

ARTIST INNOVATION GRANT

[APPLY HERE](#)

APPLICATION DEADLINE – Tuesday, April 22, 2025

PAYMENT – Up to \$3,000



OVERVIEW

The **Artist Innovation Grant** provides funding to Marshall County artists who are expanding and growing their artistic practices, with a desire to share their work with the community.

Successful applicants will create a public project, program, performance or event that creatively interprets one of the five placemaking themes identified in the [Marshalltown Arts and Culture Master Plan](#). While some ideas can be found in the Arts and Culture Master Plan, artists are encouraged to freely interpret these concepts. It is likely applications may address more than one theme.

Placemaking Themes include:

- [REVITALIZE OVER RESTORE](#)
- [BUILD BRIDGES](#)
- [ACTIVATE HOPE](#)
- [ELEVATE YOUTH](#)
- [HERITAGE OF INNOVATION](#)

ELIGIBILITY

The Arts + Culture Alliance supports artists of all disciplines. Whether you're an emerging artist, working professionally in the arts, a passionate hobbyist, or still finding your creative identity – this grant could offer you support.

Eligible Applicants

This grant is open to Marshall County Artists at least 18 years of age or older.

Ineligible Applicants

- Individuals who currently have an open grant contract with the ACA
- Individuals that have received grants from the ACA and are not in compliance with reporting or other requirements

Eligible Activities

- New artwork/performance
- Creative Placemaking events/activities
- Community engagement artwork, event, or activation
- Public indoor or outdoor installation
- Art and/or cultural education programs

Ineligible Activities

Ineligible activities include, but are not limited to, the following types of activities:

- Projects that discriminate against people because of their age, race, creed, gender, handicap, sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity or national origin
- Projects to be completed and not shared with the public in some way, shape or form

- Projects/artworks that have already occurred or have already been completed
- Artworks that are not original
- Fundraiser, benefit activities or annual campaigns
- Political activities, organizations or campaigns, along with lobbying activities
- Faith based programming or purposes or projects that exclusively serve religious purposes

ANTICIPATED TIMELINE

- **Application Opens** | March 24, 2025
- **Application Deadline** | April 22, 2025 11:59 PM
 - We highly encourage questions to be addressed well in advance of the application deadline
 - Please note, we will not be available for questions after 5 PM on the day of the deadline.
- **Funding Decision Notifications** | May 2, 2025
 - Applicants are encouraged to refrain from contacting staff for application status updates during the funding decision process
- **Eligible Funding Period** | May 3, 2025 – December 1, 2025
 - The Eligible Funding Period officially begins upon the artist's completion of the grant contract/MOU. We will review with all awardees immediately following decision notifications.
 - All expenses must be incurred within the Eligible Funding Period.
 - All grantees must complete their proposed artwork, program, or project by December 1, 2025.
- **Final Report Deadline** | January 31, 2026 11:59 PM

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Interested artists should submit the online application no later than the application deadline. Applications will not be accepted in any other format. Late, incomplete or ineligible applications will not be accepted.

The grant application requires:

- Artist Contact Information
- Application Questions
- (optional) CV / Resumé
- (optional) Three representative work examples

SELECTION + PAYMENT

Successful applicants will demonstrate the relationship between the grant funding, the artist's practice, and the Arts and Culture Master Plan. Finalists will be chosen by the Arts + Culture Alliance Board of Directors.

Applicants must request an amount not to exceed \$3,000. Payments will be made upon receipt of a signed contract, prior to the work or project associated with the grant.

Eligible Grant Expenses

Grant funds support expenses essential to the completion of the proposed activities. The grant request must be dedicated to eligible one-time, direct expenses, that are legitimate parts of the proposed activities, and must be incurred and expended within the funding period. Applicants must demonstrate how the funding ties to the Arts and Culture Master Plan. Unsure about eligible expenses, contact Arts + Culture Alliance.

Types of eligible expenses include:

- In-State Travel (i.e. mileage, accommodation, per diem)
- Equipment
- Materials (i.e. paint, costumes, props, etc.)
- Marketing (i.e. print material, ad buys, design fees, etc.)

- Professional Services (i.e. printer, graphic designer, lawyer, editor, accountant, etc.)
- Rentals (i.e. stages, studio space, lighting, sound, lifts, etc.)
- Access accommodations (i.e. audio description, sign-language interpretation, translation, etc.)

Ineligible Grant Expenses

Expenses that fall outside of the identified eligible expenses for the grant activities may not be included as part of the grant request. Grant funds may not be used to support routine, ongoing activities or expenses. Applicants that include ineligible expenses in the grant request will be considered ineligible. Unsure about ineligible expenses, contact Arts + Culture Alliance.

Types of ineligible grant expenses include:

- Acquisition/purchase of artwork
- Budget shortfalls
- Costs of goods for resale
- Deficit or debt reduction
- Donations or contributions to other organizations
- Expenses incurred prior to or after the eligible funding period
- Out of state or foreign travel
- Funding cash reserves or endowment accounts
- Fundraising or benefit activity expenses
- Ongoing or operating expenses including utilities, rent/lease, office supplies, personnel time that is not specifically dedicated to the grant activities
- Home studio/office costs or expenses, including utilities and mortgage payments
- Lobbying activities
- Personnel benefits

OUTCOMES

Upon completion of the project, artists will be responsible for completing a report that provides the Alliance with useful information about the success of the project and this new granting initiative.

Questions Include: **required question*

- Describe how you were successful in activating your chosen placemaking theme*
- How did your project reach the Marshall County community*
- Describe how you spent the funds and how it aligned with your original plan from your application*
- Lessons learned and key takeaways*
- Approximately how many people did you actively engage*
- Quote from the artist*
- Quote from community members about your work
- Feedback about the grant and process
- Who engaged with your project?
- Names of partners/collaborators in the project

QUESTIONS?

Have an idea but not sure if it is eligible for this grant? Contact the ACA's Executive Director, Amber Danielson, at director@artsandculturealliance.org well in advance of application deadlines if they have any questions regarding the program.