



Application Deadline: September 15, 2025 Funding Period:

December 1, 2025 – December 31, 2026 Apply Online at:

theartscouncil.com/artist-support-grants

Program Overview

The North Carolina Arts Council Artist Support Grant is a regional grant program to support individual artists in all phases of their career. The program funds professional and artistic development for emerging or established artists to create work, improve their business operations, or bring their work to new audiences.

- The Arts Council of Fayetteville/Cumberland County manages applications and awards for Cumberland, Hoke, Robeson, Sampson, and Scotland counties.
- The Artist Support Grant funds project activity from December 1, 2025 to December 31, 2026.
- Awards may range from \$500.00 to \$3,000.00.

Eligibility

The Artist Support Grant is intended to support a broad range of talented artists in the genres of visual arts, performing arts, literary arts, music composition, choreography, and interdisciplinary arts. Eligible candidates may be either emerging or established artists; this grant does not support start-up activities. Applicants should demonstrate a commitment to spending a significant portion of their time on their work as artists in their discipline.

- **Individuals and Artist Collectives** — Both individual artists and small, unincorporated groups of collaborating artists are eligible to apply.
- **Residency** — Artists should have lived continuously in the counties of **Cumberland, Hoke, Robeson, Sampson, and Scotland** for at least one year before the application deadline. An applicant must be at least 18 years old and either a U.S. citizen or a

permanent resident alien. Proof of residence and status may be required at the time of application. Artists who live in more than one region should apply only where they spend most of the year. All members of a collaborating team must be North Carolina residents, live in the region in which they are applying, and meet the other eligibility requirements. Resumes documenting residence for all team members should be included with the application.

- **Multiple Awards** — Artists who are sole proprietors of organizations that have already received funding for FY 2025-2026 from the N.C. Arts Council are ineligible to apply. Individuals who received an Artists Support Grant must wait two years before reapplying. For this cycle, ASG grantees from 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 are ineligible.
- **Conflict of Interest** — Current board and staff members of the consortium partner organizations and their family members are not eligible to apply for the award.
- **Student Status** — The Artist Support Grant is intended for adult, nonstudent artists. Artists enrolled full-time in undergraduate or associate degree-granting programs may not apply for the grant. Artists in certificate programs are generally eligible. Artists pursuing graduate degrees in subjects other than their art form may be eligible if they meet the other eligibility criteria. Other questions and special circumstances should be discussed with Arts Council staff.

Eligible Projects and Costs

In project year 2025-2026, applicants **may use up to 50%** of their grant request to pay artist fees to themselves.

- **Completion/Presentation of a New Work** — Cost of resources necessary to develop, complete, or present a significant new work (e.g., purchasing art supplies or equipment (digital may qualify) or space rental).
- **Career Promotion** — Projects aimed at advertising artists' works and/or demonstrating their skill level (e.g., websites, portfolios, audio-visual documentation, and online presentation).
- **Training** — Costs to attend a class or workshop (in-person or virtual) aimed at either enhancing the artist's skill level or professional development (e.g., a master class or workshop taught by acknowledged authorities in the applicant artist's medium).
- **Travel** — Costs of transportation, lodging, and food for training, professional conferences, or research.

Ineligible Projects and Costs

The following items/projects are ineligible for Artist Support Grant funding:

- Scholarships for undergraduate- or graduate-level education

- Projects that support or oppose a particular candidate for public office
- Projects that are exclusive to members of a particular religious faith group
- Nonprofit initiatives
- Projects that do not have a direct effect on the applicant's growth as an artist (e.g., the promotion of other artists' work)

Review

All completed Artist Support Grant applications will be judged by a multi-county panel of established artists, arts professionals, and arts educators and administrators who will review and evaluate the applications based on the criteria above and allocate funds for selected projects.

Artist Support Grant requests are evaluated along three criteria with the most weight on the Artistic Merit of the project.

- **Artistic Merit – 50% of review**
 - o Demonstrated talent in an art form and overall **excellence of the artist's work.**
 - o Clear **commitment to a career** as a practicing professional artist
 - o Evidenced by work samples, artist statement, and the proposed project.
- **Project Feasibility – 25% of review**
 - o The proposed project appears achievable for the artist at this time and place of their career.
 - o Evidenced by resume, budget, and the proposed project.
- **Career Development – 25% of review**
 - o Benefit of the proposed project to the **artist's professional growth.**
 - o Evidenced by resume and the proposed project.

Application Process

All applications must be submitted to the Arts Council of Fayetteville/Cumberland County through our online portal which can be found at: TheArtsCouncil.com/grants. On our website, click the "[Grants & Allocations](#)" tab and go to the "[Artist Support Grants](#)" page.

Application Requirements

An application without all required attachments is incomplete and will not be presented to the grants panel.

All applications MUST be submitted through the online grants portal by 11:59 PM on—MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2025.

Narrative - YourProjectNarrativeshouldexplainyourproposed project and how it will have an impact on yourcareerasanartist.Thenarrativesectionincludes four questions. **(required)**

- 1. Describeyourworkasanartist.ThisArtistStatement describes your approach to your work,yourkeyideas,yourgoalsasanartist,andthe culture you wish to create*
- 2. Describeyourprojectandtheproposeduseoffunds.*
- 3. Explainwhatthisprojectwillenableyoutodothat you are unable to do now.*
- 4. Summarizehowthisprojectwilladvanceyourcareer or development as an artist.*

Budget – ProvideyourProjectBudget(bothExpensesand Income). For your Project Expenses, please be sure tolisteachexpenseasitsownlineitem.Be as specific as possible. **(required)**

Uploads:

Budget support – Provide support information for your budget that clearly displays the cost of each line item, i.e. screenshots or web addresses showing equipment costs, quotes from suppliers, brochures from conferences, etc. Budget items that do have not appropriate documentation will not be considered for funding. **(required)**

Artist Résumé – Attach an artist résumé that includes education, employment, public presentations of your work, publications, commissions, honors, grant/fellowship awards, and relevant experience. (Two pages maximum) **(required)**

Support Materials: You may submit digital copies of reviews, programs, catalogs, and other support materials relevant to the project. You may also submit up to three (3) letters of recommendation; all letter of recommendation must be on official letterhead and signed.

Work Samples - Applicants must provide high-quality, digital work samples (links or attachments –jpg, mp3, pdf, etc.). Samples must be of the artist’s work only. Hard copies will not be accepted. Work must be completed within the past three years. **(required)**

Applicants must attach an inventory list with the following descriptions for the applicable discipline:

- **Choreography, Performing Arts:** Documentation of **up to three recorded performances**. Videos uploaded may not exceed a total time of ten minutes.
Description: include the date and location of the performance, title of the piece, names, and roles of key people, including directors, choreographers, lead performers/actors,

etc. A short summary may also be included. Please indicate if the work sample is professionally mastered.

- **Interdisciplinary Arts:** Documentation of **up to three recorded performances, images, or samples of work.**

Description: include the date and location of the performance, title of the piece, names, and roles of key people, including your role as applicant. A short summary may also be included.

- **Music:** Documentation of **up to three recorded performances**, live or studio. Audio or video uploaded may not exceed a total time of ten minutes.

Description: include the date and location of the performance, title of the piece, names, and roles of key people, including directors, choreographers, lead performers/actors, etc. A short summary may also be included. Composers and songwriters should also submit scores, lyrics, and/or lead sheets, as appropriate. Please indicate if the work sample is professionally mastered.

- **Literary Arts:** Fiction, creative nonfiction, and playwrights may submit **no more than 10 pages** each of one to two manuscripts. Poets must submit three to five poems. Playwrights may also submit documentation of a recorded performance or staged reading of their plays (videos are not to exceed five minutes.)

- **Visual Art:** Up to 5 images of your work.

Description: date of completion, medium, and dimensions. Time-based work can be documented with video, up to five minutes.

- **Film:** Documentation of one or more completed films. (Video clips not to exceed five minutes.)

Description: include date and location of performance, title of piece, names, and roles of key people, including directors, choreographers, lead performers/actors, etc. A short summary may also be included. Please indicate if the work sample is professionally mastered.

*For video and audio work samples: please note that due to file sizes, YouTube and Vimeo links are preferred for video. **Do not upload MP4s directly to the application.**

**Incomplete applications will not be presented to the panel.
Late applications will not be accepted.**

Information and Assistance

The Arts Council of Fayetteville/Cumberland County will host Artist Support Grant information sessions periodically. To learn more or for assistance with your application, visit us online at TheArtsCouncil.com or contact us at 910-323-1776.

Check our website at www.theArtsCouncil.com for dates/times of information sessions.

LOCAL ARTS COUNCIL CONTACT INFORMATION

Cumberland County

Arts Council of Fayetteville/
Cumberland County
P O Box 318
Fayetteville, N C 28302-0318

Phone: 910-323-1776

Email:
MichaelH@theartscouncil.com

Web Site:
www.TheArtsCouncil.com

Hoke County

Contact the Arts Council of
Fayetteville/Cumberland
County

Robeson County

Robeson County Arts Council
P O Box 2189
Lumberton, NC 28359

Phone: 910-847-2787

Email:
rcaclumberton@gmail.com

Web Site:
www.RobesonCountyArtsCouncil.org

Sampson County

Sampson County Arts Council
Kara Donatelli,
709 College Street
Clinton, NC 28328

Phone: 910-596-2533

Email:
director@sampsonarts.org

Web Site:
www.SampsonArts.net

ScotlandCounty Arts

Council of Scotland
County / Storytelling &
Arts Center
Olivia Fitzgerald
PO Box 2154
Laurinburg, NC 28352
Phone: 910-277-3599

Email:
sacs.officemanager@gmail.com

Website:
www.ScotlandSacs.org

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