Who is RISCA?

The Rhode Island State Council on the Arts (RISCA) is a state agency, supported by appropriations from the Rhode Island General Assembly and grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. We provide grants, technical assistance and staff support to arts organizations and artists, schools, community centers, social service organizations and local governments to bring the arts into the lives of Rhode Islanders.
Program Areas.

RISCA awards grants for arts activity in the following areas:

- Nonprofit Organizations.
- Individual Artists.
- Education.
- Folk and Traditional Arts.
- Healthcare.

In all our granting programs, art is at the center. We are an arts funder, and we fund art projects and programs.
Funding Cycle

April 1, 2021 deadline
Projects between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022

October 1, 2021 deadline
Projects between January 1, 2022 and June 30, 2022

Final Reports due July 31, 2022
Fellowships.

Anonymously reviewed, unrestricted awards based solely on artistic merit. For a solo art practice, based on work you’ve completed. $1,000 and $5,000 awards in each of 13 disciplines each year.
Fellowships.

- Choreography
- Crafts
- Drawing & Printmaking
- Film & Video
- Fiction
- Music Composition
- New Genres
- Painting
- Poetry
- Play & screenwriting
- Photography
- Three-Dimensional Art
The folk arts are defined as those artistic practices which are community- or family-based and express that community’s aesthetic heritage and tradition. The learning process is informal and is passed on from generation to generation by word of mouth, apprenticeship, and imitation.
Folk & Traditional Arts Grants.

- **Folk Arts Apprenticeships** are designed to foster the sharing of traditional (folk) artistic skills between a master and an apprentice, grants up to $3,000.
- **Folk Arts Fellowships** provide support to individual artists who demonstrate the highest level of skill and accomplishments in their craft. Two awards of $5,000 & $1,000.
- **October 1st Deadline**
Arts Access Grants.

- Up to $3,000 in support of arts and culture projects that are relevant and meaningful to a Rhode Island community or communities.
- The parameters that this program funds are intentionally broad.
Arts Access Grants.

- April 1 and October 1 Deadlines.
- Must be non-profit OR fiscally-sponsored by a non-profit organization.
- Discussing how your program might be modified in pandemic.
- **1:1 Cash Match has been waived!**
Changes to Fiscal Sponsorship.

- Organizations currently receiving funding from RISCA may function as fiscal sponsors for organizations within other grant programs, as long as they are not program partners in the sponsored projects.
- Why this Change was made.
April 1 and October 1 deadline.

RISCA’s Project Grants in Education (PGE) program provides program support (maximum of $10,000) to artists and cultural organizations collaborating with schools and other educational entities, to support school-based, residency model, arts engagement that enhances student learning.

1:1 Match.
Project Grants in Education for Individuals.

April 1 and October 1 deadline.

RISCA’s Project Grants in Education for Individuals (PGA) program provides program support (maximum of $3,000) to artists. Must be a pilot.

No match required.
During the current school year (2021-2022) RISCA will amend its Big Yellow School Bus Program to support BOTH in-person and virtual field trips.

This is a reimbursement grant. Funds will be sent to the approved vendor only (school or school-affiliated non-profit organization) upon completion and approval of the Field Trip Final Report follow up form. All final reports are due by June 1, 2022.

Schools may apply for grants of up to $350 to support their participation in arts or cultural virtual experiences for the funds to pay the artist.

Schools may apply for grants of up to $750 to support their participation in-person arts or field trips for transportation costs only.

One award per grade.

Rolling applications until funds are gone.
Applicants please take notice of the following:

- While we acknowledge the massive impact COVID has had on schools and their ability to engage with artists in residence, we are not proposing changes to these existing guidelines at this time.

- To be eligible for RISCA funding during the current Governor-declared State of Emergency, a project must conform to established safety standards and regulations at the time of project implementation. We understand these regulations are shifting, and your project may have to shift or pivot to comply. If you are awarded a grant, and your project shifts due to federal, state, county, or city COVID-19 regulations, you will need to update the grant program director via email. More information and details will be in the grant agreement form. For current state level regulations impacting school, you should visit: https://www.ride.ri.gov/InsideRIDE/AdditionalInformation/Covid19.aspx
Project Grants in Healthcare.

April 1 and October 1 deadline.

Project Grants in Healthcare are for arts projects that connect teaching artists with hospitals or other healthcare settings such as hospices or community health agencies. Teaching artists need to partner with licensed healthcare staff to implement the project. Arts-based professional development with staff at the healthcare facility is also strongly encouraged.

1:1 Match
Application Process at RISCA.

1. Read the guidelines.
2. Talk to a staff member.
3. Create a profile on Foundant.
4. Write the application and gather support materials.
5. Hit the submit button before the deadline.
Review & Notification Process.

1. Staff reviews all applications for eligibility and completeness.
2. Panelists review applications and recommend funding (we’ll get to this next)
3. Staff writes up panel notes.
4. Council reviews the panel’s recommendations.
5. We tell you.
6. We mail you a check. It takes about 6-8 weeks AFTER you submit everything.
7. You do the project.
8. You report back at the end of our fiscal year (June 30th).
After You Get the Grant.

- Fill out your grant agreement and register with Ocean State Procures. We can’t send you the money until you do these things.
- Ask your program director if you have questions about the panel comments.
- Communicate with your program director if there are any changes to your project.
- Let us know what’s happening – we’ll put it on our Facebook and/or blog.
- Ask us questions! We are still here to support you throughout the process.
If You Don’t Get The Grant.

- Ask your program director if you want to review the panel comments and get more feedback. We are here to help you write a better grant application next time!

- We start having meetings about the next grant deadline as soon as grants open – but we encourage you to meet with us sooner!
A Note on Partial Funding.

- Varies by program, but almost all of the awards in PGI, PGE, and AAG are partial.
- If partially funded you can (and should) scale it back keeping within the spirit of what you proposed.
- You can decline grant. Nothing bad will happen.
- Partial funding ensures RISCA is funding projects and programs that happen across the state.
Panelists.

- Five panelists for each grant panel.
- Rhode Island residents with arts and culture involvement.
- Assembled with eye to diversity in many forms.
- Panelists can only serve once every three years.
- Decisions vary based on composition of panel.
- RISCA staff DOES NOT make funding decisions.

Note: Panels operate slightly differently for fellowships and IAC.
Panelists for Fellowships.

- Three panelists for each grant panel.
- Primarily out of state panelists who are experts in the discipline: curators, artists, faculty, gallerists, etc.
- Applications reviewed anonymously—panels just look at art, and do not know who the applicant is.
Panelist Process.

1. Panelist invitation and selection by RISCA staff.
2. Panelists receive guidelines and training packet.
3. Panelists receive applications via online grant system.
4. Panelists review and pre-score applications at home. We estimate that panelists spend approximately 30 minutes per application and are scoring between 20 and 35 applications.
5. Panelists meet for an all day in person review session.
   1. Discuss and re-score each application
   2. Total or average scores are tabulated and displayed for panelists.
   3. Panelists make funding recommendations for each application based on total budget from RISCA.
What if I am late?

NOPE

P.S. We go home around 5pm on the deadline day. We are not waiting up to help you until 11:59pm.

P.P.S. The application will close at 11:59pm, and will not accept your submission at 11:59 and one second.
Grant Writing Tips.

Thoroughly read and follow the directions!
Grant Writing Tips.

- Be excited about your project!
- Address the grant application questions directly and fully.
- Have an “outsider” read your application. Remember: panel won’t know your project and might not know your art form.
- Fully address the public value of the project.
- Look at the panelist rubric before you write your application, and refer to it throughout the process.
Grant Writing Tips.

- Don’t wait for the last minute.
- Communicate with your program staffer - it is literally our job to help you.
- Program staff can give feedback on your application - but probably not on the day of the deadline.
Image Submissions.

- Image quality is everything—especially for fellowships.
- Follow directions on file size, format, and naming.
- Panelists are looking at your application on their laptops—or on a large tv.
- If work is complex, include detail shots.
- If work is large in scale, or dimensional, include an installation shot.
Support Materials.

- Help tell the story of your work, project, or organization.
- Remember your audience.
- Include some - but not too many!
- Relate back to the review criteria.
Examples of Support Materials.

- Letters of Support.
- Resumes or CVs.
- Images or video.
- Press (reviews or newspaper articles).
- Marketing collateral (posters, brochures, screenshots of social media).
- List of quotes.

**WHAT ELSE?**
EXAMPLE BUDGET: Rosenbaum Singers.

What Do We See?
Signs of a Good Budget.

- Budget is in balance (income = expense).
- Diverse income sources.
- In-kind support.
- Money going to pay artists and arts administrators.
- Explanations for HOW you arrived at the numbers you did.
How to Make A Budget.

○ Start with the expense side - how much do you know things will cost? Research where necessary.
○ Move to income side - what are funding sources for my project?
○ NOW - make each side balance! Where could you ask for in-kind support?
○ PAY YOURSELF AND YOUR ARTISTS!!
○ Make sure your budget is consistent with your narrative.
Need more help?

- One-on-One Meetings for Fellowships.
- One-on-One Meetings for Arts Access Grants (AAG).
- One-on-One Meetings for Education.
- One-on-One Meetings for Folk Arts.
- Drop-in Hours.
Need more help?

- Join our Facebook Resource Groups!
  - Arts Administrators of Rhode Island.
  - Artists and Creatives of Rhode Island.
Meet your program staff

Todd Trebour (he/him/his)
Organizations Program Director
Arts Access Grants
Investments in Arts & Culture

Mollie Flanagan (she/her/hers)
Individual Artists Program Director
Fellowships

Elena Calderon-Patiño (she/her/hers)
Community and Folk Arts Program Director
Folk Arts Apprenticeships & Folk Art Fellowships
Rhode Island Expansion Arts Program

Maggie Anderson (she/her/hers)
Director of Arts in Education
Project Grants in Education
Teaching Artist Roster
Big Yellow School Bus Grants

Randy Rosenbaum (he/him/his)
Executive Director
Project Grants in Healthcare