Connecticut Office of the Arts

Department of Economic & Community Development
Office of Culture and Tourism


Funding Opportunities:
- New ARTE-accessible Grants - accepting applications
- Arts Learning - ACCESS Grants - accepting applications
- Connecticut Arts Endowment Fund - accepting applications
- Arts Learner - Connection & Correlation - FY19 deadline passed
- Arts Learner - FY19 deadline passed
- Good to Great - FY19 deadline passed
- Artist Fellowship - FY19 deadline passed
- Arts Project Grants - FY19 deadline passed
- Regional Initiative - FY19 deadline passed
- Support Arts Program - FY19 deadline passed

DUNS Number: Why do I need one? How do I get one?
Final Reports
Glossary of Application Terms
Grant Overview Guidelines
Panel Review Process
READI statement

Be sure to visit the News and Announcements section for program updates, upcoming deadlines, opportunities, etc., and sign up to receive our e-newsletter by texting STARTS to 22828. Please visit us on Facebook too!

Programs and Services:
- Accessibility
- Art in Public Spaces
- Connecticut Artist Collection
- Art in Public Spaces Registry
- Art in Public Places
- Arts Learning
- Arts Workplace Initiative
- COA's Lifetime Achievement Award
- Connecticut Arts Day
- Connecticut Arts Hero Awards
- Directory of Teaching Artists
- Elizabeth L. Mably-Farley Arts Administration Fellowship
- Folk & Traditional Arts Program
- Gallery at Bradley International Airport
- Governor's Arts Awards
- Internships at the Office of the Arts
- Jobs in the Arts
- Post a Connecticut Jobs Opportunity
- Search for a Connecticut Job in the Arts
- Line Items - Directed Local Funds
- Make Music Connecticut
- Poet Laureate
- Poetry Out Loud
- R.E.A.D.J Music Conference - July 28, 2018
- Regional Service Organizations
- State Troubador
- Nickie Waller, State Troubador for 2018-2021

Additional Information:
- Arts & Economic Prosperity Study (AEP)
- Grant Reports, Summaries, Roundtable Discussions
- Arts-related resources

About the Connecticut Office of the Arts:

VISION: Inspire. Empower. Educate. Transform. The arts are a human right. The Connecticut Office of the Arts envisions a world where the arts, in all forms, are embedded in everyday life.

MISSION: The Connecticut Office of the Arts champions a culture of creativity across Connecticut by supporting arts making and arts participation for all people.

In Connecticut, the state agency charged with fostering the health of the creative economy is the Office of the Arts (COA), which is located in the Department of
How do I start a nonprofit organization?
Starting a nonprofit organization can be an inspiring way to give back to your community and help those in need. However, it is important to understand all of the steps involved in this process before moving forward.

Is there a difference between the terms “nonprofit” and “not-for-profit”?
Generally, “nonprofit” and “not-for-profit” have the same meaning. However, nonprofit, legal, academic communities do make subtle distinctions between the two terms.

How do I write a grant proposal for my individual project? Where can I find samples?
Remember one important rule of thumb: “If you don’t qualify, don’t apply.” Foundations that give to individuals have highly specific criteria. This article gives a typical breakdown for an individual project proposal.
Where can I find grants for individual artists?

There are a number of ways for artists to supplement their income and ease the financial burden that comes with being a working artist.

Where can I find grants for musicians?

To get an overview of funding information and resources available to artists of all types, start by reading our Knowledge Base article: Where can I find grants for individual artists?
Where can I find grants for individual artists?

The information on this page is for artists from all disciplines. After reviewing, also see our posts for specific fields, which list different resources for each:

Q: Where can I find grants for film or videomakers?
Q: Where can I find grants for musicians?
Q: Where can I find grants for performing artists?
Q: Where can I find grants for visual artists?
Q: Where can I find grants for writers?

If art is to nourish the roots of our culture, society must set the artist free to follow his vision wherever it takes him.

-- John F. Kennedy, 35th President of the United States

Although most foundation grants are given to nonprofit organizations, artists are one exception to that rule.

Census data reveals that there are about 1.4 million working artists in the U.S. -- defined as people whose primary earnings come from their art. (There’s no reliable way to track practicing artists who do not make their primary earnings in the arts.) Their median earnings in 2012 were around $30K a year, $36K with a bachelor’s degree.

There are a number of ways for artists to supplement their income and ease the financial stress. Here are a few:

1. Apply for a grant from a foundation.
2. Reach out to non-profits.
3. Consider working as a freelance writer or editor.
4. Explore opportunities to teach at the college level.
5. Take advantage of government programs such as the Arts Endowments or the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Have a question about this topic? Ask us!

Foundation Center’s Ask Us service will answer your questions within one business day.

Ask Us

Este artículo está disponible en español

See Spanish Version
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There are a number of ways for artists to supplement their income and ease the financial burden that comes with being a working artist:

- **Grants or fellowships** provide funds that can be used to pay the rent and other expenses, allowing the artist to work full-time at being creative. Grants are very competitive and the amount awarded, stipulations, and application procedures for each vary widely. Some are given to allow an artist to complete a specifically proposed project, others are unrestricted. Some are awarded strictly based on need, others as a prize given out as part of a competition. Some are open to application, others only by nomination.

- In addition to private foundations, **publicly funded arts agencies** can also be a source of funding for artists. According to Americans for the Arts, in 2015, 35% of local arts agencies (LAAs) provided financial support to individual artists, and 30% supported both arts organizations and artists. (Here’s a [directory of state arts agencies](https://www.americansthearts.org)).

- There are **artist residencies**, which typically require an artist to spend time and space away from their usual environment and obligations. Residencies will often provide studio space, meals, housing, and travel and living stipends.

- **Tax, legal and health care services** are sometimes available specifically for cash-strapped artists, either for free or at discounted rates.

- Another way for artists to gain funding is to contact a nonprofit with a related mission that will serve as their fiscal sponsor. This allows artists to apply for grants and solicit tax-deductible charitable contributions under the sponsor’s exempt status.

Foundation Center offers the following resources that can help artists find grants:

- **Foundation Grants to Individuals Online** is our searchable database of grantmakers that give to individuals. It is available by subscription, or to use for free at our [Libraries and Funding](https://www.fdncenter.org/libraries-funding)
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**Philanthropy News Digest** provides listings of current requests for proposals (RFPs) from foundations and other grantmaking organizations interested in funding arts and culture nonprofits and individuals in the field. Select Arts / Culture in the Subject search box.

**Grantseeking Basics for Individuals in the Arts** is our free course that will show you how to identify funders supporting individuals working in the arts, as well as touch on grantmaker motivations, and the variety of support options available.

**Webinars and in-person classes** geared specifically to artists are offered periodically. Also see these free, previously-recorded webinars and programs:

- **Fiscal Sponsorship + Crowdfunding = $5 for Creative Projects.** Dianne Debicella, program director for fiscal sponsorship at Fiscured Arts, discusses fiscal sponsorship arrangements.

- **Crowdfunding in the Arts: How to Add This Essential Tool to Your Fundraising Mix.** Dana Ostomel, the founder and Chief Gifting Officer of crowdfunding platform DepositAGift.com, discusses best practices to prepare, create, launch and market a campaign successfully.

- **Grantwriting for Artists: Perfecting Your Proposal.** Gigi Rosenberg, author of *The Artist’s Guide to Grant Writing* (available in most Foundation Center libraries), discusses how to enlist colleagues and friends to help write a successful proposal, get organized, persuade the right funders, and emulate the attitudes of successful grant recipients.
See also our related Knowledge Base articles:

- What is an artist's statement? Where can I find samples?
- How do I write a grant proposal for my individual project? Where can I find samples?
- What is fiscal sponsorship? How do I find a fiscal sponsor?
- What is crowdfunding?

Staff-Recommended Websites

- Art Deadlines List
- ARTDEADLINE.COM Artist Income and Exhibition Opportunities
- THE ACTORS FUND Artists' Health Insurance Resource Center
- TAX INFORMATION FOR ARTISTS: Arts Tax Info
- THE ARTISTS SAFETY NET Craft Emergency Relief Fund (CFERF)
- Creative Capital
- FRACTURED ATLAS Fiscal Sponsorship
- COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP FOR ARTS AND CULTURE (CPAC) Fiscal Sponsorship
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