

# The KFW Grantmaking Process

## HERE is a quick review of how it works!

**KFW staff are here to help you:** Don't hesitate to contact KFW staff if you have any questions about the application or grant review process. We don't participate in the funding decision-making, but we are here to facilitate strong applications from feminist artists who want to create social change for women and girls across the state. We know that when women and girls advance, so does Kentucky.

**The Application Arrives:** KFW typically receives an average of 100-140 applications per AE grant cycle, and 50 -75 applications per AMA grant cycle. Every application received is given careful attention. The KFW Program Officer reads each application, writes a short summary, ensures the application is complete, and prepares the applications to be sent to the grant reviewers. KFW staff does not review applications for their merits or make funding recommendations or decisions. Our job is to make sure every application is as complete as possible.

**Grant Review Begins:** KFW staff identifies panels of independent grant reviewers, whose work constitutes the heart of the grantmaking process. Each grant review panel consists of three reviewers — two from Kentucky and one from out-of-state — who are all highly qualified artists and activists from a range of disciplines, including literary, visual arts, performing, and media arts. Once these panels have been assembled, the applications are divided among them, according to the art form chosen on the application: literary, performing, visual, and media. The reviewers' task is to carefully read, assess, and rank the applications and corresponding work samples, in preparation for the grant review meeting. Grant reviewers agree to abide by confidentiality and conflict-of-interest statements to ensure the fairness of the decision-making process.

**The Grant Review Meetings:** Each panel assembles for a face-to-face meeting at the KFW office. Reviewers have already sent in their preliminary rankings, which are used to begin the discussion. Although KFW staff is present to observe and take notes, the recommendations about which applications will receive funding and how much they will receive are left up to our expert grant reviewers. Discussion is often lively and decisions are difficult to make, because there are so many worthy applications and grant funds are limited. The criteria that appear on the application forms (e.g., "artwork in sample is strong, highly original, and reflects feminism and social change; applicant's understanding and practice of feminism; and understanding of the relationship between art and social change," etc.) are the same criteria that guide reviewers in making their tough decisions about funding recommendations.

**Recommendations:** Once the panels have reached their recommendations, the recommendations are forwarded to KFW’s board for final approval. Please keep in mind that KFW is unable to fund fully most applications. Many applicants receive less than they requested. KFW staff works hard to provide constructive comments, straight from the grant reviewers, to each grant applicant to help her/him understand the final decision.

**Notification:** For Artist Enrichment grants, applicants typically receive notification by early December. For Art Meets Activism grants, applicants typically receive notification by early June.

**Typical Timeline:**

	<b>AMA</b>	<b>AE</b>
<b>Application Deadline:</b>	First week of March	First week of September
<b>Notification:</b>	Early June	Early December
<b>Checks sent:</b>	End of June	End of December