

## RAPG Guidelines & FAQs

**Purpose:** The Regional Artist Project Grant Program (RAPG) provides funds for individuals and groups of unincorporated artists to pursue projects that further enhance their artistic development by attending a professional development experience or purchasing/renting a piece of equipment.

**Eligibility:** The Regional Artist Project Grant Program is open to all disciplines. Additionally,

- Applicants must be a permanent resident of the region (e.g., have resided for a minimum of twelve (12) months prior to the deadline) of one of the following counties: Cabarrus, Cleveland, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Rowan, Rutherford or York (SC).
- Applicants must be 18 years of age or older and a US citizen or permanent resident.
- Applicants and recipients may not enroll in, or be currently enrolled in, an undergraduate or graduate degree-granting program during the time their funded project is in progress.

*Please note:* Artists on the staff of one of the participating arts councils OR artists who received a Regional Artist Project Grant within the last 2 calendar years (Projects that took place on or after January 2010) are not eligible to apply.

**Funding Partners:** The program is administered by the Arts & Science Council, Charlotte-Mecklenburg, Inc., in partnership with the arts councils in Cabarrus, Cleveland, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, Rowan, Rutherford, and York (SC) counties. The program is supported by the North Carolina Arts Council, a division of the Department of Cultural Resources; the Blumenthal Endowment; and the participating arts councils. Please contact the [Arts Council representative](#) in your county with questions about the program.

**Maximum Grant Amount:** Artists may ask for a maximum of \$2,000. Only one application per individual will be accepted annually.

**Match Requirement:** Matching funds are not required. However, if the cost of the request exceeds the maximum grant amount, the applicant must show additional funding source(s).

**Application Deadline:** All applications and work samples must be submitted no later than **12:00 NOON on Thursday, September 22, 2011**. Unfortunately, applications received after this deadline cannot be accepted. All applicants must apply through the online application system.

**Written Notification:** By November 30, 2011.

**Support Period:** Funded projects must take place between January 1, 2012 and December 31, 2012.

**Information Sessions:** In order to assist applicants with the Regional Artist Project Grant process, we will be conducting free Grant Information Sessions. Dates will be listed here by July 31, 2011.

### **Artist Resources:**

[Click here](#) to download Grantwriting Tips

[How to Photograph Your Artwork](#) - link to You Tube video

**How to Apply:** All applicants are required to apply through our online application system.  
[Click here](#) to begin a new application  
[Click here](#) to continue a previously started application

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **Q: How much can I request?**

A: The maximum request is \$2,000. If granted, the award will be for the full amount requested; no partial grants will be awarded with this program.

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### **Q: Am I required to match the grant?**

A: Although matching funds are not required of Regional Artist Project Grant applicants, if the cost of the request exceeds the maximum grant amount, the applicant must show additional funding source(s).

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### **Q: Am I an emerging or established artist?**

A: This is up to the applicant to determine. In general, an emerging artist is defined as an individual who has fewer than ten years of experience and is in the early stages of their career or is changing disciplines. An established artist is defined as an individual who has more than ten years of experience and is at a mature stage of their career, with an extensive body of work and a history of public exhibition, etc. Applicants may be either emerging or established artists, but in either case must have a record of artistic achievement appropriate to the stage of their career.

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### **Q: How will my application be reviewed?**

A: A panel of professional artists, each selected as a recognized authority in their art form, will review all applications. Examples of past judges include professional artists (including previous grant recipients), college and university professors, gallery owners, professional dancers, award-winning writers, theatre managers/directors, museum curators, etc.

Panelists review applications based on artistic and project merit based on the following criteria:

- Evidence of overall artistic excellence (based on individual artistic level).
  - Evidence of a commitment to pursuing or maintaining a career as a practicing artist.
  - Evidence that the request contributes to the individual's/group's artistic growth.
  - Evidence that the request is feasible and the request is realistic.
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### **Q: What types of projects have been funded in the past?**

A: In the past, artists have been awarded grants for the following types of projects:

- To work with master artists in their field
  - To purchase equipment (laptop, art supplies, etc.)
  - To pay for conference or workshop fees
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**Q: What can grant dollars be used for?**

A: Regional Artist Project Grant dollars can be used for a single item – workshop or conference fee, taking a master class, purchase or rental of a piece of equipment or supply materials. If you are unsure if you can use grant funds for a specific expense, please see the ineligible costs below or contact your [local arts council](#). Applicants are required to attach support for the request and request amount. For example, a write-up and pricing of conference fee, a draft invoice, or an online price quote, etc.

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**Q: Is there anything that I am unable to use grant dollars for?**

A: The Regional Artist Project Grant Program will not support:

- Projects that have already taken place.
  - Tuition to assist artists in obtaining an undergraduate or graduate degree.
  - Projects that do not primarily further your own development as an artist (e.g. teaching, curatorial work, etc.
  - Requests to purchase/rent multiple items
  - Multiple professional development experiences
  - Airfare or other costs associated with attending a professional development experience
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**Q: What assistance is provided to applicants?**

A: It is strongly encouraged that you contact the [Arts Council representative](#) in your county as you develop your application. Up to five days before the deadline, by appointment, a staff member from your local arts council will be available to review a DRAFT of your application. Draft reviews are strongly encouraged. Please note - we are unable to accept requests to review draft applications after September 15, 2011. For helpful grant-writing tips, [click here](#).

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**Q: If I receive a grant, what will I be required to do?**

- To accept the grant, you must complete and return a signed Grant Agreement. Upon receipt of the signed agreement you will receive the full grant award (100%).
- Credit the Regional Artist Project Grant consortium, your local arts council, and the North Carolina Arts Council in all printed materials related to the funded project.

- In order to apply for future funding from any of the supporting arts councils, you will need to submit your final report within 30 days of your project end date. Final paperwork includes a report, at least two forms of project documentation (program, photos, receipts, etc.), and other paperwork as required.

*Please note*, all grant recipients are required to pay any required state, local or federal taxes on grant awards.

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**Q: What type of work samples will I need to submit?**

A: The following materials documenting work that has been completed in the last three years must be submitted with your application. Clearly label all support materials with your name, title of work, and date of work. **All work samples must be submitted by the grant deadline date & time.**

**Visual Artists** – Eight (8) digital images - Digital images must be JPEG files formatted for Windows 2000 and must be 300 dpi and no larger than 1024 X 768 pixel resolution. File Name formatting: **LastName\_FirstInitial\_01\_TitleOfWork** (for example: Doe\_J\_01\_ParisAtNight.jpg). Visual artists must upload their work sample through the online application system.

**Music, Dance, Theatre, and Film/Media Artists** – Links stated in work sample list or mail three (3) DVDs to your local arts council. No more than 3 minutes will be reviewed by the panel. Please indicate which 3 minutes you want the panel to view on your work sample list. If no indication is given, the panel will review the first three minutes.

**Literary Artists** – Up to ten (10) pages of manuscript. Literary artists must upload their work sample through the online application system.

*Note:* Panelists first review the work samples provided and evaluate artistic merit based on “Evidence of overall artistic excellence (based on individual artistic level)”. You want to make sure you are submitting your strongest work. If you are applying to explore a new medium, you may want to include images from your stronger medium but state at the top of your work sample list. For example, if an artist has a history of creating watercolors, but wants to submit a project to explore oil painting, the artist should include images of watercolors and state on the work sample list: “I have historically worked in watercolors, but am looking to expand my expertise into oils. The images below show my strength as an artist on my established medium.”

**ORIGINAL WORK SAMPLES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.** (Original works can be defined as the actual pieces of artwork, original recordings, master copies, etc.)

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**Q: What other materials will I need to submit?**

A: In addition to the work samples listed above, you will be asked to upload a work sample list, resume, and price quote onto your online application form. No additional support materials will be accepted. Please note, artists who reside outside of Mecklenburg County are required to submit a letter of acknowledgement from their local county arts council. More information about these materials is available in the online application form. All work samples must be received by the deadline.

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**Q: I have more questions. Where can I get help?**

A: Your local arts council representative is available to answer questions as you develop your application. Please [click here](#) for a list of contacts for each arts council.

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**Q: When do I have to turn in my application?**

A: Applications and work samples must be received by **12:00 NOON on Thursday, September 22, 2011**. Upon submitting your online application, you will immediately receive an e-mail confirmation. If you do not receive this confirmation e-mail, your application has not been successfully submitted. Unfortunately, applications submitted after 12:00 noon will not be accepted.

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**Q: How do I apply?**

A: All applicants are required to apply through our online application system.