

ARTISTS 360

A PROGRAM OF MID-AMERICA ARTS ALLIANCE

COMMUNITY ACTIVATOR APPLICATION INFORMATION

OVERVIEW

Artists 360, a program of Mid-America Arts Alliance made possible through the support of the Walton Family Foundation, provides grant funding and professional development opportunities to individual artists of all disciplines living in the Arkansas counties of Benton, Carroll, Crawford, Sebastian, and Washington.

This program is designed to elevate and energize greater Northwest Arkansas artists by providing them with:

- \$17,500 grants to creative practices and career advancement;
- Peer-based learning opportunities to develop entrepreneurship skills and build sustainable creative practices; and
- Connections to a dynamic regional artist network.

The Community Activator grants are awarded annually to five individual artists with creative practices focused on collaboration. Fellows in this category must have a demonstrated history of providing opportunities to other artists, helping to create an active community of peer support in the Northwest Arkansas region. Community Activator fellows receive practice-based financial support and participate in peer-based learning experiences, including an in-person retreat, One-On-One mentorship, and small group discussions. These experiences develop entrepreneurial skills, while expanding a network of leading regional artists.

Applications open April 22, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. and close June 10, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

Applicants will be notified by September 1, 2024.

Follow this link to apply: <https://artists360.art/community-activator-grants>

For more information or to apply, visit: <https://artists360.art>

M-AAA encourages those who self-identify as Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC), LGBTQIA2S+, and/or disabled to apply.

M-AAA encourages the applications of artists who have historically lacked access to traditional forms of institutional support and resources.

*Applicants have the option to compete their applications verbally with M-AAA staff. We recommend that artist bio, artist statement and narrative answers be prepared in advance of verbal application meetings. Work samples must be submitted as digital files or as links to website addresses.

Requests for this assistance must be received by Friday, May 31, 2024.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for the Artists 360 Community Activator program, you must:

- Be a resident of the State of Arkansas and have established residency of at least one year at the time of application, in one of the following counties: Benton, Carroll, Crawford, Sebastian, or Washington.
- Retain residency within the five-county region for the duration of the grant period (October 2024 through October 2025).
- Commit to participating in peer-to-peer professional development activities during the grant year, including the Artists 360 Retreat at the 21C Museum Hotel in Bentonville, AR from 9:00 a.m. Saturday, October 19, 2024 through 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 20, 2024 (meals and private lodging provided).
- Be 18 years of age at the time of application.
- Must be a U.S. citizen, permanent resident, or have non-resident status and provide a valid Social Security Number if selected for funding.
- Be a practicing artist that creates work in any discipline, including, but not limited to dance, film, literary, music, theatre, and visual art.
- Show a demonstrated commitment to building and supporting the arts community in Northwest Arkansas through collaboration, providing opportunities to other artists, and community engagement.
- May not be currently enrolled in a degree seeking program.
- May not have previously received an Artists 360 Community Activator grant.
- May not have received a grant of \$1,000 or more through any other M-AAA granting program during its 2024 or 2025 fiscal years (July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2025).
- Not be a full-time employee of Mid-America Arts Alliance or an immediate family member of a full-time employee of Mid-America Arts Alliance.

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REVIEW CRITERIA

Community Activator Grants will be reviewed using the following criteria:

- **Artistry:** Selected artists will demonstrate artistic excellence, broadly defined by the practitioners and norms in their discipline, and show a deep commitment to their work. Selected artists will have an active creative practice for a minimum of three years and show motivation to continue and further evolve.
- **Collaboration:** Selected artists have a demonstrated history of collaboration, providing opportunities to other artists, and helping to create an active community of peer support in the Northwest Arkansas region.
- **Program Readiness:** Selected artists will have the desire to advance their career and deepen their practice, engage in an active strategic management process surrounding their practice, as well as an interest in sharing their work and process as part of a network of artists in a peer learning environment.
- **Impact of Funding on Practice:** Selected artists will clearly identify the ways in which Artists 360 funds will impact their careers and creative practices. These identified impacts should relate to previous challenges and/or desired futures.
- **Balanced Cohort:** The overall balance of the group of fellows will be considered to ensure a broad representation of perspectives, disciplines, and experiences.

APPLICATION

Each Artists 360 Practicing Artist application should include:

- Completed online application form.
- Artist Biography (maximum 100 words).
 - [Writing Your Artist's Bio pdf](#)
- Artist Statement OR In your own words describe your artistic practice. (maximum 250 words).
 - [Writing Your Artist's Statement pdf](#)
- Artist Resume/CV (maximum 3 pages, pdf format).
 - [Writing Your Artist's Resume and CV pdf](#)
- Proof of residence (See details below).
- Narrative responses to the following questions:

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- Creative Practice Evolution: In your own words, explain the evolution of your collaborative practice over the previous few years. What work have you been pursuing? How has the work evolved? Why has it evolved in that way? Have you faced challenges or constraints in making work? (250-word maximum)
- Future of Your Creative Practice: Where do you want your collaborative creative practice to be in five years? How do you determine and measure success within your practice? (250-word maximum)
- Collaboration: How have you collaborated with other artists through your creative practice? How have you provided opportunities to peer artists through your creative practice? How does collaboration and providing opportunities for other artists inform your creative work?
- Fund Use: If awarded an Artists 360 Community Activator Grant, how do you intend to use the funds to further your collaborative creative practice? (250-word maximum)
- Professional Development: Considering the criteria for this grant, explain how participating in the Artists 360 Retreat, learning alongside a dedicated, small group of your peers, accessing one-on-one mentoring sessions with Artist Peer Facilitators, and building a network of regional artists, will be beneficial to the development of your creative practice. What strengths will you bring to share with your peers? (250-word maximum)
- *Optional: What identities do you hold that you believe are relevant to share? This information will be shared with panelists and is an additional opportunity to share more of your story. Including but not limited to race, ethnicity, disability, class, sexual orientation, gender identity, caregiver, military, rural resident, of immigrant experience, English as a second language. For example, "I am a Taiwanese American cis-gender female, first-generation immigrant living in rural Arkansas." or "I am a LGBTQ+ parent of two children." (100 word maximum)
- Up to five artwork samples (images - 1MB max. per image, audio files, film files, or URLs to audio and film files).
- Work Sample Summary (maximum 1000 words).
 - [Work Sample Summary Examples pdf](#)

ATTACHMENTS & UPLOADS

Resume/CV

Upload your Art Resume/CV. Limit three (3) pages. pdf format (1 MB maximum).

Proof of Residency

Upload proof of residency in one of the following Arkansas Counties (Benton, Carroll, Crawford, Sebastian, or Washington). A proof of residency document must include your name and your residence address, be dated within 90 days and be computer-generated

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(typed). Scans of documents will be accepted in either jpg or pdf formats. You only have to provide one of the following acceptable documents: valid Arkansas Drivers' license, bill from a bank, mortgage company, utility company, credit card company, doctor, or hospital, bank statement, property tax bill, current valid homeowner's renters policy or motor vehicle insurance card or policy, current valid Arkansas motor vehicle registration, 2023 tax filing (IRS or state of Arkansas). pdf or jpg format (1MB maximum). Please redact sensitive information.

Work Samples

Include up to a total of five artwork samples. Samples may be uploaded or provided as URLs. You may mix and match a combination of uploads and URLs.

- All uploaded files should be titled with the name of the artist, <FirstnameLastnameSample1>. No spaces or special characters.
- Uploaded files may not be larger than 1MB.
- You may mix and match the following sample types:
 - Visual Images -.png, .jpg or .pdf file format or URL.
 - Audio - (1 minute = 1 sample) Audio files should be uploaded to a streaming service (Soundcloud) or hosted on a website and shared via URLs.
 - Video - (1 minute = 1 sample) Video should be uploaded to a streaming service (YouTube or Vimeo) or hosted on a website, and shared via URLs. Videos make sure are set to public viewing, or can be viewed with a link. Remove ads from playing before/during videos, if possible.
 - Literary - (2 pages = 1 sample) Written work should be uploaded as .pdf files. You may submit one or more typed, double spaced work samples in a 12 point font.

Work Sample Summary

The work sample summary is a narrative answer that describes and provides context for the submitted work samples. When applicable, include the following for each work sample corresponding to the order the samples are submitted: artist name; title of the work; website address; medium; dimensions; date of completion or performance or publication; running time; and number of pages and other details regarding the creative development, inspiration, or relevance of the work. Clearly indicate selections intended for review including portion (i.e. URL – "Video Titles" – view from 1:36 to 3:06). Include the name of the artist in the file name. For examples visit: <https://artists360.art/resources>. (1,000 words maximum).

TIPS AND TROUBLESHOOTING

- We strongly encourage applicants to access the online application through the Google Chrome browser
- Make sure cookies are enabled
 - On your computer, open Chrome.
 - At the top right, click More. Settings.
 - Under "Privacy and security," click Site settings.
 - Click Cookies.
 - From here, you can: Turn on cookies: Next to "Blocked," turn on the switch.
- Compose the answers to your narrative questions in a word processing document (i.e., Microsoft word or Google Docs) and then copy and paste answers into the online application form when you are fully satisfied with your responses.
- Verify that all files you will be uploading to the online application form (proof of enrollment or proof of residency, resume/CV, images, literary samples) are less than 1MB in size and in acceptable format of .png, .jpg or .pdf.
- Please label all uploaded documents with your name and the title of the document (example: FirstnameLastnameSample1).
- Carefully verify that you have typed your email address into the online application form correctly. Your email address is how you access your saved application.
- As you are working in the online application, save frequently.
- Applicants should work in advance of the Monday, June 10, 2024 5:00 p.m. CST deadline.

If you have content or technical questions, please email: artistservices@maaa.org. This email address is monitored and quickly supported Monday through Friday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm CST.

You may also schedule a zoom meeting during our office hours through [Calendly](#).

Office Hours: April 29 - June 10, 2024
Mondays - Thursdays: 10:00 am - 6:00 pm CST

For more information or to apply, visit: <https://artists360.art>