



**REGIONAL ARTS
COMMISSION**
OF ST. LOUIS

2025 ARTIST SUPPORT GRANT GUIDELINES

**Single Cycle:
March 2025**

Application Deadline: Monday, May 12

www.racstl.org/artistsupport

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Timeline – Single Cycle

The Artist Support Grant cycle will run once in 2025, with the opportunity to apply for Artist Support in March 2025. There will not be a following Fall 2025 cycle. Please see the Artist Support Grant timeline (page 14).

If Awarded in 2024

Prior and active grants must be closed out with the submission of a final report before applying for another RAC grant opportunity. If you have questions about eligibility in 2025, please contact grants@racstl.org.

Updated Restrictions and Artistic Disciplines

Please review the updated ASG Grant Restrictions to ensure eligibility. Artistic disciplines have been defined in the Glossary. *Please refer to the 2025 RAC Grant Application Glossary for definitions of unfamiliar terms.*

Reducing Barriers to Eligibility

RAC now accepts applications from artists

- With LLCs
- Who are 18 years of age or older
- Who are undergraduate and graduate students
- Seeking to apply as part of a collective/co-creator group

Artist Collectives/Co-Creators

RAC welcomes artist collectives to apply. This allows artists working collectively (i.e., bands, ensembles, etc.) to apply as a group for artist support grant funding. An artist collective/ co-creator group consists of at least two consistent members who have a history of creating together. 501(c)3 organizations are NOT eligible to apply for an Artist Support Grant.

All members of the collective must meet the eligibility requirements.

Collectives are eligible to apply for up to \$10,000.

Grantmaking Process Stages

RAC follows a four-stage grantmaking process in the Blackbaud system. The entire process is online: **(1) Request; (2) Decision-making; (3) Grant Management;** and **(4) Analysis.** These stages are explained on the following page.

Submission Notification

Once an application is submitted through Blackbaud, an applicant will receive email notification regarding submission. If an applicant does not receive an email from noreply@yourcause.com, the application has not been submitted.

Grantmaking System Technical Assistance

For technical questions while working in the online system, please email MS_RACSTL_Grantmaking@blackbaud.com.

ARTIST SUPPORT GRANT

2025 GRANT GUIDELINES



APPLICATION DUE DATE:

Monday, May 12, 2025

GRANT ACTIVITY PERIOD:

September 1, 2025 - August 31, 2026

I. REQUEST

BACKGROUND

The Regional Arts Commission's (RAC) Artist Support Grant (ASG) provides funds for an individual artist to either enhance/support one's practice or for a specific project in a variety of 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.

IS ARTIST SUPPORT RIGHT FOR YOU?

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

Artist Collective/Co-Creators

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. 501(c)3 organizations are NOT eligible to apply for an Artist Support Grant.

All members of the collective must meet the eligibility requirements outlined below. 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 as an individual for an artist grant OR as an artist collective/co-creator, NOT both.

The maximum grant amount an artist collective/co-creator group can request/receive is \$10,000.

ARTIST SUPPORT GRANT RESTRICTIONS - WE DO NOT FUND

[Click here](#) to review the list of programs, projects, or events that RAC does not fund.

ARTIST SUPPORT GRANT ELIGIBILITY

An individual artist is eligible to apply for an Artist Support Grant if the following requirements are met:

- 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)

PLEASE NOTE: The address provided in the application must match the address on the required proof of residency document. Hotel Motel tax is the source of revenue for the Artist Support Grants so RAC must ensure applicants are residents of St. Louis City and/or St. Louis County.

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)

NOTE: Prior or active grants must be closed out with the submission of a final report, if you have an open grant, your application will not be eligible.

HOW MUCH CAN I APPLY FOR?

Individual Artists:

The maximum amount of funding an individual artist can apply for and receive is \$7,500.

Artists Collectives:

The maximum grant amount an artist collective/co-creator group can request/receive is \$10,000.

NOTE: All awards and grants to individual artists are taxable income.

WHAT ARE THE FUNDING CRITERIA?

Artist Support applicants will respond to nine application questions. Each application question has corresponding review criteria listed below.

1. 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.

The artist has provided (1) the essential information for their request, (2) an artist statement, and (3) proof of residency.

Question One:

- 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

Question Two:

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

Question Three:

- 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.

2. Community Benefit (weighted at 30%)

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

The artist has (4) indicated the proposal's intended community benefit, and (5) provides an overview of audience and/or partnerships and (6) DEIA efforts.

Question Four:

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

Question Five:

- 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.

Question Six:

- 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).

3. Artist Capacity (weighted at 30%)

Artist is intentional about artistic/practice capacity.

The artist has provided (7) a budget explaining their request (8) a Resume or CV related to their artistic work, and (9) work samples.

Question Seven:

- Has 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).

Question Eight:

- 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, goalsetting, 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.

Question Nine:

- 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.

ARTIST SUPPORT GRANT APPLICATION REQUIRED UPLOADS CHECKLIST (1-5)

(1) Proof of Residency Documentation

(i.e., voter registration card, utility bill (phone, water, gas, electric, trash, sewer, internet, and cable), W2, 1099 Form, income tax receipt, property/real estate tax receipt, insurance card (auto, renter's, homeowner's), automobile registration, housing documents (mortgage, mortgage statement, fully executed leasing agreement).

PLEASE NOTE: The address provided in the application must match the address on the required proof of residency document. Hotel Motel tax is the source of revenue for the Artist Support Grant and therefore RAC must ensure applicants are residents of St. Louis City and/or St. Louis County.

If the addresses provided do not match the application will be ineligible.

(2) Artist Statement (PDF or Video Upload)

(3) Balanced Budget Template ([Click here](#))

(4) Resume/CV

(5) Up to 3 pages of Work Samples

SUBMISSION NOTIFICATION

Once an application is submitted through Blackbaud, an applicant will receive email notification regarding submission. If an applicant does not receive an email from noreply@yourcause.com, the application has not been submitted.

II. DECISION-MAKING

APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS

Grant reviewers play a central role in RAC's annual grantmaking process. Reviewers commit to the following:

- Attend/view an online orientation meeting to learn how to review the applications according to the guidelines and review criteria.
- Read the assigned applications, including videos, photos, recordings, or other work samples and provide a final rating for each application by the communicated deadline.
- Provide feedback on the application review process for improvement purposes.

Note: Grant reviewers will independently read and rate all applications within the GMS portal. Staff will review the ratings and make recommendations for funding based on reviewer ratings.

Eligible reviewers are offered an honorarium of \$200 as a demonstration of RAC's acknowledgement of and appreciation for the time and effort invested in this work. **Reviewers who do not meet the deadline can receive an extension but do not receive the honorarium.**

RATING SYSTEM

Each application will be rated according to RAC's review criteria and the rating system, shown in the table below.

- There are three review sections that correspond to RAC review criteria: Cultural and/or Artistic Essentials, Community Benefit; and Artist Capacity.
- Each review section has three questions, for a total of nine questions in the application.
- Each review section is weighted and conveys the corresponding points possible for each

question. Application question responses can be rated exemplary, strong, good, fair, or weak and given a score within the provided point range.

- The maximum number of points available is 100.

The points assigned to each question in the application are used to determine funding. Points are combined to provide an overall application score. Reviewer scores for an application are then averaged for the final application score.

Final application scores are determined in whole numbers. Most applications will receive an average that is not a whole number. For example, if an application receives a 60.7 overall score. This means the application's final score is 60. The final score is determined by the whole number and not rounded up or down.

Applicants who receive a rating of 100 are considered model – meeting all review criteria in an exemplary fashion; a rating of 100 is rare and means an applicant is eligible to receive 100% of their request amount. Applicants who receive a rating of 60 are considered good, some development is necessary, and they are eligible to receive 100% funding. **Applications with a rating of 47 or lower** (fair or weak) are considered in need of improvement in multiple areas and are not eligible for funding.

Using the application rating key: Use your application overall score and find where it lies in the point range column (highlighted yellow). Use that column to find your applications overall rating, the rating definition, and the percentage of your ask for which you are eligible.

Application Rating Key			
Rating	Rating Definition	Point Range	Percent Eligible
Exemplary	Applicant provides overwhelming evidence of all three review criteria. Application is exemplary.	90-100	100% of ask
Strong	Applicant provides strong evidence of all three review criteria. Application is strong.	69-89	100% of ask
Good	Applicant provides sufficient evidence of all three review criteria. Application is good.	48-68	100% of ask
Fair	Applicant provides limited evidence of all three review criteria. Application needs work and is not eligible for funding.	20-47	Not Eligible
Weak	Applicant provides little to no evidence of all three review criteria. Application is weak and not eligible for funding.	0-19	Not Eligible

Please note: The available source of funding for RAC Artist Support Grants is not sufficient to meet applicant demand.

The final distribution of funding is dependent on several factors. These variables factor into the final funding matrix:

- The available funding
- The number of applications submitted
- The applicant score
- The number of applicants awarded funding

Given the above information, the percentage for funding for which your application is eligible may not be your grant award amount.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS AND RATING

Cultural and/or Artistic Essentials (40% weighting)

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

The artist has provided **(1)** the essential information for their request, **(2)** an artist statement, and **(3)** proof of residency.

Application Question		Review Criteria	Rating	Rating Definition	Point Range
		Artistic Essentials			
1	Essentials: Provide an overview of what you are requesting grant funds for.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	Exemplary	Applicant provides overwhelming evidence of Cultural and/or Artistic Essentials.	14-16 pts
			Strong	Applicant provides strong evidence of Cultural and/or Artistic Essentials.	11-13 pts
			Good	Applicant provides sufficient evidence of Cultural and/or Artistic Essentials.	8-10 pts
			Fair	Applicant provides limited evidence of Cultural and/or Artistic Essentials.	4-7 pts
			Weak	Applicant provides little to no evidence of Cultural and/or Artistic Essentials.	0-3 pts
2	Artist Statement: Upload You may choose to upload a 90 second video of your artist statement OR a one-page pdf.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Artist statement demonstrates artistic significance and how the project is relevant to the artistic field and/or the arts & culture sector. 	Exemplary	Applicant provides overwhelming evidence of Cultural and/or Artistic Essentials.	11-12 pts
			Strong	Applicant provides strong evidence of Cultural and/or Artistic Essentials.	8-10 pts
			Good	Applicant provides sufficient evidence of Cultural and/or Artistic Essentials.	5-7 pts
			Fair	Applicant provides limited evidence of Cultural and/or Artistic Essentials.	3-4 pts

			Weak	Applicant provides little to no evidence of Cultural and/or Artistic Essentials.	0-2 pts
3	<u>Proof of Residency:</u> Upload Acceptable forms of proof of residency: voter registration, automobile registration, or income tax or property tax receipt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	Exemplary	Applicant provides overwhelming evidence of Cultural and/or Artistic Essentials.	11-12 pts
			Strong	Applicant provides strong evidence of Cultural and/or Artistic Essentials.	8-10 pts
			Good	Applicant provides sufficient evidence of Cultural and/or Artistic Essentials.	5-7 pts
			Fair	Applicant provides limited evidence of Cultural and/or Artistic Essentials.	3-4 pts
			Weak	Applicant provides little to no evidence of Cultural and/or Artistic Essentials.	0-2 pts

Community Benefit (30% weighting)

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

The artist has **(1)** indicated the proposal's intended community benefit, and **(2)** provides an overview of audience and/or partnerships and **(3)** DEIA efforts.

Application Question		Review Criteria	Rating	Rating Definition	Point Range
		Community Benefit			
4	<u>Project Benefit:</u> <u>Is your request for...</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practice Support Personal Project Both 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The response is in alignment with the request outlined in this proposal. 	Exemplary	Applicant provides overwhelming evidence of community benefit.	9-10 pts
			Strong	Applicant provides strong evidence of community benefit.	7-8 pts
			Good	Applicant provides sufficient evidence of community benefit.	5-6 pts
			Fair	Applicant provides limited evidence of community benefit.	3-4 pts

			Weak	Applicant provides little to no evidence of community benefit.	0-2 pts
5	<u>Audience and/or Partnerships:</u> Provide an overview of how your request will benefit the community through intended audience and/or partnerships. (500-word limit)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	Exemplary	Applicant provides overwhelming evidence of community benefit.	9-10 pts
			Strong	Applicant provides strong evidence of community benefit.	7-8 pts
			Good	Applicant provides sufficient evidence of community benefit.	5-6 pts
			Fair	Applicant provides limited evidence of community benefit.	3-4 pts
			Weak	Applicant provides little to no evidence of community benefit.	0-2 pts
6	<u>DEIA:</u> 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?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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). 	Exemplary	Applicant provides overwhelming evidence of community benefit.	9-10 pts
			Strong	Applicant provides strong evidence of community benefit.	7-8 pts
			Good	Applicant provides sufficient evidence of community benefit.	5-6 pts
			Fair	Applicant provides limited evidence of community benefit.	3-4 pts
			Weak	Applicant provides little to no evidence of community benefit.	0-2 pts

Artist Capacity (30% weighting)

Artist is **intentional** about artistic/practice **capacity**.

The artist has provided **(1)** a budget explaining their request, **(2)** a Resume or CV related to their artistic work, and **(3)** work samples.

Application Question	Review Criteria	Rating	Rating Definition	Point Range
	Capacity & Sustainability			

7	Budget: Upload <p>The budget to include budget narrative notes explaining expenses and revenues.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has 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). 	Exemplary	Applicant provides overwhelming evidence of Capacity & Sustainability.	9-10 pts
			Strong	Applicant provides strong evidence of Capacity & Sustainability.	7-8 pts
			Good	Applicant provides sufficient evidence of Capacity & Sustainability.	5-6 pts
			Fair	Applicant provides limited evidence of Capacity & Sustainability.	3-4 pts
			Weak	Applicant provides little to no evidence of Capacity & Sustainability.	0-2 pts
8	Resume or CV: Upload <p>Resume or CV related to your artistic career and accomplishments.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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, goalsetting, 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. 	Exemplary:	Applicant provides overwhelming evidence of Capacity & Sustainability.	9-10 pts
			Strong	Applicant provides strong evidence of Capacity & Sustainability.	7-8 pts
			Good	Applicant provides sufficient evidence of Capacity & Sustainability.	5-6 pts
			Fair	Applicant provides limited evidence of Capacity & Sustainability.	3-4 pts
			Weak	Applicant provides little to no evidence of Capacity & Sustainability.	0-2 pts
9	Work Samples: Upload	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	Exemplary	Applicant provides overwhelming evidence of Capacity & Sustainability.	9-10 pts
			Strong	Applicant provides strong evidence of Capacity & Sustainability.	7-8 pts
			Good	Applicant provides sufficient evidence of Capacity & Sustainability.	5-6 pts

			Fair	Applicant provides limited evidence of Capacity & Sustainability.	3-4 pts
			Weak	Applicant provides little to no evidence of Capacity & Sustainability.	0-2 pts

NOTIFICATION

If awarded a grant, applicants will be notified both in the online grantmaking portal and via email.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS ACCEPTANCE

Once awarded, an artist will sign a terms and conditions agreement before receiving the grant award in full, via direct deposit. Direct deposit must be set up prior to the payment date. Grantees will have access to instructions on how to do this through the online grantmaking portal or in email communications.

III. GRANT MANAGEMENT

PAYMENT PROCESSING

Each Artist Support Grant recipient will be asked to sign an agreement before collecting the payment. Grant awards are disbursed in a single payment through automatic deposit to the grantee's designated bank account through the BILL (formerly Bill.com) platform.

After signing the agreement, grantees will receive payment via BILL (formerly Bill.com). Instructions will be emailed to grantees and are also available on the RAC website to help guide grantees through this process. Once the BILL account is created with the proper banking information, RAC will process the award payment.

The Artist Support Grant payment will be received in one disbursement equaling the total award amount.

IV. ANALYSIS

REPORTING

RAC will issue final report instructions and the report form through the online grantmaking portal.

Each grantee will be required to submit a final report at the end of the grant period. Should a grantee not complete the reporting requirement, they will be ineligible to apply for RAC grants in the future. Please Note: Any funds not expended for the purposes of the grant as applied for must be returned to RAC.

WHO TO CONTACT WITH QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS ABOUT GRANT APPLICATION OR REVIEW PROCESS

Ann Haubrich

Grants Director
ann@racstl.org

Chloe Smith
Grants & Public Art Manager
chloe@racstl.org

QUESTIONS ABOUT BLACKBAUD GRANTS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Leigh or Charlie
grants@racstl.org

TECHNICAL QUESTIONS ABOUT BLACKBAUD GRANTS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Blackbaud Technical Support
MS_RACSTL_Grantmaking@blackbaud.com

