

Frequently Asked Questions about submitting an application:

How can I strengthen my application?

One of the best things you can do is to show your completed application to a friend or mentor to get another perspective on the application, and suggestions for improvement. You can ask the reader whether you have expressed your ideas clearly, whether the application and budget are aligned, whether the work sample is a good choice for the activities proposed, and whether there are spelling or punctuation errors in your application. If you do not have a peer or colleague who can help you, you could consider attending a writing group or working with an expert writer to get feedback on whether your ideas and activities are expressed clearly. You could also consider identifying a copy editor to ensure that your spelling, grammar and punctuation are correct.

If you choose to hire an expert writer or copy editor to work on your application, please take into consideration that the best person to represent your work, the activities you want to pursue, your thoughts on feminism and social change, and how you want to develop as a feminist social change artist, is you. Also, keep in mind that reviewers typically appreciate hearing the authentic voice of the grant applicant.

If you work with someone to improve your application, please keep in mind that the primary role of a writing expert or copy editor would be to ensure that your own ideas are expressed clearly and concisely. Before considering paying for outside help, please read the question below.

Can I pay someone to help me with my application?

KFW does not endorse any person or organization (including grantees, past reviewers, grantwriters, or any acquaintance of staff or board members) to help others with their grant applications. Although it is important to ensure that your writing and ideas are expressed clearly, hiring someone to write the grant for you, or working with another KFW community member, is no guarantee of receiving KFW funding. Because KFW grant guidelines are always changing and evolving, even if someone has received grants or served as a reviewer in the past, they do not have any special or privileged information or knowledge regarding the current grant review process, or whether or not you will receive funding.

Do I need a statement of commitment from people or organizations listed in my application?

Statements of commitment are not required, but you may include them in your application materials if your proposed activities are dependant on the involvement of an outside person or place. For instance, if you are applying to work with out outside artist or agency, a statement of commitment from that person or organization could be useful so that the reviewers know that the person or organization has agreed to what is outlined in the application. If you do include a statement of commitment, be sure that it is not confused with a letter of recommendation. The statement should address that person's commitment to the activities named in the application NOT the quality of your art, your ability to engage a specific community, or your ability to complete the proposed activities.

Can I refer reviewers to my website?

Reviewers are not required to look at any materials beyond what is submitted with the application. Any web information provided is not considered part of your application, unless it is submitted as backup files for digital work samples. You should include everything in your application and work sample that you want the reviewers to know about your work. On the other hand, some reviewers may choose to look for information about you and/or your work online. Although KFW staff does not suggest this to reviewers, some want to know more information about a particular applicant. You may want to be aware of what information is available to reviewers online, and be sure that you are consistent in your application materials with information available online.