



COMMUNITY ARTIST GRANT FAQs

Where will I do community building and community engagement?

This program encourages community engagement across Marshall County and should align with proposed projects. However, in this first cycle, artist projects and activities will occur in downtown Marshalltown, with the goal of engaging as much of the community as possible, as relevant to the artist's project.

Who is this grant for?

This grant is open to mid-career and established artists who have a community, public, and/or socially engaged art practice. Artists will need to show a history of successful community engagement processes and polished final products. The Community Artist Grant will support local vibrancy in Marshalltown while providing artists an opportunity to bring their expertise and perspective to the Marshalltown community.

Who is eligible for this grant?

This program is open to artists who identify as a community, public, and/or socially engaged artist.

What kind of artist project is eligible for this grant?

Projects could be community and/or socially engaged artwork – all final projects will be presented/installed in a public space (indoors or outdoors) and considered public artwork. (See below for the Alliance's definition of socially engaged, community, and public art.)

Community Art - Community art refers to projects that are inspired and executed by residents themselves. They join each other in creating an art object or event that expresses a particular cause or idea. Fundamental to the concept of community art is that people who conceive it, produce it. It is a hands-on, collective exercise that reinforces local identity, building pride and dedication to their community.

Socially Engaged Art - Socially engaged practice describes art that is collaborative, often participatory and involves people as the medium or material of the work. Also, referred to as social practice or socially engaged art, this can include any artform which involves people and communities in dialogue, collaboration or social interaction.

COMMUNITY PROPOSAL

Can artist teams apply?

Yes. However, the budget only allows for a total payment of \$20,000, regardless of the number of people on the team.

What does the Community Artist Grant cover?

Grant funds cover all costs associated with the artist's project, including paying the artist/artist team for their time and expertise, supporting artist fees, materials, travel expenses, etc. Please note, lodging for up to 20 days will be provided in addition to the payment.

In addition to the Grant Funding, what support will artists receive:

- Access to ACA space
- Project documentation in the form of photography and videography
- Marketing, communications, and PR of the community project
- Digital footprint of the work (social media and ACA website)

How much time should I expect to spend with the Marshalltown Community?

This grant program aims to meaningfully engage community members in partnership with at least one civically oriented organization (in addition to the Arts + Culture Alliance). The work is both creative output and the process itself. Grantees are not expected to take up residence in Marshalltown, however they can expect to spend around 20 days over the course of a season.

What will a successful timeline look like?

Similar to the question about the amount of time spent in Marshalltown, applicants should consider the advantages of short-term deep engagement and periodic visits over time. Grantees will be expected to complete their projects by December 1st 2025.

GRANT-MAKING PROCESS

What is the process for selecting artists?

All interested artists are encouraged to submit a letter of intent (maximum 3,000 characters), CV, three representative work examples, and two professional references. The Arts + Culture Alliance will invite finalists to submit a full proposal.

What happens after I submit my Letter of Intent?

A jury will review Letters of Intent, and score them based on experience, strength of portfolio, and relevance to Marshalltown's community needs. Finalists will be invited and have three weeks to submit a formal application and receive a stipend of \$500 to develop their idea.

What is the timeline, once the final artist or artist team is selected?

Once the final artist or artist team is selected, they will receive a notification of award, along with a contract and a request for a kickoff meeting with the Arts + Culture Alliance via zoom. The function of the zoom call will be to celebrate with the artist, review the contract, answer immediate questions, and review the timeline for fund distribution, visits to Marshalltown, and community work. At this time, the artist will meet their primary points of contact for their project. This will include their primary partner, representatives from the artist community, and the Executive Director of the Arts + Culture Alliance.