About

Individual Artist grants support the creation of new artwork by individual artists residing in Cattaraugus, Chemung, Schuyler, Steuben, and Tioga counties. The grant’s goal is to support the creative work of individual artists in all disciplines while highlighting the role of artists as vital members of the community. These grants are made possible with public, Statewide Community Regrant (SCR) funds from the New York State Council on the ARTS (NYSCA), a state agency, and administered locally by The ARTS Council of the Southern Finger Lakes (The ARTS Council).

Applicant Eligibility

Individual artists of all disciplines residing in Cattaraugus, Chemung, Schuyler, Steuben, or Tioga county are eligible to apply. The following are additional applicant eligibility requirements:

- Individuals under 18 years of age and/or enrolled in a university degree program are ineligible
- Direct 2023 NYSCA applicants, regardless whether or not funding was awarded, are ineligible
- Previous SCR grant funded applicants must have completed prior projects and submitted their final reports

Project Eligibility

Artwork must be created, completed, and presented to the public between July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024. The created work must be presented in the same county where the applicant resides and distinct from projects requested in the first 2023 application cycle. Applicants can apply in 2024 with a different project. The following are additional project eligibility requirements:

- Created artwork cannot be presented to a closed group
- Created artwork, or its presentation, cannot support, as the primary benefit, the financial gain of an individual or organization
- Created work cannot be commercial arts, martial arts, or other entertainment arts
- Direct NYSCA applicants may offer their venue gratis, handle ticketing, and provide other support as long as they do not financially benefit from the created artwork presentation and it is not advertised as part of their official programming.

Grant Amount & Funding Eligibility

Applicants can request grant funding from $1,000 to $2,500.

Funding can support any expenses, including an artist’s time, directly related to the planning, creation, and completion of the artwork, and its presentation to the public.
Applicants may submit up to three (3) requests, totaling no more than $5,000, through any combination of Community Arts, Teaching Artist, and Individual Artist grant applications.

Applicants who have already received the maximum $5,000 in the first 2023 application cycle are ineligible.

The following are additional funding eligibility requirements.

- Projects cannot request individual equipment expenses greater than $1,000
- Total project costs, including the grant request, must equal or be greater than your grant request
- Projects cannot pay children or students (primary, secondary, higher education)
- Funding cannot support cash prizes, awards, scholarships, fellowships, party, or reception expenses
- Funding can only support direct project expenses and cannot support deficit, capital, start-up, contingency, or other administrative expenses not related to the project
- Funding can only support in-state travel expenses

Grant Criteria

Grants are awarded based upon the following criteria:

- Artistic and/or Cultural Merit
- Strength of Artistic Work Sample
- Accessibility to Created Work
- Managerial & Fiscal Competence

Priority is given to the following:

- Applicants and/or projects that represent BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, and/or Folk & Traditional communities
- Applicants from Cattaraugus or Schuyler counties

Application Process and Deadline

The application deadline is 11:59pm on Friday, May 19, 2023. Applications must be submitted online through our online application system at https://earts.submittable.com/submit.

A completed application consists of the following:

- Applicant Information
- Artwork Information
- Budget Information

The application consists of a mixture of short answers and narratives. Please note, there is no budget form.

Review Process

Grant panels consisting of community members evaluate and score applications based on the grant criteria.
Based on these evaluations and available funding, The ARTS Council will assign an applicable dollar amount. The ARTS Council, however, does not make any evaluative decisions or make recommendations to the grant panel.

When considering applications from previously funded applicants, upon request, panelists can be furnished historical records. Prior support does not imply or guarantee that an application will be funded. Additionally, assistance or recommendations made to an applicant doesn’t guarantee funding and may not reflect the panel’s decisions.

The ARTS Council’s Board of Directors previews panel decisions but cannot change panel decisions.

Application Assistance

All applicants are encouraged to discuss their projects with the Grants Manager before submitting their application to determine if applicants meet eligibility requirements.

Applicants are encouraged to submit drafts of their application narratives via email at least 1 week before the deadline. The Grants Manager will review drafts for clarity with an eye towards the grant criteria, not for copyediting and rewriting. Please note, the recommendations of the Grants Manager may not align with the grant panelists. The Grants Manager cannot look at last minute drafts.

At the request of an applicant, the Grants Manager can make requested changes to an applicant’s submitted application up until the deadline. After the deadline, no changes can be made. The Grants Manager will not review submitted applications for completeness.

Contact the Grants Manager at chris@eARTS.org or 607-962-1332 x205 for more assistance.

Award Notification & Distribution of Funds

Funding is subject to the availability of funds from the New York State Council on the Arts. All applicants will receive award notification and feedback via email by the end of January, 2023. Successful applicants will receive their funds once a signed acceptance agreement is returned. Email is preferred.

About The ARTS Council

The ARTS Council of the Southern Finger Lakes (The ARTS Council) is a regional arts services organization located in the Southern Tier of New York State serving artists of all disciplines, organizations, and the public. Further information is available at www.eARTS.org.