



FDDC ARTISAN GRANT FUND PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION

FDDC's mission includes supporting Native Artisans to improve the social and economic conditions among the Wabanaki people of Maine. To do so, FDDC has developed the Artisan Grant Fund to the working capital needs of these artisans. Along with the grant program, FDDC strongly encourages artisans to participate in technical assistance (TA) programs including its Financial Capability program to build personal credit and budget skills. The following describes the Artisan Grant Fund program eligibility, application process, and guidelines for approving artisan grants.

WHAT IT IS?

FDDC Artisan Grant Fund is a cash grant up to \$2,000 to support Native artisans to meet their working capital needs that will significantly impact their artisan business growth.

WHO IS IT FOR?

Applicants must be individual artisan business owners or artisan entrepreneurs and may submit only one application per year. Organizations are not eligible to apply. At the time an application is submitted, and the grant is awarded an applicant must be:

- 18 years of age or older (if less than 18 years must have adult sponsor)
- resident of Maine
- Enrolled in a federally recognized tribe
- 2023 grant recipient ineligible

WHAT IS ELIGIBLE?

This grant is available to artists to develop their artistic entrepreneurship. An opportunity to engage in entrepreneurial activities directly related to the advancement of their work. Such activities may include marketing, operations, and support. Keep in mind you will be asked to describe how engaging in developing your artistic entrepreneurship will advance your work. Further, your artistic entrepreneurship activities should not duplicate previous work or experiences but should represent a new or to further develop your artistic entrepreneurial endeavor.



ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

Grant funds may be used for any of the following (this list is not comprehensive):

- Equipment purchases, materials, or services needed to fulfill/engage in business development.
- Rental fees, including equipment, instruments, facilities (including short-term space and studio rentals), etc.
- Preparation, freight, and/or shipping costs.
- Travel necessary to engage in events, festivals, and associated costs.
- Registration fees.
- Professional service fees such as bookkeeping, legal, human resources, marketing, etc.

Grant funds cannot be used for any artistic entrepreneurial activities that take place before the start date of the grant funding period, and/or after the end of the grant year (September 30, 2024). If your artistic entrepreneurial activities start before or ends after the funding period, you are still eligible to apply and should articulate the full timeline in your application but may only request and use grant funds for related activities taking place within the funding period.



THE APPLICATION

Late or incomplete applications will be ineligible for review or funding.

Narrative Proposal Details

Provide a proposal narrative by answering each of these questions.

- a) Tell us about your artistic practice and how this grant is appropriate and vital at this stage of your business growth.
- b) Describe your artistic products. How are they made? How is your art unique?
- c) Tell us about who would like to purchase your art? Where do they like to buy your art?
- d) Where do you make your art? Tell us if you have a team that will help you make your art?
- e) How will engaging in this business growth phase develop your artistic entrepreneurship?
- f) What next steps in your artistic entrepreneurship would be made possible after completing this phase of your business growth?
- g) How do you showcase your artwork? Do you utilize social media or another avenue altogether?

Timeline of Proposed Activities

Provide a timeline that details the proposed activities related to your business growth.

Please format the timeline as “Month Date Year: Name of Activity.”

This may be a single date, such as “April 12, 2024: Day of Workshop” or a bullet point list like the following:

- January-March 2024: Attend web development and e-commerce courses.
- April-June 2024: Design and develop website.
- July-September 2024: Finalize and soft launch website.
- October-December 2024: Begin marketing and start taking orders online.

Artistic Samples

If appropriate submit work samples you’ve completed within the last 10 years which are relevant to this grant. From the list, please choose the most appropriate artistic work sample format to represent your discipline:

- recorded audio, or
- recorded video, or
- images, or
- Combination of materials listed above.



Work Samples Description

Provide a brief description explaining how the submitted artistic sample(s) relate to this grant. What is the overall relevance of these artistic samples to your application?

Experience List and Description

Optional: Provide at least 3 arts-based experiences you have engaged in over the past 5 years that relate to your artistic business growth you want to engage in and briefly describe how each experience demonstrates progression of your artistic trajectory leading to your artistic business growth.

The experience list helps the panel situate your artistic business growth you propose in a broader context; please briefly describe the overall relevancy of the experiences you listed to the opportunity.

Expenses List

List eligible expenses ONLY (equipment, materials, services, rental fees, facility fees, preparation, freight, shipping, documentation, travel, professional fees, etc.) related to your proposal.

Grant Amount Requested

Indicate the grant amount you are requesting, based on eligible expenses, between \$500 and \$2,000.

Budget Narrative

If your eligible expenses exceed \$2,000, please tell us how you will fund the rest of your proposed activities.



FOUR DIRECTIONS
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Here's what panelists will be thinking about as they review your application materials:

Quality of Proposed Opportunity

Did you clearly outline the specific details of your artistic business growth with this grant? Does the application narrative outline how your artistic business growth is unique, relevant, and specifically important in relation to your current artistic trajectory?

Potential Impact

Did you share what next steps would be possible after you meet your artistic business growth and how it relates to your artistic goals in the narrative proposal details submitted? Did you clearly describe how this grant will introduce your work to new audiences, develop new artistic skills, or support the development of the entrepreneurial side of your artistic career?

Feasibility

Does the application and timeline demonstrate substantial evidence that the proposal will be realized within the funding period? Does the application include a reasonable expenses list for the scope and scale of your proposed activities? Are the experiences you describe relevant to your artistic business growth you propose?



FOUR DIRECTIONS
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FUNDING RESTRICTIONS

This program does not fund the following:

- Teaching artist residences.
- Opportunities that take place outside of the funding period.
- Ongoing studio or space rental.
- Equipment not related to the opportunity.
- Costs related to activities for which the applicant is employed or contracted.
- Opportunities related to academic research or formal study toward an academic or professional degree, such as capstone projects.
- Fundraising projects, food, and beverages for any purpose.
- Grant administration, overhead, or processing fees taken by an umbrella/parent organization.
- Costs for nonrefundable travel expenses which are cancelled or postponed beyond the funding period end date.

Additionally, notwithstanding any other law, no monies from Four Directions may be spent for payment to any person or entity for use in desecrating, casting contempt on, mutilating, defacing, defiling, burning, trampling, or otherwise dishonoring or causing to bring dishonor on religious objects, the flag of the United States or the flag of this state.” Recipients of Four Directions support are further instructed to “take into consideration general standards of decency and respect for the diverse beliefs and values of the American public” within funded programs.

REVIEW PROCESS

Applications are internally reviewed within approximately 1 week of Friday, May 31 due date, and you will be notified via email shortly after, if your application receives funding.

- Notification of awards: Friday, June 7, 2024

AWARD AMOUNT

Artists may request between \$500 and \$2,000 in funding. The number of grants awarded is dependent upon the amount of funds available. No match is required.

Funding Period and Due Dates

Eligible artistic business growth opportunities must take place during the funding period dates of the cycle in which they are submitted.

Application Due Date

May 31, 2024, 5:00 PM Eastern

Funding Period

June 1, 2024 – September 30, 2024

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