

Artists to Work

Frequently Asked Questions



This FAQ presentation has been organized thematically.
If you have a question that hasn't been answered, jot it down, and we'll have an open Q&A time at the end of the presentation.

The FAQ document will be available online beginning Monday.



I don't live in Phoenix proper, but my studio and entire practice happens inside Phoenix.

Am I eligible?

Short answer: No.

City of Phoenix resident at both the time of Step 1 submission (August 18, 2024) and award notification (October 2024). Evidence of residency must be provided at the time of Step 1.

Long answer: All grant dollars from our agency are intended for Phoenix residents or organizations. For this specific program, with pandemic relief dollars from the federal government, Phoenix City Counsel decided that these specific dollars would go to putting Phoenix artists "back to work."



I received another grant from Arts & Culture. Can I apply for this one?

Short answer: Perhaps.

- You cannot double-dip on funding from our agency for the same project.
- If you received an A2W grant in 2023, you are eligible to apply (give that the project is different)
- If you received an A2W grant in 2024, you are ineligible to apply.



I am part of an artist team. Can we apply as a team or can I apply on behalf of the team?

Short answer: For the past two cycles and this current one, teams are not eligible to apply.

Long answer: There is a workaround. If an artist team has at least one member who meets eligibility on their own as an individual artist, they are eligible to apply as an individual. Of course, their budget will include compensation for any collaborators.

The individual artist applicant will need to speak about their own work, provide work samples that clearly specify their contribution to a finished project, and tell an artist background and identity from their individual lens.

If that person is awarded, they are awarded as an individual artist.

My proposed project includes curation of others' art. Is a curated show eligible for A2W funding?

Short answer: Only if curation of other artists' work heavily features the applicant's original work.

Long answer: While we appreciate the inherent collaborative value of curation and exhibition of others' work, this grant is designed to put an artist back to their own work as an artist.

However, if your proposal features both your own work and others' work, you are eligible to be considered if the work samples you provide showcase your own artistry and capacity.



Can I use this grant for my business?

No.

This grant is a project grant, meaning you are asking for funds for a specific arts-based project, not your general business or for general expenses.

Your proposed project must be original and arts-based (e.g. manuscript, visual product, performance, etc.). However, those items can be included in the project budget.

Which artistic disciplines are eligible to apply?

Beyond eligibility, which are the most likely to be selected?

Any art form that is original (literary, film, visual, dance/ other performance, clothes design, music, theater, interdisciplinary, etc.).

There is no quota we commit to making in terms of awards, but we hope the outcome is balanced.

2023 - Mostly visual

2024 - Balance of visual, performance, and interdisciplinary

2025 - Hopefully balance of visual, performance, literary, and interdisciplinary

I'm lost on how to select my proposal category. How do I choose which one?

- The proposal category you select at the time of the Step 1 submission will determine which panel reviews your application.
- Reviewers are experienced in relation to their assigned panel.
- Additionally, each proposal category panel will use unique evaluation criteria to guide their scoring.

I'm lost on how to select my proposal category. How do I choose which one?

Please refer to the following steps when determining the appropriate category for your application.

1. Consider your own artistic practice (historic, current, and possibly future)
2. Review the expanded description for each category.
3. Consider how other artists identify themselves and their work.



I'm still stuck on whether to select "Experimental" or the "Commitment to Artistic Growth." I think I am experimental in some ways, but am nervous I won't be competitive in the category.

An experimental artist may:

- Have an in -depth understanding of the form and its history/development;
- Identify as someone whose intention is to push boundaries within the form;
- Incorporates less used materials, processes, techniques, and/or themes.

A committed to artistic growth artist may:

- Takes risks with their own work as they define it;
- Readily seeks opportunities for continued education and formation in relationship to their arts practice.



I'm still stuck on whether to select "Experimental" or the "Commitment to Artistic Growth." I think I am experimental in some ways, but am nervous I won't be competitive in the category.

Further...

1. Is it important to you to be considered an "experimental artist" in terms of awards, grants, CV?
2. Do you not just push your own boundaries but the boundaries of the form's historical evolution?
3. Have you done any research to see if what you do is more or less typical?
4. Are you able to comfortably articulate how you are experimental in your practice?
5. Do other artists who share your discipline consider you experimental?

What do you mean that the “Community Integration” panel will consider best practices?

A community-integrated artist may:

- Incorporate workshops/education into the development of their work;
- Have a standing relationship with a niche community or neighborhood;
- Holds some responsibility for community care in relation to the development and presentation of creative work;
- Rely on and honor the talents and skills of other contributors.



How many artists will you award in each proposal category?

The number of applicants invited to Step 2 and ultimately awarded a grant award will be proportional to the number of applications received in each category.

Can the project proposal change from Step 1 to Step 2, or even after being awarded?

Your Step 1 project proposal is a rough proposal.

However, for applicants invited to complete the full application, the main idea of the draft project proposal must carry over into the full application.

Upon being awarded, any significant changes to project and/or project budget must be submitted to grants staff and receive formal approval.



Should I address how my project will be presented to the public within the application?

No, it's unnecessary, especially considering you have limited word count to share about your project.

Focus on the work being made, not how it will be presented, unless the making includes members of the community and is helpful in explaining how the art is conceived or constructed.

Awardees will have the option of either presenting their own work to the public within City of Phoenix boundaries and/or being part of a January 2026, showcase coordinated and promoted by the Phoenix Office of Arts and Culture.



Is it possible to view
the entire application
before filling it out?

Yes! You can view the complete guidelines and all application questions on our website.

www.phoenix.gov/arts/grants-program/artists-to-work



What support do you offer applicants?

- Individual virtual or phone meetings (as many as you need)
- Support and tools in English and Spanish
- Info sessions and workshops
- Hearing from past grantees
- FAQ

*Limited feedback on past applications due to capacity



If I submitted my application but want to make an edit, can I go in myself to edit or submit a corrected application?

Short answer: Generally, no.

Long answer: The SurveyMonkey portal does not allow edits to submitted applications. However, if you accidentally submit Step 1 of the application significantly ahead of the deadline and send an email to have your application deleted so you can restart, we'll delete the application and you can resubmit.

- We strongly recommend that you draft your application on a Word app or Cloud-based writing application before moving to each of the portals for submission.
- For Step 2 invited applicants, drafts can be saved, but you are not able to make edits once you submit the application.

Can I submit more than one application?

No

If you submit multiple applications, we will only move one through the review process, given that it is eligible to be considered.



Do you accept late applications?

No late submissions will be accepted.

Both Step 1 and Step 2 are due on their respective dates at 11:59 p.m. Staff is not available on weekends to assist with application submissions. In other grant programs, we have accepted late applications, but due to the high volume of submitted applications, we don't accept late submissions.

Is there anything
different this cycle in
the application?

Work Samples!

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Can you provide work sample tips for Step 1?

- Review the work samples guide
- If you have a discipline that includes collaborators, specify exactly what your role was/ is in the work sample
- Provide work samples that show finished work, not works in progress or non-polished components of your proposed project
- Have others review your work samples
- The fewer distractions, the better!

What qualities does the panel look for in a project to deem it worthy of this grant?

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Reviewers are guided to stick to the evaluation criteria when determining if they Recommend, Recommend with Reservations, or Do Not Recommend.



What qualities did selected applications have in common?

- Concrete language (fewer abstractions)
- Organized ideas that don't confuse reviewers about what you envision as a project
- Some inclusion of personal story, but applications that don't get overwhelmed by personal story
- Applicants that know how to tell their story of development

How will my application be more competitive?

General guidance to building a competitive application at both stages (Step 1 and Step 2) includes being clear, concrete, and direct in the application narrative responses.

Panelists will be looking for a thread line between the applicant's education, knowledge, and formation, their project proposal, and work samples. For the 2nd step full application, panelists will look for the thread line between the full narrative portion, work samples, and the project budget.

Is career stage an important part of the selection process?

This grant program is intended for artists who are either emerging or mid-career.



Are panelists looking for projects that benefit a broader community only, or are personal projects accepted at the same rate?

The “Community Integration” proposal category is specifically intended for artists and projects that benefit a broader or specific community.



How does an artist's social media presence or popularity impact your decision?

Not at all. The evaluation criteria is what is considered when reviewing an application.

Step 1 evaluation criteria is general.

Step 2 evaluation criteria is specific to the proposal category.



Does the artist's
personal politics
impact your decision?

Again, the evaluation criteria of each proposal category is what is considered when reviewing an application.



What support is offered to selected artists?

Support for selected artists has evolved from the first cycle.

- \$7500 grant (tax exempt for a final year)
- Award promotion (social media kit)
- Professional development
- Staff check-ins
- Showcase production and promotion