

Completing the Application

2. Write a Description of Proposed Activities

c. *FEMINISM & SOCIAL CHANGE*: Explain your understanding and practice of feminism, and your understanding of the relationship between art and social change—in general and in relation to your artwork.

In this section, you can discuss how **feminist art can affect social change**, and how you see your art creating social change. In this section, you can discuss your vision of how feminist art can affect social change, how you see your art affecting social change, and how the artistic enrichment activities you are proposing will enhance your (and your art's) ability to affect social change. This question is an opportunity for you to think through and explain how feminist art can create social change *in your own context*. Why do you want to inspire social change through your art, and why is your art the best way to do it?

Below you will find some ideas to get you thinking, but ultimately, this question is an opportunity for you to think through *your own* understanding of the relationship between feminism, art and social change in your life, art & community.

KFW recognizes **feminism** as a dynamic force for social change that varies across age, ethnicity, economic class, geography, sexuality, and other differences. For this reason, KFW does not promote a single definition of feminism and encourages grant applicants to describe their own understanding and practice of feminism. This is your chance to think through your ideas, think about feminism in your own context and in your own life. The KFW board of directors has developed a statement on feminism that guides them, but KFW recognizes and encourages applicants to come up with their own understanding and practice of feminism. The KFW Board of Directors has adopted the following statement on feminism: *Feminism is a conceptual framework based on a radical transformation of society and self. Feminism challenges socially and politically defined gender roles and fosters greater opportunity, choice, and independence. Feminism creates economic equality, a violence-free society, and racial and ethnic justice. Feminism is an evolving process, which requires courage and advocacy.* Clearly think through and articulate what feminism means to you, and how it is influencing the activities you are proposing. This is your opportunity to explain your theoretical understanding of feminism and also how it manifests practically in your life and in your art.

In thinking about **social change**, you might want consider such things as how feminist art has the power to increase awareness about women's issues, alter perceptions, stimulate dialogue, open new spaces for civic participation and imagine new ways to create a more just and equitable Kentucky. You might also think about other definitions and visions of art for social change.

One example of a vision for how feminist art can affect social change comes from the Leeway Foundation, KFW's sister organization that funds feminist social change artists in the Philadelphia area (www.leeway.org). They have developed the following statement about art for social change: *Art for social change is art with a vision and impacts people in many ways. It can: raise consciousness; alter how we think about ourselves, our society, or our culture; create a vision of a more just world; be a tool or strategy for organizing and movement-building; reclaim traditional cultural practices as a form of resistance or community building; challenge racism, classism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, ageism, ableism or other forms of oppression; and question mainstream culture and beliefs.*

In writing your application, the most important thing is: what is **your** understanding of the relationship between art and social change, and how does that come through in the artwork that you create?