



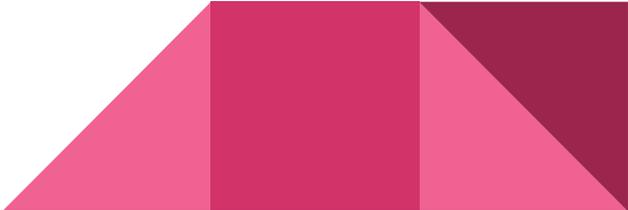
Individual Artist Grant Programs

Proposed Drafts - as of August, 3, 2021

How This Started

- After hearing general discontent with the discipline divisions in the Fellowship program, Mollie began to talk with artists about updating that program in the Fall of 2017.
 - Those group conversations, along with what RISCA heard during our strategic plan listening sessions, led us to a process to overhaul/update all of the individual artist grant programs.
 - The council approved a working group process, and some initial ideas, in the fall of 2020. Then the pandemic happened, and we postponed everything for a year.
 - The working group started meeting and working in February 2021.
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Why/Goals

- Bring RISCA's individual artist granting into alignment with:
 - Our new strategic plan.
 - Current and emerging best practices in granting.
 - The needs of the artist community in Rhode Island.
 - Actively center equity in our granting.
 - Lower barriers to application.
 - Directly ask and engage local artists in the ideation and creation of these grants - bringing participatory grantmaking to the program process.
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What's Next

August: Two open public meetings; many one-on-one or small group meetings; drafts, an explanation, and a survey/feedback form available online.

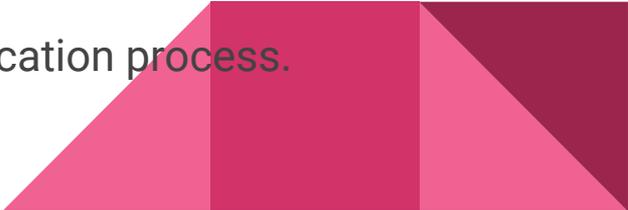
September: Creation of final drafts of grant guidelines; final meeting with working group to approve; send to council for final approval.

October '21-January '22: Creation of application materials, including: video explaining how to fill in the budget template; graphic versions of the guidelines; spanish translations; large print creations; and marketing materials.

February 1, 2022: Grant applications open for three of the grant programs.

April 1, 2022: Deadline for three of the programs.

July 1, 2022: Opening of Opportunity Grants, with a rolling application process.



Current Grant Programs- Fellowships

Fellowships are unrestricted awards that encourage the creative development of artists by enabling them to set aside time to pursue their work and achieve specific creative and career goals. One \$5,000 fellowship and one \$1,000 merit are awarded in each of 12 disciplines each year. Fellowship and Merit awards are based solely on artistic merit, and are highly competitive. Awards are selected through an anonymous panel review of submitted work samples. Artists are encouraged to apply when they have created a substantial body of work that they are prepared to present in a professional manner.

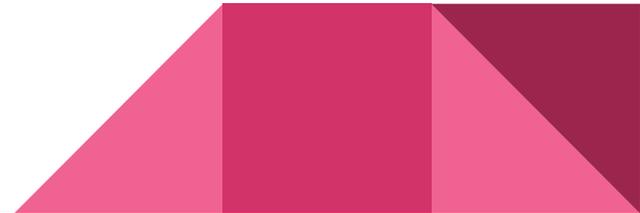
Disciplines:

Crafts	Choreography	Drawing & Printmaking	Fiction
Film & Video	Music Composition	New Genres	Painting
Photography	Play & Screenwriting	Poetry	Three-Dimensional Art



Current Grant Programs- Project Grants for Individuals

Project Grants for Individuals (PGI) provides \$500-\$3,000 grants to artist instigated and organized arts projects with a strong public component. Through PGI, RISCA supports highly creative and talented artists who seek to create, produce, perform, teach, or share their work with the public. Projects might include the coordination and/or creation of: community arts events, public performances, arts workshops and classes, public visual art, and creative collaborations. These grants are for individuals creating work outside of nonprofit or other institutional support and structures. These grants are not for individuals looking to support their studio practice, but for projects that directly engage Rhode Island residents in some way.

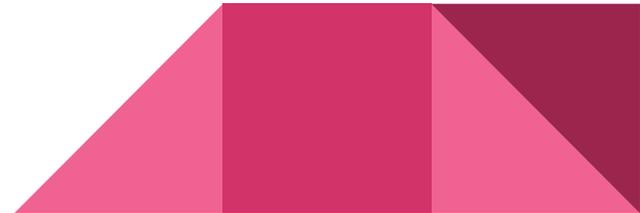


Grant Program 1- Opportunity Grant

- Small grants (under \$1,000), awarded monthly.
 - For immediate, concrete opportunities, including: attending a residency; attending or presenting at a conference; taking an art or business class; hiring a career coach; marketing materials and/or documentation of a specific project; materials to complete work for a specific show.
 - Awarded by lottery after an eligibility screen and review by council member.
 - Short and easy application and report.
 - All activity must take place in Rhode Island.
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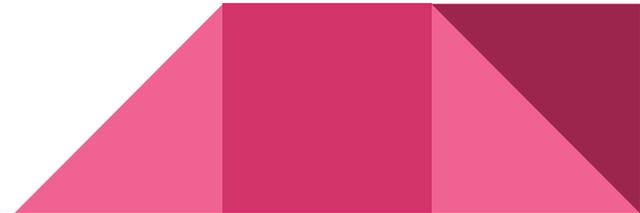
Grant Program 2- Community Engaged Grant

- Grants of between \$500 and \$3,000 for art projects that are directly publicly engaged in some way.
- Shorter, streamlined application.
- More clarity around what direct engagement means.
- More clear and expansive in who can apply.
- The sibling of Todd's Project Grants for Organizations (formerly AAG).



Grant Program 3- Make Art Grant

- Grants of between \$500 and \$3,000 to support creation of work.
- Funds a specific project with applicant identified goals.
- NO public engagement requirement, no public presentation requirement.
- Applicant defines goals and success for their project.
- Can support experimentation, creation, materials, time, space or equipment rental, documentation - but working towards creation of work.
- Includes a Work In Progress showing, coordinated by RISCA.



Grant Program 4- General Operating Support

- Artist development grant, \$6,000 per year for three years. Three awards each year, so once this is up and running there will be a cohort of 9.
 - Funds are unrestricted, but recipients are expected to use the money to further their art practice.
 - Includes cohort community of grantees, for mutual support, learning, and connections - with mandatory meetings.
 - Artist must be working towards a specific, self-identified goal or goals, progress will be evaluated each year.
 - Focus on artist driven goal setting, success definition, and evaluation.
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Definitions:

Rhode Island Resident: You must have been domiciled in Rhode Island for at least one year at the time of application. This means your home in Rhode Island is your primary residence, and is the address you use for legal forms, state income taxes, car registration, drivers license or state issued id, and voter registration -regardless of whether you own or rent your home.

BIPOC: Black, Indigenous, and People of Color.

Practicing Artist: A person that intentionally creates or practices art in any discipline that:

- Has specialized training in the artistic field (from any source, not necessarily in formal academic institutions).
 - Is committed to devoting significant time to artistic activity, as is possible financially.
 - Is or is working towards earning some portion of their income from their art.
 - Disciplines include, but are NOT limited to: musician, painter, poet, choreographer, teaching artist, ceramicist, storyteller, performer, playwright, sculptor, photographer, wampum artist, printmaker, animator, cartoonist, textile and fashion designer, and filmmaker.
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Other Changes: Application Process

- We will accept written, video, or audio responses to narrative questions.
 - Guideline format is very different, less scary, legalese, and formal.
 - Greatly expanding applicant support, including videos explaining each grant program, the application, and each application question; graphic novel style grant program overview and guidelines; and translations of grant guidelines and applications.
 - One or more additional grant meetings (via zoom and/or in person) that are program specific, and go through applications question by question.
 - Reducing application to as little as is needed, while balancing what information a panel needs to make an informed decision.
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Other Changes: Grantee Support and Evaluation

- Optional convenings for all grantees, likely by program.
 - One on one meetings with each grantee after award.
 - Grantee feature on website, more showcasing of grantees and their projects.
 - Final reports will include 30 minute meetings with Mollie, in addition to a written portion with NEA required data.
 - Increased contact with and support from the program director throughout the process, after getting the grant award.
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Other Changes: Eligibility

To be eligible, you must:

- Have been domiciled in Rhode Island for at least one year at the time of application. This means your home in Rhode Island is your primary residence, and is the address you use for legal forms, state income taxes, car registration, driver's license or state issued id, and voter registration - regardless of whether you own or rent your home. (This is two years for GoSA).
 - Be 18 years of age or older.
 - Not currently be in an arts degree seeking program.
 - Be a legal resident of the United States with a tax id number (either social security number or an ITIN). This includes refugees, immigrants, and temporary residents. This does not include people in the country on a tourist visa.
 - Be a practicing artist - refer back to definition.
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Other Changes: Panels

- More explicit rules for the panel makeup, including state of residency, BIPOC participation, relationship to the arts, etc.
- Can serve on a panel more frequently than once every three years.

Other Changes: Partial Awards

- No partial awards, only full funding.
 - Focused eye on geographic distribution in panel process.
 - More explicit around applying for only what you need, and why.
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