



COMMUNITY ARTIST GRANT
Request for Qualifications (RFQ)
[APPLY HERE](#)

APPLICATION DEADLINE – Monday, April 14, 2025

PAYMENT – \$20,000

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.

ABOUT MARSHALLTOWN, IA

Marshalltown is a community of roughly 27,000 people and one of the most diverse in the state of Iowa, with over 60 languages spoken in its school district.

In 2018, Marshalltown was hit with an EF3 tornado, destroying a majority of their historic downtown. Since then, the community has had significant prioritization on the redevelopment of Downtown Marshalltown. Major infrastructure redevelopment will be in progress on a portion of Main Street over the course of the next few years.

- [Learn more](#) about the arts and creativity scene in Marshalltown
- [Learn more](#) about the redevelopment of Downtown Marshalltown

OVERVIEW

The Community Artist Grant will creatively activate Downtown Marshalltown, using the [Marshalltown Arts and Culture Master Plan](#) as a guide. The grantee will be a community artist and/or social practice artist who will create a project to “*build bridges*” between communities, ideas, and neighborhoods within the city.

Each year, the Arts + Culture Alliance decides on which theme to activate through this grant program. The decision is based on community and stakeholder input. *Build Bridges* was one of the five themes identified by the Arts and Culture Master Plan.

When examining this specific theme, the Alliance identifies and interprets this as

- Authentically connecting different communities within Marshalltown
- Building infrastructure for greater access to neighborhoods and their assets
- Bridging the past to the present and into the future
- Restoring trust between individuals, communities, and organizations within Marshalltown
- Generating a bridge toward economic sustainability
- Connecting people to causes they care about

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS AND DEADLINE

Interested artists should submit their qualifications via the online application no later than the application deadline. The form requires:

- Artist(s) contact Information: name, phone number, email, website, and social media handles

- Letter of Intent (maximum of 3,000 characters): *Briefly describe how you would accomplish building bridges and a general vision or plan for your idea. Explain any relevant details about your experience in community building, public community art projects, and/or social practice artworks. Consider including details of your process, past projects, successful partnerships, and community impact.*
- CV / Resumé
- Three representative work examples
- Two professional references familiar with your experience and/or potential in the field of public art

FINALISTS

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 to submit a formal application and will then receive a stipend of \$500 to develop their idea.

ANTICIPATED TIMELINE

- **RFQ/Call to Artists Issued** | March 21, 2025
- **Application Deadline** | April 14, 2025 11:59 PM
 - Please note, we will not be available for questions after 5 PM the day of the deadline
 - We encourage questions to be addressed well in advance of the application deadline
 - Potential Zoom Interviews may be required with finalists prior to selection
- **Notification of Finalists** | April 25, 2025
- **Proposal Deadline** | May 19, 2025
- **Funding Notifications** | May 23, 2025
- **Eligible Funding Period** | May 26, 2025 – December 1, 2025
 - The Eligible Funding Period officially begins upon the artist's completion of the grant contract
 - All expenses must be incurred within the Eligible Funding Period
 - The project, artwork or program must be completed by December 1, 2025
- **Final Report Deadline** | January 31, 2026 11:59 PM

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 artist project and this new granting initiative.

Questions Include:

- Describe how you and the community were successful in *building bridges* in Marshalltown
- Approximately how many people did you actively engage and, if applicable, approximate the demographics of the people/communities who participated
- Names of partners/collaborators in the project
- Lessons learned and key takeaways
- Quote from the artist
- Quote from three community participants
- Feedback about the grant and process

QUESTIONS

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