



Create Wisconsin Statewide Artist Grant Program

made possible with support from the Ruth Foundation for the Arts

SUBMISSION GUIDE

Create Wisconsin works to grow and expand a vibrant, inclusive creative sector in Wisconsin, where creative people, organizations, businesses, and communities are integral to the state's economic, civic, and social vitality. We celebrate the **Ruth Foundation for the Arts'** artist-driven approach and transformational support in establishing this statewide grant program. It represents an investment in individual artistic growth and development, Wisconsin's creative infrastructure, and local and statewide quality of life.

- [Submit online here](#).
- **Deadline for submissions:** Monday, February 16th, 2026, at 11:59pm (CT)

Program description:

With the generous support of the Ruth Foundation for the Arts, the Create Wisconsin Statewide Artist Grant Program supports the work of creative individuals throughout the state.

The goals of the program over each year of its three-year life-cycle are to:

- Provide significant support to creative individuals in a variety of visual and performing disciplines.
- Offer the opportunity for support to creative individuals in all 72 Wisconsin counties.
- Reflect the regional, representative, and artistic diversity of Wisconsin.
- Celebrate the artistry and creativity of creative people throughout Wisconsin.
- Invest in Wisconsin's creative individual and community infrastructure.
- Emphasize artistry and creativity, individual creative enrichment and community engagement at the local level.
- Support work in the form of grants targeted for individual enrichment projects and community-based initiatives.
- Provide a rigorous and thoughtful juried process for awarding the grants.
- Provide a clear plan for program outreach and the application process to activate and grow a comprehensive statewide program.

- Continually evaluate the effectiveness of the program's activities and actions for ongoing improvement.

Specifics:

- The project completion and final report deadline is Monday, January 4, 2027.
 - Each cycle of the three-year program will award new recipients.
 - At this time, we will not be accepting mail-in applications. Applications will only be accepted via [this online form](#).
 - Applicants may request support in one of these two categories:
 - a) Ongoing learning and furthering of artistic capacity and ability for growth and enhancing artistic excellence. Potential projects include continuing education and well-defined individual artistic research projects.
OR
 - b) Community-based projects, including public exhibitions, performances, publications, and educational activities.
- 2) Eligible applicants:
- a) Creative individuals over the age of 21 living and working in any of Wisconsin's counties. Up to 35% of the funding will be directed towards artists living in counties with under 55,000 people (46 of 72 counties). Eligible applicants are practicing performers or artists based in and living primarily in Wisconsin, with demonstrated creative ability and professional achievement.
 - b) Applications will not be considered from:
 - i) Organizations or agencies. This grant is meant to recognize individual creative people and their work.
 - ii) Ruth Foundation for the Arts staff and trustees.
 - iii) Family members of Foundation staff and trustees.
 - iv) Create Wisconsin's staff and board.
 - v) Family members of Create Wisconsin's staff and board.
 - vi) Past recipients of the grant.
 - vii) Recipients of the other Wisconsin Artist Grant program awards supported by the Foundation.

Entry procedures:

- [Submit online here](#).
- To be submitted:
 - **Background Description:** A description of you and your work overall (max 500 words).
 - **Project Proposal:** Provide a description of the artistic enrichment or community-based initiative for which funding is requested (max 500 words). Applicants may apply in one category only.
 - If applying for an **individual artistic enrichment project**, describe the opportunity and the short-term and long-term benefits for artistic growth.

- If applying for a **community-based project**, explain your background in producing these types of projects, how the project will benefit the community, and what kind of community involvement you have already developed and will develop during the project.
- **Work samples:** Up to 10 images of previous work.
- **Simple project budget.** No matching funds are required.
- **Submitting work samples:**
 - Up to 10 images or video files may be submitted. Preferred image format: JPG, PNG. Preferred video format: mp4. Maximum file size: 5GB (large files may be zipped if needed).
 - Please label your images with FIRST and LAST NAME-#number (i.e., JON SNOW-#1)
- **We will acknowledge receipt of your application within a week of its submission.** You should receive an email confirmation immediately following the submission of the application. The email will come from “Airtable Automations.” If you do not receive an email within 24 hours and it is not in your spam folder, please contact us.

Calendar:

- Week of December 15, 2025: Application portal opens.
- Monday, February 16, 2026, 11:59 pm: Application portal closes.
- February 16 - March 30: Juror panel reviews applications.
- By March 31, 2026: Award recipients notified and awards publicly announced.
- April 1, 2026: Funds distributed to award recipients.
- Monday, January 4, 2027: Project completion and final report deadline.

FAQs

- **Our nonprofit organization has a great idea for a project. Can we apply?**
These grants are meant to support the work of individuals, so we’re not accepting applications from nonprofit organizations and public agencies.
- **If I receive a grant, how will I get the money?** We can pay the grant amount to an individual (which means you’ll pay individual taxes on that amount) or to a business if you are a self-employed creative worker with an LLC business designation (which means your business will count the award as business income). We are not able to pay the award to a nonprofit organization or government agency.