Individual Artist Awards
RASMUSON FOUNDATION

Grant Writing for Artists

Grant writing for artists involves crafting a proposal that clearly explains your artistic project or work and why it deserves funding or support. The goal is to demonstrate the artistic, cultural, individual, and/or community impact of your work while showcasing your ability to manage and complete the project effectively. Successful grant writing requires a clear, compelling proposal that demonstrates the significance of your project, your ability to execute it, and the broader impact it will have. It's important to align your project with the goals of the funding body, manage your budget responsibly, and present yourself as a capable and professional artist.

Tips and Strategies for a Strong Grant Proposal:

1. **Introduction and Artist Background:**
    - **Artist Statement**: In your artist statement make sure to introduce yourself, your artistic practice, and your creative vision.
    - **Resume**: Highlight your experience and any past achievements or exhibitions.
    - **Project Overview:** Provide a concise summary of your project, explaining its concept, goals, and objectives.
2. **Project Description:**
    - **Details of the Work:** Describe the artwork or project in detail, including the materials, techniques, and processes you'll use.
    - **Timeline:** Provide a clear timeline for how you will complete the project, including key milestones and deadlines.
    - **Intended Impact:** Explain the impact your project will have, whether on you, the audience, community, or the field of art itself.
3. **Budget:**
    - **Breakdown of Costs:** Provide a detailed budget outlining how the funds will be used (materials, labor, equipment, etc.). Be realistic and transparent.
    - **Matching Funds or Other Support:** Mention any other financial or in-kind support you've secured for the project.
4. **Artistic Merit and Relevance:**
    - **How Your Work Fits the Grant's Focus:** Align your project with the goals and priorities of the funding organization or grant. Show how your work fits their mission or objectives.
    - **Cultural or Community Value:** Explain how your project contributes to the cultural landscape or engages with your community.
5. **Conclusion:**
    - **Why You're the Right Artist for the Project:** Reinforce why you are the best person to complete the project. This can include your qualifications, past successes, or specific skills.
    - **Future Goals:** If applicable, explain how the grant will support your long-term artistic goals or career development.

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Additional Tips:

- **Follow Guidelines:** Carefully read the grant application instructions to ensure you meet all requirements.
- **Be Clear, Concise, Consistent, Compelling, & Complete:** Avoid jargon and be straightforward about your goals, methods, and needs. Communicate why this is the right time for you to undertake this project, what it means to you, how it will shape your artist practice, and why it is important. Thoroughly review your application packet to ensure it is thorough and complete!
- **Support Materials:** Include any supplementary materials, such as work samples, references, or press about your art (if requested), to back up your proposal.
- **Proofread:** Ensure your proposal is well-written and free from errors.

Individual Artist Award, Narrative Question Example

How do you see this project helping you grow in your own creative path? (250 words or less)

This is an opportunity to share how this proposal/project will contribute to your personal or professional growth as an artist. What goals will this project help you accomplish? How will this proposal/project push you further along your creative journey? Why is it important to undertake this project at this point in your creative practice?

Sample

Applicant: Emerging Artist
Project: Writing and illustrating a children's book about bullying

As an emerging artist, I see this project as a significant opportunity to deepen my creative practice and expand my artistic range. Writing and illustrating a children's book about bullying will allow me to explore new storytelling techniques, experiment with visual and narrative styles, and develop my ability to communicate important social issues through art.

This project will also challenge me to think critically about the intersection of art and social impact. Addressing the sensitive topic of bullying requires a delicate balance of empathy, creativity, and clarity. I believe this book will help me refine my ability to convey complex emotions and themes in a way that resonates with young audiences while maintaining an engaging, accessible, and visually compelling format.

This project provides a chance to collaborate with professionals in publishing, education, and child development, allowing me to expand my network and gain valuable insight into how art can reach and impact diverse audiences. The process of creating this book will not only help me grow as an artist but also give me the opportunity to contribute positively to conversations about kindness, empathy, and the power of artistic expression to address real-world issues.

Ultimately, this project will help me establish myself as a versatile artist capable of working across various mediums while staying true to my core values of social relevance and emotional authenticity.

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Practice

How do you see this project helping you grow in your own creative path? (250 words or less)

This is an opportunity to share how this proposal/project will contribute to your personal or professional growth as an artist. What goals will this project help you accomplish? How will this proposal/project push you further along your creative journey? Why is it important to undertake this project at this point in your creative practice.