



Completing the Artist Support Grant Application:

A Presentation for Individual Artists

2025



Marley Billie D, St. Louis Mural Project

Welcome!

We will get started shortly.
Please take a seat and review
the agenda.

RAC Priorities

Workshops & Office
Hours

ASG Overview

Timeline

Artist Collectives/Co-
Creators

Accessing the
Application

Application Overview

Review Criteria

Application Questions

Writing Narratives

Uploads

FAQs

Contact Information/
Technical Assistance

Q&A



Jasmine Raskas

RAC Priorities



Amy Miller, St. Louis Mural Project

Mission and Vision

As the leading public catalyst for arts and culture in St. Louis, the Regional Arts Commission leverages the power of creativity to strengthen and enrich our community.

RAC envisions:

- *A full creative life for every St. Louisan*
- *St. Louis as a growing and captivating arts and culture destination*
- *A community rich with opportunities and resources that promote and sustain artists*

Guiding Principles

We invest in the region's arts and culture through our grants, programs, and special initiatives



We believe in diversity, racial equity, accessibility and inclusion



We build partnerships that strengthen our community



We are passionate champions that support and recognize artists



We believe every child deserves a well-rounded education that includes the arts

Core Values

Our core values embody our culture, spirit, and dedication to living our mission. They keep us grounded and help us make good decisions about everything we do.

We are:

Passionate champions for arts and culture

Accountable stewards of the public trust

Committed to practices that promote diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility

Socially and civically engaged community catalysts

Servant leaders

RAC's mission, vision, guiding principles, and core values are a balance between

- Our passion and interests
- The needs of our community

Our approach to grantmaking is rooted in our values. We strive for equity, transparency, and to be responsive to the needs voiced by the community we serve. Efficient processes and accountability have guided updates to our 2025 process, all noted in the guidelines.

The ASG restrictions have also been updated in 2025. We will review these in the upcoming slides.

You may have questions...

As questions come up throughout the workshop, please note your questions.

In the next slide we will review the recorded workshops and the 2025 office hours.

Please save questions for the Q&A at the end of this workshop or plan to attend office hours to get some answers!

RAC Workshops and Office Hours

Recorded Workshops

[Basic Grant Application Writing](#)- *All Applicants*

[Artist Statements](#)- *Individual Artists Grant Applicants*

[Building your Application Budget](#)- *All Applicants*

These workshops have been recorded and are available on the RAC website. Please note: the recorded workshops list 2024 dates so be sure to check the current timeline for due dates.

ARTIST SUPPORT GRANT OFFICE HOURS

- Tuesday, April 22, 2025 - Artist Support Office Hours, 3 - 5 PM
- Tuesday, April 29, 2025 - Artist Support Office Hours, 3 - 5 PM

First come first serve. Will not start until 3PM.



Artist Mee Jey

Artist Support Grant Overview

What is Artist Support?



Photograph courtesy of artist Myrina Renaissance

RAC's Artist Support Grant (ASG) serves as funding for the **career advancement of individual artists or artist collectives**.

This grant provides direct funds for an individual artist's or artists collective's **projects, needs, or creative opportunities in various artistic disciplines**.

Direct support enables artists to advance their careers and complete creative projects. It is designed to be **flexible and accessible** and to encourage creativity, innovation, entrepreneurship, and sustained commitment to artistic work.

Grant Funds

Grant funds may be designated for (but not limited to) equipment and materials, rental space, arts-related travel, conference fees, project completion, salaries, professional and artistic development, training, and other resources for an individual artist or artist collective.

Individual applicant's request: between \$1,000 - \$7,500.

Collective applicant's request: between \$1,000 - \$10,000.

Artist Support Eligibility

- ❖ The artist is 18 years or older
- ❖ The artist is a current resident of St. Louis City or County and has maintained primary residence in St. Louis City or County for at least one year (documentation required)
The address provided in the application must match the address on the required proof of residency document. This requirement allows RAC to confirm you are a resident of St. Louis City or County and ensures grantees will receive proper tax documentation. If the provided addresses do not match the application will be ineligible.
- ❖ In the past three years, the artist has created and presented their own original works to the public or performed for the public (documentation required in a CV or Resume, 2022-2025)
- ❖ **For the Artist Collective/Co-creator:** at least one of the artists has created and presented their own original works in the past three years AND the collective has created and presented for at least one year (documentation required in a CV or Resume, 2022-2025)
All requirements apply to individuals and artist collectives/co-creators



William, St. Louis Mural Project

Artist Support Grant Creative Disciplines

- Dance
- Design
- Folk and Traditional Arts
- Literary Arts
- Media Arts
- Music
- Musical Theatre
- Opera
- Presenting & Multidisciplinary Works
- Theatre Arts
- Visual Arts
- Social Practice
- Public Art

Updated Restrictions

RAC defines an individual artist as an individual regularly creating, practicing, performing, and presenting an artistic or cultural practice with the intention of communicating through self-expression, passing on of traditional knowledge, or offering the community cultural resources and experiences.

RAC understands artistic and cultural practices are defined broadly. RAC is unable to consider applications from individuals whose main connection to the arts is through arts administration or commercial merchants or vendors working in fields such as but not limited to: content creation; curation; baking and culinary arts; cosmetology and skincare products; interior design; landscape design; event planning and production; and wellness and fitness.

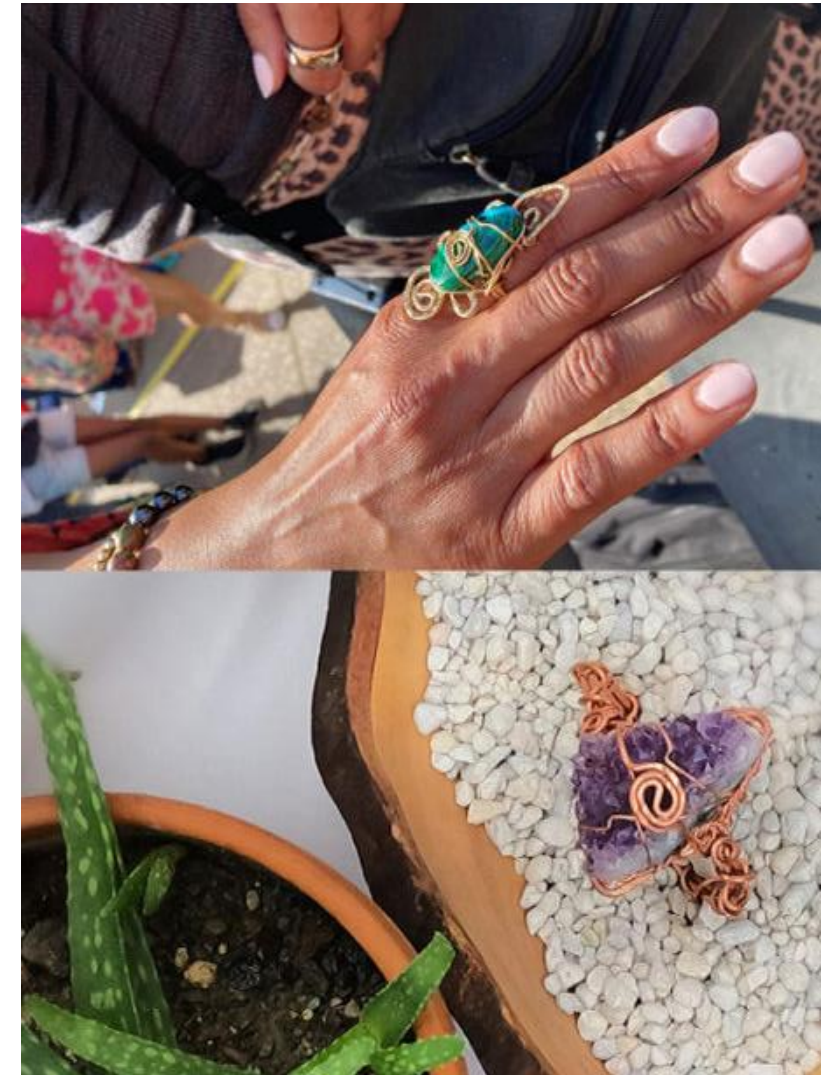
- *Content Creation is the process of producing and sharing media on specific topics/interests. Content Creators whose primary subject matter falls outside of RAC's supported artistic disciplines are not eligible for Artist Support. For example, creators who produce and share educational, lifestyle, tourism, or wellness content are not eligible.*
- *Curation is the presentation of other artists works including archiving, journalism, commission, criticism, or where the applicants work is not the primary content.*

Timeline & Cycles

Artist Support Grant 2025 Schedule

Application Questions Published	February 2025
Application Available	Monday, March 31
Workshop Dates – Completing the Artist Support Grant Application	Thursday, April 10, 4–5:30pm
Office Hours	Tuesday, April 8, 3–5pm
Office Hours	Tuesday, April 22, 3–5pm
Office Hours	Tuesday, April 29, 3–5pm
Application Deadline	Monday, May 12
Eligibility Review (Internal)	Monday, May 12 – Friday, May 23
Reviewers Receive Applications	Week of June 2
Reviewer Ratings Due***	Monday, July 7
Staff Finalizes Artist Support Ratings	Friday, July 18
Commission Vote on Awards	End of July
Grants Team Summer Break	August 2025
Award Announcements & Notifications	September 2025
Terms and Conditions Agreement Distributed and Signed	September 2025
Payment	September 2025
Final Report Available	October 2025
Grant Programming Timeframe	September 1, 2025 – August 31, 2026
Final Grant Report Due	Thursday, October 15, 2026

*** NOTE: Artist Support applicants may request Reviewer Ratings after the Award Announcements & Notifications



Artist Ras Tree (Aboriginal Bling Blam)

Artist Collectives/Co- Creators

Artist Collectives/Co-creator Groups

RAC will accept a single application on behalf of a group of two or more artists working as an artist collective or as co-creating artists.

An artist collective/ co-creator team consists of at least two consistent members who have a history of creating together. All members of the collective must meet the eligibility requirements.

One member of the collective will submit the application and serve as the application contact. The applying member will be responsible for signing the application, and if awarded, the Terms & Conditions Agreement.

Artists may apply for either an individual artist grant OR an artist collective/co-creator grant, NOT both.

Collectives may apply for up to \$10,000.



Rob Armbrister, St. Louis Mural Project

Accessing the Application

How to Access the Application: The New Portal

You must sign in using a Blackbaud ID. You may create a new Blackbaud ID account or login with an existing Blackbaud ID, if you already use a Blackbaud product, such as Raiser's Edge.

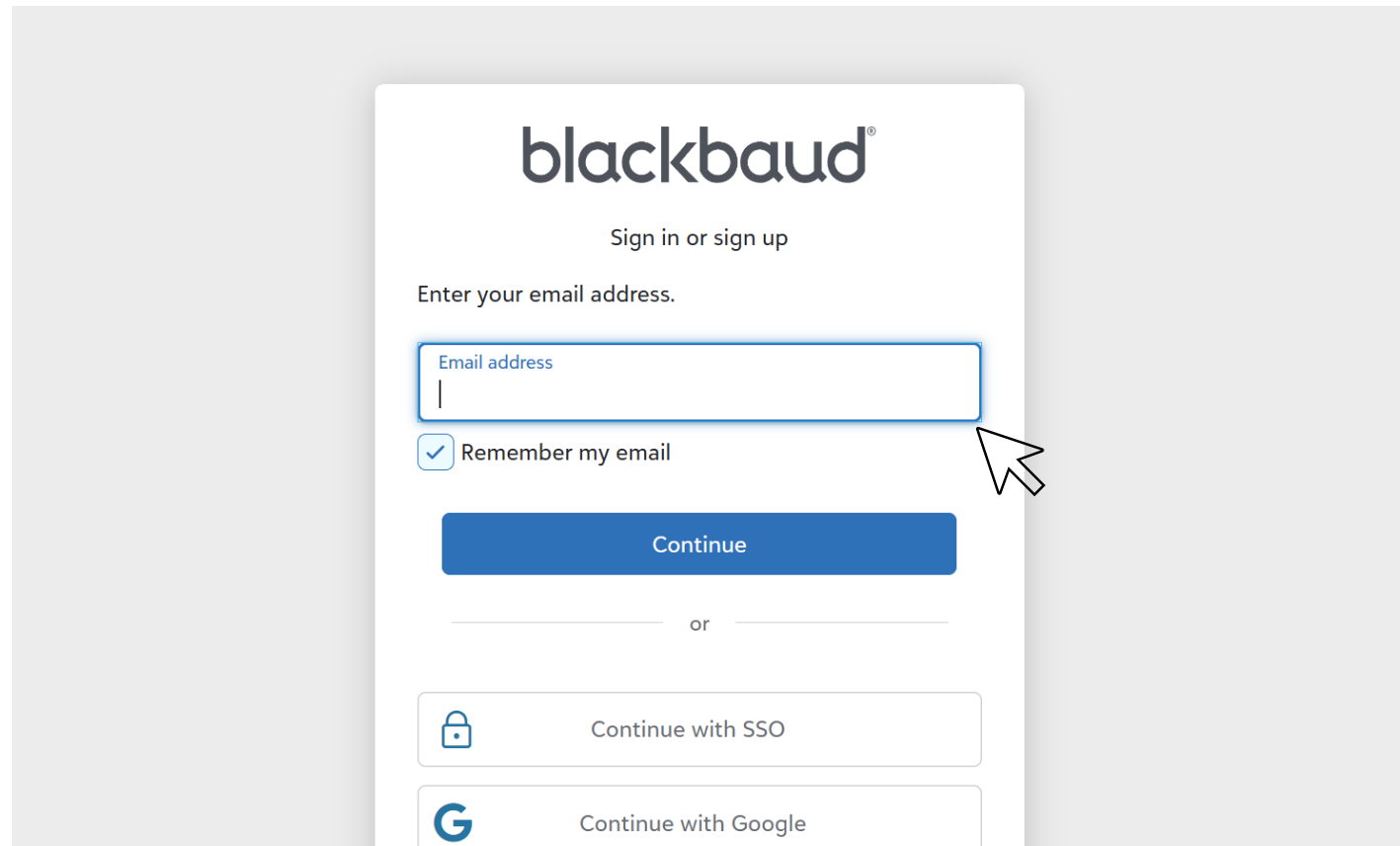
If you do not have a Blackbaud ID, you may create one from the grant application page (unique URL found on the RAC website) or from the login page of the new Grants Portal (<https://bbgmapply.yourcausegrants.com/apply/applications>).

Each grant application in the new Grants Portal will have a unique URL. For more information about grant opportunities at RAC and to access the current links for open grant applications, please visit the Grants page of the RAC website: <http://www.racstl.org/grants>.

To access an application that you have already started, log into the Grants Portal here: <https://bbgmapply.yourcausegrants.com/apply/applications>.

Who should I contact if I can't access my account in either the new Grants Portal or the Legacy (old) Portal?
For technical assistance with the Blackbaud Grantmaking system, please email Blackbaud Technical Support at MS_RACSTL_Grantmaking@blackbaud.com.

How to Access the Application



The image shows a login and sign-up form for Blackbaud. The form is centered on a light gray background. At the top, the Blackbaud logo is displayed in a dark gray font. Below the logo, the text "Sign in or sign up" is centered. Underneath, the instruction "Enter your email address." is followed by a text input field with a blue border and a blue cursor. To the right of the input field, a mouse cursor is pointing. Below the input field, there is a checkbox labeled "Remember my email" which is checked. A blue "Continue" button is positioned below the checkbox. Below the button, the word "or" is centered between two horizontal lines. At the bottom, there are two buttons: "Continue with SSO" with a lock icon and "Continue with Google" with the Google "G" logo.

blackbaud®

Sign in or sign up


Enter your email address.


Email address

☒ Remember my email


Continue

or

 Continue with SSO


 Continue with Google

How to Access the Application



Applications

Chloe Smith



View Guidelines

Artist Support – Eligibility Quiz

The Artist Support Grant serves as funding for the career advancement of Individual Artists and Artist Collectives/Co-Creator groups in St. Louis city and county. This grant provides funds for artist's projects, needs, or creative opportunities in all artistic disciplines. Direct support enables diverse artists of various disciplines to advance their careers and complete creative projects. It is designed to be flexible and accessible and to encourage creativity, innovation, entrepreneurship, and sustained commitment to artistic work.

Applicant Information

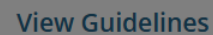
CS

Chloe Smith
chloe@racstl.org

ELIGIBILITY FORM QUESTIONS

Complete the required fields below.
Accepting applications until May 13, 2025 11:59 PM

Answer the questions in the eligibility quiz to access the application.



The Artist Support
county. This gran
various discipl

Congratulations! You have met the eligibility requirements to apply for an Artist Support Grant. You may now proceed with your application.

Cancel

Continue to application

Applicant Information



Chloe Smith
chloe@racstl.org

ELIGIBILITY FORM QUESTIONS


Complete the required fields below.

Aggosting applications until May 12, 2025 11:50 PM

Quiz

st Collectives/Co-Creator groups in St. Louis city and disciplines. Direct support enables diverse artists of flexible and accessible and to encourage creativity, artistic work.

How to Access the Application



View Guidelines

Application Forms


- Artist Support – Eligibility Quiz
- Submitted on Mar 26, 2025
- Artist Support – Application
- Draft on Mar 26, 2025

Saved

Artist Support – Application

The Artist Support Grant serves as funding for the career advancement of Individual Artists and Artist Collectives/Co-Creator groups in St. Louis city and county. This grant provides funds for artist's projects, needs, or creative opportunities in all artistic disciplines. Direct support enables diverse artists of various disciplines to advance their careers and complete creative projects. It is designed to be flexible and accessible and to encourage creativity, innovation, entrepreneurship, and sustained commitment to artistic work.

Applicant Information Manage applicants (1)



Chloe Smith
chloe@racstl.org

FORM QUESTIONS Download

Complete the required fields below.
Accepting applications until May 12, 2025 11:59 PM

Welcome

Artist Information

Request Information

Cultural and Artistic Essen...

Community Benefit

More

More questions about the portal?

Visit <https://racstl.org/grants-portal/> to read frequently asked questions about the new portal.

The best way to seek technical assistance or account management assistance within the portal is the Blackbaud Technical Team.

For technical assistance with the Blackbaud Grantmaking system, please email Blackbaud Technical Support at MS_RACSTL_Grantmaking@blackbaud.com.

Application Overview



Application Overview

General Information

Cultural and/or Artistic Essentials (3 questions)

- Artist Statement
- Proof of Residency

Community Benefit (3 questions)

Capacity & Sustainability (3 questions)

- Budget
- CV/Resume
- Work Samples

Note: nine total questions, five uploads, four narrative responses



Brock Seals, St. Louis Mural Project

Review Criteria

Review Criteria

Cultural and/or Artistic Essentials *(weighted at 40%)*

A culturally and artistically significant practice or work that contributes to the creative life of the artist and, ultimately, to St. Louis

Community Benefit *(weighted at 30%)*

Artist demonstrates broad community benefit with a practice or work that considers diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility

Capacity & Sustainability *(weighted at 30%)*

Artist is intentional about artistic/practice capacity



Cherokee Street Festival

Application Questions

Cultural and/or Artistic Essentials

QUESTION 1

Essentials: Provide an overview of what you are requesting grant funds for. Indicate if funds will be used for a personal need to support your artistic practice or a public project.

- Includes clear plans such as location, dates, frequency (as applicable) (the who, what, when, where, and why)
- Proposed work contributes to the artist's practice, skills, and craft
- Proposed work contributes to innovation and new thinking in the artform and wider culture
- Indicates how grant funds will be used

Cultural and/or Artistic Essentials

QUESTION 2

Artist Statement Samples Available
on the RAC website.

Artist Statement

Upload: You may choose to upload a 90 second video of your artist statement OR a one-page pdf.

- Artist statement demonstrates artistic significance and how the project is relevant to the artistic field and/or the arts & culture sector

Cultural and/or Artistic Essentials

QUESTION 3

Proof of Residency

Upload: Acceptable forms of proof of residency: voter registration, automobile registration, income tax or property tax receipt, utility bill, etc. (See guidelines for full list).

- The artist is a current resident of St. Louis City or County and has maintained primary residence in St. Louis City or County for at least one year.
- If the applicant is applying as a part of a collective or as a co-creative, each member of the collective/co-creative team is a current resident of St. Louis City or County and has maintained primary residence in St. Louis City or County for at least one year.
- The application address and proof of residency address must match.

Community Benefit

QUESTION 4

Project Benefit: Is your request for

A) Practice support

B) Personal project (public element)

C) Both

- The response is in alignment with the request outlined in this proposal.

Community Benefit

QUESTION 5

Audience and/or partnerships: Provide an overview of how your request will benefit the community through intended audience and/or partnerships.

- The intended audience is clearly defined.
- Artist considers and articulates documentation/dissemination of work (if applicable).
- Artist understands their request's potential for community benefit and has conveyed their intention/understanding clearly.

Community Benefit

QUESTION 6

DEIA: How do you and/or your practice/work contribute to the vibrancy, diversity, safety, and economic vitality of neighborhoods, communities or the entire St. Louis region?

- Creates and presents art that represents the telling of stories of diverse populations (if applicable)
- Provides equitable opportunities to create and participate (if applicable)
- Activities/artwork, and the locations where they are provided, are intentionally accessible to all people (if applicable)

Capacity and Sustainability

QUESTION 7

Budget

Upload: The budget to include budget narrative notes explaining expenses and revenues.

- A realistic and balanced budget and clear budget narrative
- Budget is appropriate for the scope of what artist proposes
- Budget indicates diverse revenue streams (if applicable)

Capacity and Sustainability

QUESTION 8

Resume or CV

Upload: Resume or CV related to your artistic career and accomplishments.

- Resume/CV is related to the individual's artistic career.
- Dates provided in Resume/CV, show the artist has created and presented their own original works to the public or performed for the public in the past three years (2022-2025).
- Resume/CV conveys a clear and ongoing commitment to artistic planning, goal setting, and promotions (where applicable).
- Resume/CV shows a connection to the artist's earlier work or represents an intentional shift from what the artist has done in the past as indicated by artist statement and CV or resume, if applicable.

Capacity and Sustainability

QUESTION 9

Work Samples

Upload: Limit three pages of work-samples, single PDF.

- Work samples indicate alignment with what is outlined in the application
- Work samples are relevant to the project for which the artist is applying(if applicable)
- Work samples are within the limits set by the application



Creating An Application Narrative



How to Put Together an Effective Narrative

The narrative component of your application defines your project's scope and purpose, and it explains how it will be executed.

Effective narratives are

- Succinct
- Organized
- Written in clear, direct language

What's in a Narrative?

An application narrative is the core of your application.

It typically covers:

- ❖ Purpose
- ❖ Significance or impact (why it is important)
- ❖ Program Description
- ❖ Timeline
- ❖ Projected Outcomes
- ❖ Budget / Budget Narrative



Prepare to Write

Think through all the details of your request

Clear details of items like:

- Specific audience
- Location(s) where your project will take place
- Potential challenges you may face

Begin by copying and pasting the application questions into a word document, this ensures you don't lose anything you've created in the grant's portal.



Artists perform at Central Stage

This will be your first draft!

Write fast and furiously, getting the details down.

No need to worry about word count at this point.

Use the wording from the application question and the review criteria.

Once you respond to all 9 of the application questions

- Go over what you've written: Are you happy with it?
- Do a word count
- Revise, edit, etc.

In your next draft...

Make sure you've responded to the question and the review criteria

Cut out "the fat"

Don't go overboard on abbreviations

Write for a general audience

Check to see that you've addressed WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, and WHY

- ❖ Who is implementing the project?
- ❖ What activities does the project consist of?
- ❖ When will the project take place? What are milestones in the project timeline?
- ❖ Where will the project take place?
- ❖ Why is the project relevant? Why are you the right person to do the project?

Consider how you will assess your project's success



Gonz, St. Louis Mural Project

Review!

Are you happy with your narrative?

Find a trusted colleague or friend to read what you've written

- Ask the reader what questions they may have about your project after reading what you've written. It may help you clarify what you need in your narrative.
- Incorporate revisions
- Spellcheck!

Required Uploads Checklist

- ❖ Artist Statement (PDF or Video Upload)
- ❖ Proof of Residency Documentation
- ❖ Budget Template
- ❖ Resume/CV
- ❖ Up to 3 Work Samples

You are ready to submit!

Ensure all elements of your application help tell the same story—from narrative sections through document uploads and budget.

Aim to submit at least one day prior to the deadline. RAC will not accept any late submissions.



Artist 18andCounting

FAQs

How many applications are received per year? THE NUMBERS:

YEAR	RECEIVED	ELIGIBLE	AWARDED	TOTAL REQUEST AMOUNT	TOTAL AWARD AMOUNT
2024	783	658	146	\$4,732,956	\$1,025,583
2023	280	252	181	\$1,700,346	\$1,177,515
2022	204	169	85	\$863,464	\$347,257

Q1: What is the total dollar amount available for Artist Support Grants in 2025?

A: \$1M is budgeted for ASG in 2025.

Q2: How many Artist Support Grants will be made in 2025?

A: We do not know how many artist support grants will be made this year. In 2024, RAC granted just over \$1M to 146 artists. ASG will be very competitive this year. Not all good applications will receive funding.

Q4: I do not have a specific project in mind, more that I need funds for maintenance and supplies to continue to create. Am I eligible to apply?

A: Yes, these grants are designed to be flexible and support an artist's project, opportunity, and/or need.

General Questions

**What is the final deadline
for Artist Support
Applications?**

Application Deadline
Monday, May 12
11:59PM



**When will we be notified
whether or not an
Artist Support Grant has
been approved?**

Award Announcements
September 2025



**I am applying for a specific
Artist Support program.
What if I incur costs before
the September 2025,
timeline?**

Costs incurred before the timeline are
not eligible for request. RAC will not
grant request for already expended
funds.

Timeline

Artist Collective

Is it possible to apply for an Artist Support Grant individually AND as part of a Collective?

No. An artist's name may only be tied to a single application. You may apply as an individual OR as a part of a collective not both.

Budget Template

Yes. The template is provided in PDF. If you have adobe, you can add and delete lines and categories as needed.

If you do not have adobe, you can recreate the template in Excel or Sheets. If you recreate the template keep the formatting as similar as possible. This will also have to be uploaded as a PDF.

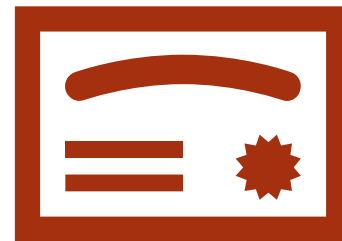
RAC Grants Team recommend using the PDF template.

Is it possible to
add or delete lines
and categories in the
budget template?



What is a CV?

A CV – or Curriculum Vitae – is an itemized list of a person's entire education, publications, accomplishments, notable projects, awards, honors, achievements, and professional experiences.



How many years back should a CV/resume go?

CV can go back as far as needed, but at least three years.

Other Artist Support Uploads

Examples

Yes! New this year, RAC has examples of work-samples and artist statements. Please check out the resource box on the website.

Are there examples of the upload requirements on the website?

Reporting Requirements

Awarded grantees will submit a final report answering questions regarding grant management including whether the project was completed as intended and funds were expended accordingly. In the final report, you will provide budget actuals in comparison to the budget proposed in the application. You are not required to upload receipts, but they can prove helpful for referencing when providing actual budget numbers.

Is it necessary to report how the grant funds have been used? Will I need to track my spending? Are grant funds restricted to funds in the budget?

Tuition Restriction

The restrictions state “no tuition reimbursement”. In the case an artist would like to take a class for artistic development, may the class be at a university and/or community college?

Courses for the purpose of an artist’s development are eligible for request IF the artist is non-degree seeking and the class is not for credit.

Contact Information

For any technical questions please email MS_RACSTL_Grantmaking@blackbaud.com.

WHO TO CONTACT WITH PROCESS QUESTIONS

Chloe Smith
Grants & Programs Manager
chloe@racstl.org

Ann Haubrich
Grants Director
ann@racstl.org

Thank You!



Q&A