Guidelines & Application for GRIT Grants for Individual Artists

Overview:
The Arts Council of Greater Lansing is pleased to announce the GRIT Grants program, a one-time funding opportunity made possible through the generosity of the National Endowment for the Arts’ (NEA) American Rescue Plan Grants. The Arts Council is serving as a subgranting agency for $200,000 in federal funds to be distributed to individual artists and nonprofit arts and cultural organizations based in Clinton, Eaton and Ingham counties. The program has two branches: grants for individual artists and grants for nonprofit arts and cultural organizations.

Purpose:
Gaining Recovery in Transition (GRIT) Grants serve as an opportunity for the Greater Lansing region to fuel the grit we are known for – especially the arts and culture community thriving here. Those that are creating in the arts can apply for funds to gain, recover or transition into a new echelon of their GRIT. GRIT Grants will be awarded to individuals that demonstrate the drive and knowledge to create and enhance their artistic abilities. Stipends will be provided for new projects developing the artist’s main body of work, projects that get at the core of their artistic practice or projects they haven’t had the support or capacity for during the pandemic. Awards will be competitive.

Eligibility Criteria:
- Be a working professional artist (defined as a person who has created a recognized body of work over a sustained period and pursues this work as a means of livelihood). Professionals who work directly with individual artists - such as curators, arts administrators, producers, or presenters - are not eligible to apply
- Be at least 18 years of age
- Be a resident of Clinton, Eaton or Ingham County
- Applicants may submit only one GRIT Grants program application
- Applications must be complete to be eligible for review
- Individuals may not be paid by both GRIT Grants for Individuals and GRIT Grants for Organizations for the same project

Eligible project types are presentations, workshops, research, and/or the creation of artwork.
Grant amount:
Total funds to be awarded through GRIT Grants for Individuals: $20,000
Grant Amount: $1,000
No cost share or match is required.

Allowable costs: This grant CAN fund
- Artist stipends for work undertaken and completed. Work examples include: presentations, workshops, research, and/or creation of an artwork, with tangible outcomes
- Artist fees (cannot support students or children as professional artists)
- Materials & supplies necessary to complete the grant project
- Marketing & documentation
- Production expenses including facility rental, contracted services, etc.

Unallowable costs: This grant CANNOT fund
- Support for a one-time award to honor or recognize an individual's achievement. (e.g., Lifetime Achievement Awards)
- Fellowships or other honorifics based on the quality of past work
- Support for rent or food assistance, or any type of "artist relief" program where the funding is to alleviate financial hardship and does not require the artist to undertake and complete work
- Support exclusively for the business expenses of individual artists (e.g., general operating support for individuals)
- Expenses that include but are not limited to alcoholic beverages, vehicle rentals, rent, entertainment, gratuities or meals
- No other Federal monies may be used for project expenses

Overlapping Applications:
Please note that if you are an artist who works for an arts organization that is applying for an GRIT Grant for Organizations you can apply for an GRIT Grant for Individuals.

Artists who have a practice outside of their responsibilities as a salaried staff person or as a contracted services artist, may apply for a grant for their own project. If the organization is in some way involved in the project, as, for example, providing a venue for the project to take place, both artist and organization cannot receive a grant for the same project.

If an artist is not employed by the organization but both entities have a GRIT Grant, the same restrictions apply.

Funding Priorities:
Projects led by and that serve underserved communities and persons, whose opportunities to experience the arts are limited by factors such as age, culture, disability, ethnicity, economics,
geography, gender identity, language, nationality, race, religion and sexual orientation will be given weighted priority in the granting process.

Projects proposed by artists who demonstrate that the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted their artistic practice will be given weighted priority in the granting process.

**Application Timeline:**

- Applications open, guidelines available: April 22, 2022
- Grant Workshop at Gier Community Center: April 29, 2022
- Grant Workshop at Letts Community Center: May 16, 2022
- Grant Workshop at Foster Community Center: June 9, 2022
- Optional early review deadline: June 17, 2022 **See Technical Assistance**
- Application deadline: 11:59 p.m., July 1, 2022
- Notification: On or before August 26, 2022
- Grant Period (funds expended between): September 1, 2022 to August 31, 2023.

**Grant Review Process:**

Applications will be reviewed by designees of the Arts Council of Greater Lansing or representatives who live and/or work in Clinton, Eaton and Ingham counties. Panelists will recommend awards based on review and scoring of applications. Decisions of the panel may not be appealed. However, applicants may ask for reviewer notes.

**Grant Panelists:**

Panelists will be selected from a roster of candidates recommended and approved by the Arts Council of Greater Lansing. Panelist criteria include:

- Cultural competency with one or more cultural communities of color
- Knowledge of and ability to assess artistic excellence in one or more disciplines represented in applicant pool
- Past experience on a grant review panel
- Familiarity with the Greater Lansing region
- Understanding of project management and fiscal responsibility
- Capacity to review impartially and state conflict of interest
**Criteria for Scoring:**

Applications are reviewed and scored on a 100-point scale. Applications with a review score of 80 or below may not be recommended for funding.

*Artistic Excellence — 20 points*
Does the artist demonstrate a high caliber of work over a number of years?

*Artistic Merit — 20 points*
Does the artist communicate the proposed project’s impact?

*Project Description, Management and Feasibility — 30 points*
Does the project build on the artist’s body of work? Is it feasible for them? Are the application and attachments complete, accurate and clearly communicated?

*Project Budget, Individual Capacity and Fiscal Competence — 20 points*
Does the budget demonstrate fiscal competence?

*Project Evaluation — 10 points*
Are project outcomes and evaluation methods clear?

**Application Process:**

General grant information is available at the [Arts Council’s website](#). The application is available online via [Slideroom](#). A free applicant account is required to apply. A how-to guide for navigating the Slideroom application portal is also available on the Arts Council’s website.

All applications must be submitted by **11:59 p.m., July 1, 2022**. Slideroom will not accept applications after this time.
Application Components:

Upload all attachments electronically with your application at lansingarts.slideroom.com. All files should be uploaded as a PDF.

I.  GRIT: Artist – Applicant Information
II. GRIT: Artist – Project Information
III. GRIT: Artist – Budget Information
IV. GRIT: Artist – Required Attachments

A. Proposal Narrative - Narrative must be no more than 2 pages, typed single spaced, letter size. Strong applications will use a 12 point font with 1” margins on all sides.

Narrative is to include:
1. Artistic Merit
   a. Define the project and how it meets the purpose of the GRIT Grants for Individuals program
   b. Describe the project audience and impact
   c. Describe how the project is led by and/or serves underserved communities who have limited access to the arts
   d. Demonstrate that the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted your artistic practice
2. Management and Feasibility
   a. Explain how your project will be managed and completed
   b. Give an overview and timeline for your proposed project
   c. Describe project goals and evaluation methods

B. Current CV, Resume or Biography
C. Work Samples: Provide a collection of your work that demonstrates the quality and diversity of your art, and commitment to your artistic practice. This can be photographs, video performances, etc., but is limited to one attachment. File size must be 10MB or smaller. We recommend submitting a list of links in your PDF.
D. Supplemental Materials: Provide up to three attachments to help reviewers get a better sense of the impact that your art has. This can include: audience surveys, letters of support, media links, etc. You may also use this space to include information that you were not able to include in the narrative.

V. GRIT: Artist – Certification and Assurances

GRANT APPLICATION MUST BE SUBMITTED BY 11:59 PM, July 1, 2022.
The Slideroom system will not accept applications after this time. Incomplete applications will not be accepted by the system.
Compliance and Reporting:
Applicants must be prepared to comply with flow-down federal regulations and policy requirements, as outlined by the NEA’s Specific Terms and Conditions, Appendix C. Compliance includes but is not limited to prohibiting discrimination, ensuring accessibility, and protecting environmental and historical resources. Required forms will be given at time of award.

Notification, Payment, and Contracts:
The Arts Council of Greater Lansing will notify applicants of the outcome on or before August 26, 2022. Upon notification, grantees will be required to sign a grant agreement detailing terms for the use of funds (Grantees will be awarded 75% of total funds upon receipt and approval of contract and the remaining 25% upon completion and approval of the final report). Awardees will promote the NEA and the Arts Council of Greater Lansing through all publicity and promotional materials regarding the grant-funded activity. A final report is due to the Arts Council of Greater Lansing on or before September 30, 2023. It will include a narrative summary of the project outcomes; an itemized budget and any publicity and promotional materials from funded activities.

Technical Assistance
Technical assistance regarding the grant application is available by contacting program staff at grit@lansingarts.org or by calling (517) 372-4636. An optional early review is available: please email staff your draft application by June 17, 2022. **Early review consists of staff checking your application for completeness and technical errors.
Para ayuda en español, contáctenos por email grit@lansingarts.org o teléfono (517)853-7583.

Property Standards:
Property created under NEA awards has specific rules on ownership, copyright, reproduction, etc. We summarize important information here, for your reference. More details can be found in section 16 (pages 15 and 16) of the NEA’s General Terms and Conditions for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to Organizations:

- As the artist, you will own property approved for creation under the NEA award, provided that it be used for similar activities. For example, if you created a painting using NEA funds with the intention of selling it to a museum for public display, it could not be sold to a private collector where it would no longer be on view to the public
- You may copyright any material that is subject to copyright and that was developed under the NEA award
- The NEA has a royalty-free, non-exclusive, and irrevocable right to reproduce, publish, or otherwise use work, as well as data, produced under a Federal award for Federal government purposes. They also have the right to authorize others to do the same
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs):

**In practice, how do I comply with federal regulation and policy requirements?** In short, review Appendix C and be prepared to provide more information on your project to the Arts Council and National Endowment for the Arts. Projects that involve or take place near historic districts, sites, buildings, landscapes, structures or objects, or that involve installation of temporary or permanent outdoor furnishings such as benches or market structures, or public art such as a sculpture or mural, may be subject to review to ensure compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

**Do I need matching funds to apply?** Matching funds are NOT required to apply.

**How much can I request in funds?** Only $1,000 can be requested, no more or less.

**Are materials available in languages other than English?** Arts Council staff can translate documents into and provide technical assistance in Spanish. Interpretation and translation into other languages is available upon request.

**Can I receive funding as both an individual artist and nonprofit organization?** Yes, so long as grant funds do not support the same project and budget expenses do not overlap. For example, Xochitl makes a living 1) teaching and performing dance, and 2) working as program director of a performing arts center. She could NOT receive contracted pay as an individual artist for performing in a show that she also received salary support to organize through her director role at an organization.

**What will I be required to report?** Aside from project outcomes, budget, and promotional materials, recipients will be asked to report the number of people paid by grant funds - divided into two groups, artists and non-artists - and the number of people engaged by the project - differentiating between adults and children, and between in-person and virtual engagement. Grant recipients will be required to maintain records, including expense receipts, for 3 years following approval of the Art Council’s final report to the NEA.