, or Bi-racial
 Native American, American Indian, Indigenous, or Alaska Native
 Native Hawaiian, Samoan, or Other Pacific Islander
 White, Caucasian, or European American
 None of the above
 Prefer not to answer

Gender*

Please indicate your gender.

Choices

Woman
 Man
 Non-binary/genderqueer/ third gender
 Transgender
 None of the above
 Prefer not to answer

Background Self-Identify

Self-Identify Background*

Please let us know how you identify.

Character Limit: 100

Gender self-identify

Self-identify Gender*

Please type in the space below how you identify yourself.

Character Limit: 50

Application Information

Grant Name*

Please enter the phrase, "Capacity Grant 2023" in this field.

Character Limit: 125

Funding Timeframe: June 2023 to December 2023

Artistic Practice*

Please tell us about your current artistic practice. Additionally, where you are in your career and where you are going?

Maximum of 600 characters including spaces.

Character Limit: 600

Community Engagement*

Does your art engage or connect with the community in which it takes place? If so, in what ways and with whom?

Maximum of 600 characters including spaces.

Character Limit: 600

Benefit from this opportunity*

How would you benefit from this opportunity? In what ways do you hope this program will be able to support the development of your work?

Maximum of 800 characters including spaces.

Character Limit: 800

Need for Support*

Grantees will receive one-on-one coaching. At the moment of writing this application, where do you feel you need the most support? Please choose *up to 3 areas of interest*.

Choices

Goal-setting, career & life planning

Cohort-building / expanding your local artist network

Personal finances including debt or credit questions

Systems of solidarity or cooperative work

Outreach & marketing

Business topics, including taxes, contracts, budgeting, negotiating rates

Local and/or state-level cultural policy and advocacy work

1st time homebuyer education & assistance

Grant funds

Support Needed - Comments

Is there another type of support you need right now, anything else you want to tell us about what you need right now?

Maximum of 1,500 characters including spaces.

Character Limit: 1500

Workshop Topics*

Grantees will have access to workshops. At the moment of writing this application, what types of workshops are you most interested in? Please choose up to 3 areas of interest.

Choices

Project Planning

Financial Strategies: The Basics

Taxes

Formalizing as a Business

An Introduction to Founding a Co-operative

The Essentials of Digital Marketing

Introduction to Marketing

Instagram Basics

Submitting to museums and festivals

Creating an artist portfolio ready to submit places

The Ultimate Guide to Artist Publicity

Photographing Your Artwork

Grant Writing

Licensing Your Artwork

Crowdfunding

The Nuts & Bolts of Being a Performing Artist

Negotiating Pay & Pricing as a Musician

Fostering Relationships with Museums & Galleries

Writing About Your Practice

Designing a Website

Mapping the Resources in Your Personal Network

RECOMMENDED*

Did someone recommend you for this program?

Choices

Yes

No

Recommended By:

Recommended By:*

Please enter the name of the person who recommended you to this grant opportunity.

Character Limit: 250

Work Samples

Please provide at least 3 samples of your work by either providing a website where we can view your work and/or uploading work samples below.

Work Samples: Website

Please either provide a web address where we can view up to 3 samples of your work. This might be a personal site, the site of someone who has published/promoted your work or your social media account. Or, please upload work samples below.

Character Limit: 2000

Sample #1

Please upload a sample of your work if no website link is provided.

Please note:

- If uploading a pdf file - maximum of 2 pages allowed.
- Maximum file size allowed is 4MiBs.

File Size Limit: 4 MB

Sample #2

Please upload a sample of your work if no website link is provided.

Please note:

- If uploading a pdf file - maximum of 2 pages allowed.
- Maximum file size allowed is 4MiBs.

File Size Limit: 4 MB

Sample #3

Please upload a sample of your work if no website link is provided.

Please note:

- If uploading a pdf file - maximum of 2 pages allowed.
- Maximum file size allowed is 4MiBs.

File Size Limit: 4 MB

Description of Work Submitted*

Please provide a description of the submitted work.

Maximum number of characters allowed is 4,000 including spaces.

Character Limit: 4000

Closing Comments

Closing Comments

Please use the space below if there is any additional information you would like to provide (Optional). Maximum of 1,500 characters including spaces.

Character Limit: 1500

Thank you for taking the time to complete the application. Once you are satisfied with your responses and attachments, please **SUBMIT** the application. The **SUBMIT** button can be found in the bottom, right corner of your screen.