

Art Works 2026

Montana Arts Council

About the Montana Arts Council

The Montana Arts Council is the agency of state government established to develop the creative potential of all Montanans, advance education, spur economic vibrancy, and revitalize communities through involvement in the arts. The Montana Arts Council is governed by 15 individuals appointed by the Governor. It is funded by the state and federal government.

Program Description

Art Works is the Montana Arts Council's professional development program for artists. From musicians to beadworkers, Art Works is designed to help creative professionals across artistic disciplines develop the necessary entrepreneurial skills to sustain their practice. Utilizing both virtual and in-person sessions, the program provides accurate and up-to-date information that is tailored to the needs of participants. More importantly, each cohort in the Art Works program is a group of collaborators, workshopping key elements like artist statements, presentations, and goalsetting.

In 2026, Art Works will take place from late March through May. In that timeframe, four in-person sessions will focus on intensive workshopping, guest speakers, and site visits. In between those sessions, four Zoom meetings will focus on class content and prep work. Throughout the course, participants will be completing readings and homework on their own. The specific dates and locations for in-person sessions will be determined by the preferences and needs of participants. Knowing that travel can be a logistical and financial strain, affordability and distance will be strongly considered in site selection.

Application Deadline

Applications are due on January 5, 2026 by 11:59 PM. Applications must be submitted electronically via the online grant system.

Selection Criteria for Participants

The following criteria will be used to select participants for Art Works:

- **Professionalism.** Through narrative responses, work samples, and supplemental materials, the applicant demonstrates a professional approach to artmaking.
- **Impact.** The benefit of the program to the applicant's artistic career is clearly demonstrated.
- **Readiness.** The applicant is prepared for the intellectual, logistical, and social requirements of the program.

Review Process

Submissions are first reviewed by staff to confirm eligibility and completeness. A panel will review the applications according to the criteria listed above.

Course Fee

A fee of \$500 is required to take this course. Scholarships are not available, but flexible payment options are available upon request.

Eligible Applicants

- Montana residents with at least 12 months of residency prior to program start date
- At least 18 years of age
- Legal U.S. residents

Ineligible Applicants

- High school students and degree-seeking college students (graduate or undergraduate) as well as non-degree seeking students receiving college credit for the activity
- Montana Arts Council staff or members of its governing body, or anyone connected to them by one degree of relationship
- Individuals with delinquent Montana Arts Council grant reports

Contacts and Accessibility

For questions or concerns about the application process or technical assistance, or to request a large-print or alternate format guidelines, contact Brian Moody at brian.moody2@mt.gov or 406-444-4700.

Brief Artist Bio*

In one paragraph, describe yourself and your artistic practice. Include key information about training and professional milestones like awards, shows, and performances.

Character Limit: 1000

What is your primary art form?*

Which of these categories best describes the primary artform you practice?

Choices

Visual Art

Literary Art

Folk or Traditional Art

Performance or Movement-Based Art

Multidisciplinary Art

Elements of Professional Presentation*

Which of the following elements of a professional artistic career do you currently have? These elements are not required for participation, but help establish a baseline for development.

Choices

Artist Bio
Artist Statement
Resume
CV
Artist Website
Artist Social Media

Career Stage*

Which of the following options best describes where you are in your career trajectory?

Choices

Emerging Artist
Early Career
Established Professional
Late Career

Why Now?*

Why is now the right time in your artistic career to take an intensive professional development course?

Character Limit: 1000

Income from Art*

Approximately what percentage of your current income comes from art?

Choices

10% or Less
10 - 25%
25 - 50%
50 - 75%
75% or more

In-Person Session Locations*

The program will consist of four intensive in-person sessions and four virtual sessions. Participant preferences will be considered when determining in-person sites. Please select your four preferred locations.

Choices

Billings
Bozeman
Butte
Crow Agency
Dillon
Eureka
Glasgow

Glendive
Great Falls
Hamilton
Havre
Helena
Kalispell
Lame Deer
Lewistown
Lincoln
Livingston
Miles City
Missoula
Polson

Readiness*

Briefly describe your readiness to complete this course. If you foresee challenges that will impact you, describe those as well.

This program will require a considerable investment of time and travel. Participants will be asked to do readings and self-guided work in preparation for sessions. The in-person sessions will primarily focus on workshopping key elements of entrepreneurial development. The exact schedule and locations will be determined once participants are selected, but will be 8 weeks spread across March through May.

Character Limit: 500

Professional Development Goals*

In one paragraph, describe your professional development goals. This could include specific entrepreneurial skills you need to develop or artistic goals you hope to achieve.

Character Limit: 1000

Course Fee Acknowledgement*

Once enrolled in the program, participants are required to submit the \$500 course fee. While no scholarships are currently available, the Montana Arts Council can accommodate flexible payment options. Contact brian.moody2@mt.gov to learn more about these options.

Choices

Yes, I am aware that a fee of \$500 is required to enroll in the program.

Supplemental Materials

Applicants are required to submit 2 work samples. Work samples are photos, videos, or audio clips that demonstrate your art. For assistance compressing large file sizes or combining images, email brian.moody2@mt.gov.

If your work sample file sizes are too large for the upload boxes, you can use the URL boxes to link to online media.

Work Sample 1

Provide information about the work sample below. Include applicable information about materials, artwork size, venues, and performance or completion date.

Character Limit: 100 / File Size Limit: 30 MB

Work Sample 2

Provide information about the work sample below. Include applicable information about materials, artwork size, venues, and performance or completion date.

Character Limit: 250 / File Size Limit: 30 MB

Work Sample URL 1

If you need to link online media rather than uploading it, please use the box below.

Character Limit: 2000

Work Sample URL 2

If you need to link online media rather than uploading it, please use the box below.

Character Limit: 2000

Add Montana Arts Council to Email Contacts*

The Montana Arts Council sends grant notifications to applicants via the online grant system. Some email providers will classify these messages as "SPAM". Please add "administrator@grantinterface.com" to your contact list or safe sender list to ensure you don't miss important emails about your application status.

Choices

I have added administrator@grantinterface.com to my email contacts.

Signature*

Please type your name in the box below.

Character Limit: 50

Date*

Character Limit: 10

Signature Verification*

By clicking "I agree" below and typing my name in the box above, I am authorized to make the application on behalf of this individual and the information provided is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Choices

I agree