

FY2026 Strategic Investment Grants

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

Strategic Investment Grants (SIG) provide up to \$1000 for expenses related to opportunities for professional development, market expansion, and art events. SIG enables artists and teachers to advance their professional careers and supports nonprofit organizations in the advancement of arts-related programs.

SIG supports a wide variety of arts-related activities and opportunities:

- Attendance at workshops, trainings, residencies, or conferences
- Exhibiting at trade shows, gallery showings conferences, festivals, or other art events
- Public outreach and marketing for events or publications
- Expansion of online presence or entry into new online marketplaces
- Performances, public art installations, demonstrations, or exhibitions
- Investments in technology or tools that represent a clear step forward professionally

Application Deadline

Applications are due on the 15th of each month by 11:59 p.m. If the 15th falls on a weekend or holiday, the deadline will be the next business day. Applications must be submitted electronically via the online grant system. Applications submitted by the deadline will be reviewed the following month.

For more information about the review process or for assistance with the application, email brian.moody2@mt.gov.

Review Criteria for Artists

The following criteria will be used to evaluate applications for individual artists or groups of artists:

- **Artistic Career.** The application should clearly demonstrate qualifications, background, and experience of applicant. Examples of evidence include current resume or bio, artist website and social media links, and images or samples of artwork.
- **Clear description of proposed activity.** The project or activity start date and end date are accurate and feasible, narrative responses are direct and descriptive, included links and uploaded materials support the activity.
- **Impact.** Activity directly connects to the artistic practice of the applicant and the benefit to the artist or community is demonstrated.
- **Public Value.** The activity includes, or will lead to, a public activity. Examples include an artist talk, workshop, performance, reading, class, or video. Priority will be given to activities with demonstrated public value.

Review Criteria for Organizations

The following criteria will be used to evaluate applications for organizations:

- **Organizational capacity.** The organization is arts focused or offers arts programming and is well situated to carry out the activity. Examples of evidence for organizational capacity include organizational history, applicable staff or contractor resumes, websites, and social media links.
- **Clear description of proposed activity.** The project start date and end date are accurate and feasible, narrative responses are direct and descriptive, included links or uploaded materials support the activity. Connection to the arts is demonstrated.
- **Impact.** The activity connects to the mission of the organization and will benefit the community served.
- **Public Value.** The activity includes, or will lead to, a public activity. Examples include an artist talk, workshop, performance, reading, class, or video. Priority will be given to activities with demonstrated public value.

Review Process

Submissions are first reviewed by staff. Staff confirms applicant eligibility and completeness of applications before sending them to the grant panel for review. *Ineligible or incomplete applications will not be reviewed by the grant panel.*

The grant panel--consisting of members of the Montana Arts Council governing board--reviews applications according to the criteria listed above. Review meetings take place the second Wednesday of each month. Applicants are welcome to attend these virtual meetings. If interested in attending, contact brian.moody2@mt.gov for details.

Award Amounts

The maximum award for Strategic Investment Grants is \$1000. Grant payments are made as a reimbursement of documented expenses. Grantees are eligible for a maximum of \$1000 of funding per fiscal year. MAC's fiscal year begins on July 1.

Eligible applicants:

- Montana residents with at least 12 months of occupancy prior to activity start date
- At least 18 years of age
- Legal U.S. residents
- Montana-based 501(c)3 non-profit organizations, in existence for at least 12 months, with arts programming (Note: the use of fiscal sponsors is not allowed)
- For details about eligibility, email brian.moody2@mt.gov

Ineligible applicants:

- High School students and degree-seeking college students (graduate or undergraduate) and non-degree seeking students receiving college credit for the proposed activity
- Currently enrolled participants in the Montana Artrepreneur Program (MAP)
- Montana Arts Council staff or members of its governing body, or anyone connected to them by one degree of relationship
- Individuals and organizations with delinquent MAC final reports
- Current Public Value Partnership (PVP) and Statewide Service Organization (SSO) grantee organizations
- Applicants that have already received \$1000 of funding from SIG during the same fiscal year. MAC fiscal years begin July 1

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.

Project Name*

Choose a descriptive name for the project that will help reviewers quickly identify the proposal.

Character Limit: 100

Application Type: Artist or Organization*

Both individual artists--or groups of artists--and Montana 501(c)(3) organizations are eligible to apply for Strategic Investment Grants. Artists and organizations will be directed to separate applications and will be evaluated according to different criteria.

Are you applying as a 501(c)(3) or as an individual artist/group of artists? Select one.

Choices

Individual artist or group of artists

501(c)(3) organization. Either an arts organization or organization with demonstrated arts programs.

Artist Application

Eligible Activities + Expenses

The SIG program supports artists by enabling them to take advantage of opportunities to enhance their artistic careers. Example expenses the grant will reimburse include:

- Travel or entry fees associated with the opportunity
- Preparation, freight, and shipping costs for materials or works
- Materials or supplies for workshops, trainings, or residencies
- Expenses associated with an exceptional learning environment, such as residency or intensive study with a recognized master or mentor
- Professional fees and services for marketing, outreach, event production, or documenting an event
- Fees for equipment, instruments or facility that are integral to the opportunity

If you have questions about whether your proposed activity is eligible, please email brian.moody2@mt.gov

Ineligible Activities + Expenses

The SIG program does NOT fund the following:

- Applicant labor or time
- Costs for materials, supplies or publishing associated with the normal production of your art form such as framing, paint, clay, or CD's
- A repeat of a previously funded activity. Previously funded grantees must demonstrate that proposed activity is substantively different and represents a clear step forward professionally
- Activities based in the schoolroom. Refer to the Artists in Schools and Communities (AISC) grant for school-based activities
- Expenses incurred before the project start date
- Activities that occur before the review date
- Activities that feature primarily student artists. Refer to the Artists in Schools and Communities (AISC) grant for school-based activities
- Activities that takes place outside of the United States
- Research
- Fundraisers
- Meals
- General ongoing business expenses such as business cards or office supplies
- Ongoing personal or household expenses

- Costs that are not directly accountable to the activity, including administration, personnel and security costs not directly associated with the activity

Eligibility Requirements*

Eligible applicants:

- Resident of Montana for at least 12 months prior to activity start date
- At least 18 years of age
- Legal U.S. resident
- Professional artist
- Pre-K through 12 teacher

Ineligible applicants:

- High School students and degree-seeking collect students (graduate or undergraduate) and non-degree seeking students receiving college credit for the proposed activity
- Currently enrolled participants in the Montana Artrepreneur Program (MAP)
- Montana Arts Council staff or members of its governing body, or anyone connected to them by one degree of relationship
- Individuals with delinquent final reports for other MAC grants
- Individuals that have received \$1000 of Strategic Investment Grant funding in the same fiscal year

Choices

I am eligible to apply. I can demonstrate Montana residency and U.S. residency if asked.

Request Amount*

Maximum request: \$1000

Character Limit: 20

Activity Start Date*

The activity start date is the date expenses related to the activity will begin. The start date of the activity needs to occur after the review date of the application. Expenses incurred before the review date are ineligible for reimbursement.

Grant proposals are reviewed the second Wednesday of each month. To view a list of monthly deadlines and specific review date, click [HERE](#).

For questions about the activity start date, contact Brian Moody brian.moody2@mt.gov or 406-444-4700.

Character Limit: 10

Activity End Date*

To be considered for funding, the activity has to end after June 30, 2025 (Fiscal Year 2026).

Character Limit: 10

Description of Activity*

- Describe the proposed activity.
- Describe your artistic practice and how the proposed activity connects to your artistic practice.
- Be as specific as possible about the details of the request, i.e. dates, locations, names of institutions or artists involved, etc.

Character Limit: 1500

Outcomes*

- Describe the intended outcomes of this activity.
- Explain how this activity is of benefit to your artistic career, artistic practice, or community.

Funding priority will be given to activities with demonstrated value to the public. This might include publicly accessible artist talks, workshops, classes, videos, or articles.

Character Limit: 1500

Organization Application

Eligible Activities + Expenses

The SIG program supports organizations by enabling them to take advantage of opportunities to enhance their mission or better serve their communities. Example expenses the grant will reimburse include:

- Travel or entry fees associated with professional development for staff including workshops, conferences, or trainings
- Preparation, freight and shipping costs for materials
- Materials to complete work scheduled for public art, gallery exhibition, performance or publication
- Professional fees and services for marketing, outreach, event production, or documenting an event
- Fees for equipment, instruments or facility that are integral to the opportunity

If you have questions about whether your proposed activity is eligible, please email brian.moody2@mt.gov.

Ineligible Activities + Expenses

The SIG program does NOT fund the following:

- General operating or personnel expenses
- Activities based in the schoolroom
- A repeat of a previously funded activity. Previously funded grantees must demonstrate that proposed activity is substantively different and represents a clear step forward professionally
- Expenses incurred before the project start date
- Activities that occur before the review date
- Activities that feature primarily student artists
- Activities that take place outside of the United States
- A repeat of a previously funded activity
- Research
- Fundraisers
- Meals
- General ongoing business expenses such as business cards or office supplies
- Ongoing personal or household expenses
- Indirect costs are costs that are not directly accountable to a cost object, including administration, personnel and security costs not directly associated with the activity

Choices

I represent a Montana 501(c)3 organization, operating for 12 months, with arts programming.

I am applying with a fiscal sponsor organization and have submitted required documentation.

Eligibility Requirements*

Eligible Organizations:

- Montana-based 501(c)(3) arts organizations or organizations with demonstrated arts programming are eligible to apply. An organization needs to be operating for 12 months in Montana and in good standing with the Montana Secretary of State to be eligible.

Ineligible Organizations:

- Institutions of higher education.
- Recipients of MAC operating support grants including Public Value Partnerships (PVP) and Statewide Service Organization (SSO) grants.
- Organizations with delinquent final reports for other MAC grants.

If you are uncertain of your organization's eligibility, please contact brian.moody2@mt.gov.

Choices

I represent a 501(c)(3) organization, operating in Montana, with demonstrated arts programming.

Proof of 501(c)(3) Status

Please upload your proof of 501 (c)(3) status letter here. If MAC already has your determination letter on file, skip this question.

File Size Limit: 4 MB

Request Amount*

Maximum request: \$1000

Character Limit: 20

Activity Start Date*

The activity start date is the date expenses related to the requested funds will begin. The start date of the activity needs to occur after the review date of the application. Expenses incurred before the review date are ineligible for reimbursement.

Grant proposals are reviewed the second Wednesday of each month. To view a list of monthly deadlines and specific review date, click [HERE](#).

For questions about the activity start date, contact Brian Moody brian.moody2@mt.gov or 406-444-4700.

Character Limit: 10

Activity End Date*

Character Limit: 10

Description of Activity*

- Describe the proposed activity.
- Describe how the proposed activity connects to the mission of the organization and the objectives of the arts programming.
- Be as specific as possible about the details of the request, including dates, locations, names of institutions/artists involved, etc.

Character Limit: 1500

Outcomes*

- Describe the intended outcomes of this activity.
- Explain how this activity is of benefit to the community.

***Funding priority will be given to activities with demonstrated value to the public. This might include publicly accessible artist talks, workshops, classes, videos, or articles. ***

Character Limit: 1500

Financial Information

Use of Funds*

Describe the expenses that the grant funds will cover. In the final reporting process, grantee will provide receipts and/or invoices to document these expenses. Please refer to the "Ineligible Activities + Expenses" section above. Only expenses incurred after the review date of the application are eligible for reimbursement. To view a list of monthly deadlines and their corresponding review dates, click [HERE](#).

Character Limit: 1500

Activity Expenses

In the table below, list the expenses related to the proposed activity. Only expenses occurring after your application is reviewed will be eligible for reimbursement--retroactive expenses are ineligible. FY2026 Deadlines and Review Dates are available [HERE](#).

Expense Category	Expense Description	Expense Amount

Activity Funding Sources

In the table below, list the funding sources that will cover the activity expenses. To be considered complete, activity expenses and funding sources need to match.

Funding Source Category	Funding Amount

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Supporting Materials

Supporting Materials

Applicants are strongly encouraged to provide documents, images, and web links that support the application. Reviewers of the application will look to these materials for evidence that backs up the proposal. For technical assistance with the section below, please contact brian.moody2@mt.gov.

Resume, Bio, or CV of Applicant

A resume or bio should be current and demonstrate the qualifications, background, and experience of the applicant. If applying as an organization this may not be applicable.

Examples of effective arts resumes can be found by clicking **HERE**.

File Size Limit: 4 MB

Resume, Bio, or CV of Consultant, Mentor, Teaching Artist, or Partner Artist

File Size Limit: 4 MB

Work Samples

Images, promotional materials, flyers, or other documents.

File Size Limit: 6 MB

File Size Limit: 6 MB

File Size Limit: 6 MB

Work Sample Link

Place a link to materials hosted online here.

Character Limit: 2000

Letter(s) of Support

Multiple letters of support can be combined into one document. For assistance on combining letters, email brian.moody2@mt.gov

File Size Limit: 6 MB

Organizational History

An organizational history should include the organization's mission and details about its founding and its operation.

File Size Limit: 4 MB

Applicant Website

Character Limit: 2000

Website for Partner Artist, Instructor, Mentor, Etc.

Website for collaborators or partners for the activity, or workshop leaders, or trainers.

Character Limit: 2000

Website for Venue, Activity Location, Conference, Workshop, Etc.

Character Limit: 2000

Additional Web Site

Character Limit: 2000

Social Media

Character Limit: 2000

Social Media

Character Limit: 2000

Assurances and Signature

Sign Up for MAC Publications & News

MAC is proud to produce the State of the Arts, a free quarterly newspaper. To sign up for a paper or electronic subscription, and to view archived digital issues, go to <https://art.mt.gov/soa>

To receive periodic email updates about the arts in Montana or upcoming funding opportunities through MAC go to <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MTARTS/subscriber/new>

Add Montana Arts Council to Email Contacts*

The Montana Arts Council send grant notifications to applications via this 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 grant's status.

Choices

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

Payment Process and Reporting*

All funded projects, upon completion, must submit a project evaluation, financial report and/or a final report.

- Payments are made as an expense reimbursement and are issued after MAC receives the final

report together with all receipts associated with the grant project.

- Normal MAC turnaround for reimbursement checks is approximately 30 days.

Choices

I have read and understand the payment information.

Promotional Credit*

If you receive a Strategic Investment Grant, the Montana Arts Council must be listed as a funding agent in all public announcements, news releases, publications, or information concerning the funded activity. Logos are available from our website: <https://art.mt.gov/logos>

Choices

I will abide by all promotion credit requests.

Assurances

Click [HERE](#) to read the assurances. Check the box below to certify that you have read and understand the assurances.

Choices

I have read and understand the assurances and payment process.

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 application on behalf of this individual and the information provided is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Choices

I agree