



Arlington Arts Grants Program

Individual Artist Grant Guidelines

FY 2025

Arlington Commission for the Arts
Arlington Cultural Affairs Division, Arts Grants Office
3700 South Four Mile Run Drive
Arlington, VA 22206

Sraphael@arlingtonva.us

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FOREWORD

In June 2019, the Arlington County Board unanimously adopted [Enriching Lives: Arlington Arts and Culture Strategy](#), the culmination of a lengthy process that involved representatives of Arlington Arts organizations, the Arlington County Cultural Affairs Division, the Commission for the Arts, and several community civic, educational, and business leaders.

Enriching Lives sets forth a vision for arts and culture in Arlington, a set of key values, and five aspirational goals (with related strategies) that provide a guiding framework for a thriving artistic and cultural community that supports Arlington's sense of place and civic identity.

The plan's second goal, "Invest in a vibrant, equitable, sustainable and evolving arts and culture ecosystem," emphasizes the importance of a strong arts infrastructure, including "venues, organizations, programs, [and] funding, as well as the networks and relationships that underpin the sector." It notes the importance of supporting and celebrating "creative excellence among artists, arts organizations, businesses, community and education institutions, and County staff."

The Arlington Arts Grants Program is an important way that the County addresses its investment in our arts infrastructure. As you apply for support, consider the ways in which your work helps to further the vision and values of *Enriching Lives*.

Enriching Lives also aligns with the following goals set forth in the [Policy for the Support of Arts Organizations and Artists](#):

1. To create a climate within the County that is conducive to the growth and development of Arlington's artists and arts organizations through public and private support.
2. To foster the development of excellence and diversity in the arts, ensuring that a varied program of cultural activities is available to satisfy the interests of Arlington's citizens.
3. To guarantee to all Arlington artists and arts organizations an open and fair policy which assures equal access to County arts resources.
4. To encourage development of public/private partnerships in support of the arts.

Who's Who in the Arts Grant-Making Process

The [Arlington Commission for the Arts](#) (Commission) is a volunteer citizen's group appointed by the [Arlington County Board](#) (Board). The Commission advises the County on policy and program development, oversees the grants and public art programs, advocates for the arts in Arlington and acts as a liaison between the arts community and the County. In addition, the Commission is responsible for forwarding approved grant award recommendations to the Board for its consideration. The Grants Committee develops annual guidelines for Arlington Arts Grants Program and reviews grant applications and with an Advisory Panel, makes recommendations for grant awards to the Commission. Advisory Panel members are selected by the Commission to review all eligible grant applications. The Advisory Panel is comprised of arts and culture professionals with relevant experience in the field. All Commission meetings are open to the public.

The [Arlington Cultural Affairs Division](#) (CAD) operates within Arlington Economic Development (AED), which is a part of Arlington County government. Our mission is to create, support, and promote the arts, connecting artists and community to reflect the diversity of Arlington. We do this by: providing material support to artists and arts organizations in the form of grants, facilities and theater technology; integrating award-winning public art into our built environment; and presenting high quality performing, literary, visual and new media programs across Arlington. CAD's Grants Office administers the Arts Grants Program on behalf of the Commission. All communications with the Grants Office should be made through Sraphael@arlingtonva.us.

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I. INDIVIDUAL ARTIST GRANT PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The FY 2025 Individual Artist Grant is a competitive program that supports individual artists with grants in the amount of \$15,000 in direct financial support. A maximum of four grants will be awarded.

The program funds innovative, new projects that:

- ✓ Increase access to and engagement in the arts.
- ✓ Foster artistic excellence of arts in Arlington
- ✓ Have significant impact on the community and advance cultural equity in Arlington
- ✓ Result in distinctive, high quality and meaningful cultural experiences in Arlington

Please note that one of the Arts Commission’s priorities is to fund projects that have a strong dedication to equity and/or youth well-being; it is with that in mind that the review panelists will be looking for projects that meet that goal.

At least one public presentation or performance that is directly related to the funded project must take place in Arlington during the grant period. The presentation(s) may be artist talks, exhibitions, outreach activities, educational seminars, or other activities as deemed appropriate by the Commission.

The grant period for this award is July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

II. INDIVIDUAL ARTIST GRANT ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to receive a FY 2025 Individual Artist Grant, an applicant must:

1. Be a practicing artist who has:
 - a. publicly given, performed or exhibited works at least twice in the past three calendar years, or
 - b. has written or composed works read or performed at least twice in the past three calendar years;
2. Be a legal resident of Arlington County for at least one year prior to the application deadline;
3. Be seeking funds for a specific project that results in the provision of an artistic product or service that benefits the public; and,
4. Be at least 18 years of age.

An applicant may not:

1. Have received an arts grant for financial support from Arlington County within the prior two grant periods;
2. Have violated any requirements or conditions imposed by the Commission in any previous grant period;
3. Be employed by an organization applying for a FY 2025 GOS Grant or,
4. Apply for support of a project that is being done as part of a degree requirement for an educational program.

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III. INDIVIDUAL ARTIST GRANT EVALUATION

Applications for a FY 2025 Individual Artist Grant will be evaluated based upon answers to the following questions: Please note that one of the Arts Commission's priorities is to fund projects that have a strong dedication to equity; it is with that in mind that the review panelists will be looking for projects that meet that goal.

Artistic Excellence/Quality of the Proposed Project:

1. Tell us about your past work, include how this work will be placed within your discipline or medium.
2. What next steps in your artistic career would be made possible after completing this opportunity? How does it tie to your future artistic goals and trajectory?
3. Will this project continue the type of work you've completed in the past or will this project head in a different direction?
4. What next steps in your artistic career would be made possible after completing this opportunity? How does it tie to your future artistic goals and trajectory?
5. How will you assess your work and measure outcomes to determine success?

Service to the Community:

1. What is the benefit of this project to the Arlington Community (as a whole)?
2. How will you ensure an accessible and inclusive environment for participants of varying ages, races, cultural backgrounds, abilities, etc.? How will this project engage and impact those participants?

Managerial Competence:

1. What is the work plan/timeline for completing this project?
2. How will you use this grant to complete the project? Be specific on how funds will be used.
3. You will be required to fill out a budget template.

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IV. HOW TO APPLY FOR AN INDIVIDUAL ARTIST GRANT

Applicants must submit complete and accurate materials and meet all deadlines as specified in these Guidelines and Appendix C. Inaccurate applications may not be considered for an award. Late applications will not be accepted.

The application process is electronic. To complete this process, you will need access to a computer with the latest version of Adobe Reader software for the intent to apply, internet access for the [Slideroom](#) application portal, and the ability to send and receive emails. Direct any questions to the Grants Office at Sraphael@arlingtonva.us. All applications are public record. Keep a complete copy for your file.

Below are the steps that all applicants must take to apply for an Individual Artist Grant:

Step 1: Attend a Workshop

The Grants Office and the Grants Committee together offer Arts Grants Preparation Workshops that provide an overview of the FY 2025 Arts Grants Program and include step-by-step directions for completing the application. All artists applying for a grant are required to attend one workshop or schedule a call with the Grant Administrator.

Workshops for Grants will be held virtually via MS Teams and should last no more than one hour. Registration is required. Please be on time. Please register for one of the following dates and times:

1. [Wednesday, July 10, 2024 – 11:30 a.m.](#)
2. [Tuesday, July 16, 2024 – 7:00 p.m.](#)

Step 2: Apply for an Individual Artist Grant

Due: Thursday, August 15, 2024 by 11:59 P.M.

1. You will receive a link to the application after you submit your Intent to Apply Form.
2. Create an account on [Slideroom](#) following the directions provided on the website.
3. Complete and the grant application via [Slideroom](#) submit the grant application by Monday, July 29, 2024, by 11:59 p.m.
4. Late applications will not be accepted.

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V. GRANT REVIEW AND NOTIFICATION PROCESS

The following process will be used to review FY 2025 Individual Artist Grant Applications:

1. The Grants Office reviews all applications for accuracy and completeness and may make reasonable attempts to contact the applicant with questions.
1. Eligible and complete applications are competitively evaluated by the Grants Review Committee and an Advisory Panel at a public meeting to be held on Saturday, September 21, 2024, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Arlington Cultural Affairs, 3700 South Four Mile Run Drive. Applicants may attend to listen to the grant review discussion but may not participate in the discussion.
2. The Committee and Panel make recommendations for awards to the Commission.
3. The Commission considers the recommendations at the regular September 2024 Commission meeting and votes to forward its recommendations to the County Board. The meeting is open to the public.
4. The Grants Office sends an **Award Notification Letter** after the Commission Meeting to all applicants notifying them if the Commission is or is not recommending them to the Arlington County Board for a grant.
5. The Commission's final recommendations are forwarded to the County Board.
6. The County Board reviews the Commission's recommendations and makes its final award determination at its December 2024 County Board Meeting.
7. After the County Board makes its final award determinations applicants receive a **Letter of Agreement** and may be required to fill out additional forms.

VI. REQUIREMENTS OF AND CONDITIONS FOR GRANTEEES

Failure to comply with any of the following requirements and conditions may result in a grant being delayed and/or revoked and the applicant may be made ineligible for a future grant.

Acknowledgements

A grantee awarded County support must agree to include the following credit in season brochures, programs, web pages, and other appropriate printed and digital material: "This program is supported in part by Arlington County through Arlington Cultural Affairs, a division of Arlington Economic Development, and the Arlington Commission for the Arts."

A link to <https://arts.arlingtonva.us> must also be placed on the individual's website.

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Adherence to County Laws, Codes, Regulations, and Policies

All grantees must abide by applicable County laws, codes (e.g. zoning, health, safety, etc.), regulations, and policies. Approval by the Commission shall not be interpreted as approval by other County departments. The grantee is responsible for identifying all laws, codes, regulations, and policies applicable to its project or activity, and for assuring compliance with those requirements. Grantees must also comply with the following:

Title VI, Section 601, of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which states that no person shall be subject to discrimination or excluded from participation on the grounds of race, color or national origin, and;

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which states that no otherwise qualified person shall be subject to discrimination or excluded from participation solely by reason of the person's handicap.

Public Art

Applicants contemplating a public art project (i.e. a work of art located indoors or outdoors on publicly owned property that is visually or physically accessible to the public at least eight hours per day) must comply with [Public Art Program Guidelines](#), Part IV- Community-Initiated Projects.

For more information on the County's Public Art Policy, please click [here](#).

Public art projects on privately owned property must comply with the Arlington County Zoning Ordinance, particularly Section 13.2.3.2(a)-(e) entitled "Signs and Similar Devices to Which Ordinance Not Applicable/ Murals or Works of Art". Letter of permission and proof of ownership will be required for Public Art projects on private property.

See <http://buildingarlington.s3.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/ACZO.pdf>.

The zoning office is located on the 10th floor of Courthouse Plaza, located at:
2100 Clarendon Blvd.
Arlington, VA 22201

Lobbying

No part of any Arlington County Arts Grant may be used for any activity intended to influence a member of the County Board, a member of the Commission, Arlington Cultural Affairs Division staff, or a member of the Advisory Panel.

Record Keeping

Grantees are required to maintain accurate and complete financial records and provide the Commission and appropriate County staff access to those records.

VII. REPORTING PROCEDURES AND REQUIREMENTS

Failure to comply with any of the reporting procedures and requirements below may result in a grant being delayed and/or revoked and the applicant may be made ineligible for a future grant.

Changes

Any material changes to the scope of activities, timeline, or budget of a project for which a grant was awarded must be approved by the Commission prior to undertaking the changes. Contact the Grants Office at

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Sraphael@arlingtonva.us for assistance in this matter.

Final Report

The Commission requires that grantees submit a Final Report within 30 days of the end of the funded project or by July 31, 2024. Extensions must be requested by June 15, 2024.

Final Report forms will be emailed to you. Grantees who fail to submit a Final Report by the specified due date may not be eligible for future Arts Grants funding.

Dates of Project Presentation

Advanced notice is required for public presentations. Performance dates must be received at least 30 days prior to the public presentation. Email dates to Sraphael@arlingtonva.us.

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Appendix A. Responsibilities of Parties

Responsibilities of all parties involved in the FY 2025 Arts Grants process are summarized below. Please contact the Cultural Affairs Division (CAD) Grants Office for additional information at Sraphael@arlingtonva.us.

1. Responsibilities of the Arlington County Board:
 - 1.1. Considering the Commission's recommendations for grant awards
 - 1.2. Appropriating funds and County-owned or managed resources
2. Responsibilities of the Commission:
 - 2.1. Adopting FY 2025 Arts Grants Guidelines that govern the grant-making process
 - 2.2. Considering award recommendations from the Grants Committee and Advisory Panel
 - 2.3. Forwarding approved award recommendations to the Arlington County Board
 - 2.4. Considering appeals and making appeal determinations
3. Responsibilities of the Grants Committee:
 - 3.1. Developing the FY 2025 Arts Grants Guidelines
 - 3.2. Overseeing the development of the grant guidelines, grant application and evaluation process
 - 3.3. Objectively evaluating and scoring grant applications
 - 3.4. Recusing themselves from the evaluation of an application if there exists a conflict of interest
 - 3.5. Make award recommendations to the Commission.
4. Responsibilities of the CAD Grants Office:
 - 4.1. Managing and providing information about the grant-making process
 - 4.2. Conducting Arts Grants Preparation Workshops
 - 4.3. Reviewing application materials for timeliness, accuracy, completeness, and eligibility
 - 4.4. Facilitating the grant award process
 - 4.5. Responding to applicant and grantee questions via email within two (2) business days
5. Responsibilities of Applicants:
 - 5.1. Reading the FY 2025 Arlington Arts Grants Program Individual Artists Grant Guidelines and Appendices.
 - 5.2. Attending a required Arts Grants Preparation Workshop.
 - 5.3. Understanding all requirements of the grant application and award process. Not understanding the requirements of the application and awards process is not grounds for appeal.
 - 5.4. Meeting all deadlines in the application and awards process. If deadlines are missed, the application will not be considered for an award and/or the award may be revoked. See Appendix C. for more information.
 - 5.5. Providing accurate information on grant applications. Inaccurate or false information is grounds for immediate rejection of an application, revocation of an award, and loss of eligibility to apply for a grant in the future.
 - 5.6. Immediately notifying the Grants Office at Sraphael@arlingtonva.us of any changes to contact information. The Grants Office is not responsible for missed or lost communications sent to applicants and/or grantees if the applicant or grantee submitted incorrect information or failed to immediately update their contact information.

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Appendix B. Definitions

If there are any terms in these Guidelines or application forms that are not listed below or that need clarification, please contact the Cultural Affairs Grants Office at Sraphael@arlingtonva.us.

Applicant: An individual or organization that has filed an application with the Arlington Commission for the Arts for the FY 2025 grant period.

Application: An Arlington Arts Grants application from an eligible organization or individual artist in the form specified by these Guidelines.

Arts Grants: Grants for direct funding.

Authorizing Official: Name of person with authority to legally obligate the applicant.

Commission: The Arlington Commission for the Arts.

County: Arlington County, Virginia.

County Board: The Arlington County Board of Arlington County, Virginia.

County Support: Support from Arlington County in the form of direct funding, delivery of technical services and/or allocation of County-owned or managed facilities.

Cultural Equity: embodies the values, policies, and practices that ensure that all people— including but not limited to those who have been historically underrepresented based on race/ethnicity, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, socioeconomic status, geography, citizenship status, or religion.

Direct Costs, Other Expenses: Expenses directly related to the production of a program other than personnel, fringe benefits, and travel costs. May include contract fees.

Direct Costs, Travel Expenses: Travel expenses directly related to the production of a program, such as lodging, meals, per diem, and transportation costs. Costs must be estimated using the per diem and travel rates of the United States Federal Government's General Services Administration, which may be found at: <http://www.gsa.gov/portal/content/104877>.

Direct Expense: An expense directly related to a program other than salaries, wage, and fringe benefits.

Expenses: Amount of money or monetary value of in-kind donations needed to produce a program.

501(c)(3): The section of the U.S. tax code that defines nonprofit, charitable (as broadly defined), tax exempt organizations.

Fiscal Year: The 12-month period used for calculating the organization's annual financial statements.

Fringe Benefits: Tax-exempt benefits given on behalf of an organization that supplements an employee's salary or wages, such as health insurance, retirement or pension plans, and paid vacations.

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General Operating Expenses: An expense incurred in carrying out your organization's day-to-day business operations. EXAMPLES: Payroll, travel, rental, insurance office supplies etc.

Grant: County support to an applicant in the form of funding for program expenses or in-kind grants of facilities, and/or technical services for rehearsals, production preparation, and/or performances.

Grant Period: The FY 2025 grant period corresponds to the fiscal year of Arlington County, VA beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025.

Grantee: An applicant who has received a grant.

Guidelines: Procedural details for the Arts Grants Program created to fulfill the objectives of The Arlington County Policy for the Support of Arts Organizations and Artists.

Income: Amount of money or monetary value of in-kind donations that fund the production of a program.

Insurance: Payments for general liability, directors, officers, and other organizational insurance policies. Does not include medical insurance paid as an employee benefit.

Marketing/Advertising: All expenses for marketing, publicity, or promotion such as media, brochures, flyers, posters, etc. Does not include payments to contracted individuals or marketing firms.

Mission Statement: Two sentences describing what the organization does, not how it fulfills its mission or why.

Other Income: Income other than that specified in the grant application. May include grants and cash.

Penalty: Point deduction for late documentation or for failure to place proper acknowledgment of support from Arlington County.

Personnel, Administrative: Payments for salaries, wages, fees, and benefits for administrative employees, including administrative staff, program directors, managing directors, business managers, clerical staff, and administrative support personnel.

Personnel, Artistic: Payments for salaries, wages, fees, and benefits for artistic employees, including artistic directors, conductors, curators, composers, choreographers, and other artists.

Personnel, Technical/Production: Payments for salaries, wages, fees, and benefits for technical/production employees, including technical directors, wardrobe, lighting, sound designers, crew, stagehands, video and film technicians, exhibition curators, and installers.

Policy, or Policy for Support: The Arlington County Policy for the Support of Arts Organizations and Artists, as approved by the County Board, December 8, 1990.

Program: Artistic work, activity, or other qualified program under the Guidelines for which an applicant requests County support in the form of funding.

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Program Expenses: Expenses or costs related to the production of a program.

Program Income: Income made in-kind or given as cash for a program to pay for production costs.

Salaries and Wages: Money paid to administrative and artistic staff of an organization.

Total Program Income: Total income from all sources.

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Appendix C. FY 2025 Arlington Arts Grant Schedule

KEY STEPS	Dates
Applicant Attend a Workshop	
Workshop dates	Wednesday, July 10, 2024 – 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, July 16, 2024 – 7:00 p.m.
Grant Application Process	
Application Opens	To coincide with workshop attendance
Submit Grant Application via Slideroom (due date)	Thursday, August 15, 2024
Grant Applications review “Grants Day”	Saturday, September 21, 2024
Commission Meeting to review grant committee recommendations	No special meeting - regular meeting Wednesday 9/25/24
Grantees receive Notification Letter	No later than Monday, 9/30/24
Awards Process	
Board Report Submitted	November for December Board Meeting
County Board considers grant recommendations	December 2024 Board Meeting
Letters of Agreement sent	TBD depending on board meeting date.
Grant paperwork processed/Payments	TBD January 2025

Dates are subject to change