

ValleyCreates Artists: Capacity-Building 2024

Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts

Instructions

Welcome to the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts's ValleyCreates Artists: Capacity-Building 2024 grant application. This grant opportunity is funded by the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts's ValleyCreates Initiative and is administered by Mass MoCA's Assets for Artists (A4A) program. For more details on Assets for Artists' portion of the Capacity-Building program, visit: <https://www.assetsforartists.org/capacity-building>.

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 an unrestricted \$2,500 grant with coaching, workshops, business/career building and personal financial literacy resources, and artist community-building. After being accepted into the program, grantees complete a brief onboarding call to learn more about the resources available to them.

Program Resources:

When selected for the program, artists will receive:

- An unrestricted \$2,500 grant. This is not a project grant.
- Business/career planning resources including a digital workbook, "Making Your Life as an Artist", by Artists U and a workshop on planning.
- Personal financial literacy resources, and a 4-part online workshop, "Understanding an Artist's Personal Finances", with Amy Smith & Akeem Davis, both certified tax preparers and practicing performing artists.
- Two individual one-hour coaching sessions selected by the grantee, from A4A's roster of expert trainers.
- Priority access to all of Assets for Artists' professional development workshops during the 6-month grant period (an average of 15 workshops).
- Community-building with fellow artists within the Capacity-Building cohort. This will be achieved through a number of different events exclusively for the cohort, including (1) an in-person program kick-off (2) online slide-share to learn about each other's work; (3) field trip to MASS MoCA (4) a WhatsApp group for the cohort to stay connected; (5) monthly emails to the cohort about what's happening in the program and in the region.
- The option of taking part in working groups to engage more deeply in goal-setting to create "accountability buddies" to support each other in reaching career goals.
- A monthly invitation to an online or in-person meet-up with fellow artists.

Please note that for most recipients, the Capacity-Building 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. The grant can be paid in a lump sum or in installments as you prefer.

Application Timeline for 2024:

- Applications open: May 31, 2024
- Applications due: July 12, 2024 at 10:00am (EST)
- Cohort announced: September 16, 2024
- Welcome phone calls: Mid-Sept/mid-Oct 2024
- Welcome kick-off event: October 2024
- Planning workshop: Late Oct/early Nov 2024
- Artists' work slide-share (online): Early December 2024
- Mid-way check-ins w/grantees: January 2025
- Graduation and field trip: March 2025

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 and fiscally-sponsored organizations).

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 living/working in rural communities
- Artists who utilize a socially-engaged practice and/or whose art engages community
- Artists who are in the early to mid-stages of their careers

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:

July 12, 2024 **at 10:00am EST**. Please note the time change on the deadline.
 Technical support is available Monday - Friday from 8:00am to 5:00pm.

Information sessions will be offered *via ZOOM* to all who are interested in this grant opportunity. Please see the dates, times and ZOOM links below. No registration is required. The sessions are optional and will be recorded. The recording will be made available on the CFWM website afterwards.

Monday, June 3rd, 12:00pm - 1:00pm

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85329054716?pwd=OajdyaBCumPagqsikkBwWNpq8HZSwv.1>

Monday, June 17th, 4:00pm - 5:00pm

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82695869127?pwd=9rPi2SSZwmL9atAKBa5btm6lqArgEy.1>

Wednesday, July 3rd, 12:00pm - 1:00pm

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86959803792?pwd=iP6JahKvPFM7tSzB6rhbucx9DegDt7.1>

Tuesday, July 9th, 9:00am - 10:00am

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83426575346?pwd=MJ6LEFG3rINen5ymzDO8N0z0LPJRG0.1>

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 or 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

We understand that the categories on this list may not feel perfectly descriptive of your work. You'll get to tell us more about your work within the application. Please make sure the discipline you select is consistent with the website/work samples you submit for review.

Other Discipline

Other Discipline*

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

Maximum of 250 characters including spaces.

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-Building Grant 2024" in this field.

Character Limit: 125

Funding Timeframe: September 2024 to March 2025.

Artistic Practice*

Please tell us about your current artistic practice and your work. You might address what you create and why. What has been your journey to this point in your career and where are you going?

Maximum of 800 characters including spaces.

Character Limit: 800

Community Engagement*

Explain the ways in which your art engages with or connects with community. If your practice doesn't currently engage community, would you like it to, and if so, how?

What relationships are you looking to build in the next year or two that would help you deepen your work?

Maximum of 800 characters including spaces.

Character Limit: 800

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 (keeping in mind the program includes workshops, coaching, grant funds, and being among a cohort of peers). Why is now the right time for you to engage in this program?

Maximum of 800 characters including spaces.

Character Limit: 800

Support Needed*

The information you provide here will help us assess how the Capacity-Building Program might best support you. Please note that this program is best suited for creatives who are excited to engage with the program offerings, ready to build a more sustainable practice, and looking to expand and deepen their network of creative peers.

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, or anything else you want to tell us about what you need?

Maximum of 1,500 characters including spaces.

Character Limit: 1500

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 or please upload 3 work samples below.

The website address (preferred) can be an Instagram or FB page, your SoundCloud page or YouTube channel, etc. If you have a particular project you want to point us to, feel free to include the specific URL to that project.

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

What else should we know? Is there anything else that you would like to elaborate on that was not captured above? Or is there any additional information you would like to share with the selection committee? (Optional). Maximum of 1,500 characters including spaces.

Character Limit: 1500

ValleyCreates Mailing List*

Are you interested in joining our mailing list?

We send out emails typically once a month about upcoming opportunities, grants, workshops, and other resources for artists.

Choices

Yes, please add me

No, thank you

I already receive your emails

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.