

VI. Thinking About Eligibility

What are the Eligibility Requirements?

Because KFW is a private 501(c)3 foundation, grants cannot be used for:

- for-profit organizations
- tuition costs or living expenses while working toward a degree
- promotion of specific religious doctrines
- endowment or capital campaigns or renovations of institutional facilities
- general operating costs for organizations

Because KFW focuses on feminist artists in Kentucky, KFW does not fund:

- non-art related expenses (i.e., overdue bills, taxes, etc.)
- work conducted by artists or organizations that have not resided in Kentucky for at least one year at the time of application
- activities that do not focus on improving the lives of Kentucky women

Where does KFW draw the line on what is considered a “for-profit organization” or a “business venture”?

Because of its status as a private foundation under IRS regulations, KFW is prohibited from making grants to “for-profit organizations or business enterprises.” The foundation gives grants to organizations that are non-profit in nature.

KFW does not require that groups or organizations have their 501c3 status to receive a grant. Artist groups and non-profit organizations may have earned income (from selling CDs or tickets, for example), but grant projects whose sole purpose is making a profit for an organization are not permitted under KFW policy.

For individuals, KFW recognizes the need for artists to earn a living, and allows the use of grant funds for creating a CD to sell or to produce marketing materials, for instance. In recent years, the line between for-profit and not-for-profit has become blurred and contested. Some national arts leaders (like Bill Ivey, former head of the National Endowment for the Arts, for example) have urged individual artists to become more entrepreneurial. At the same time, some artists, especially younger and emerging artists, more frequently engage in a mixture of for-profit and not-for-profit activities as they strive to make a living. Within these complexities, for KFW purposes, reviewers are asked to weigh whether or not the main purpose of the Artist Enrichment grant application is to further the individual applicant’s artistic development as a feminist social change artist.

What does KFW mean by “tuition costs”?

Again, under IRS regulation, because KFW is not primarily a scholarship-granting organization, the foundation is prohibited from making grants to pursue a degree from an accredited school, college or university. Staff understanding of what constitutes “tuition” is based on the Council on Foundation’s definition, “tuition applies to students who will be attending ‘educational institutions.’” According to the Council on Foundations, this means schools, colleges or universities.

KFW past practice has also been not to cover living expenses for students working on a Master’s thesis or dissertation. Students can, however, receive grants if they use the funds for workshops, residencies, or any other training programs for which they will not receive academic credit, or if they will use grant funds for activities (including artist fees) that are not related to the degree they are pursuing. Likewise, artists who are not students can use grant funds for workshops, training programs, workshops, etc. if the program is not associated with an academic institution.

What do you mean by “promotion of specific religious doctrines”?

Any application that uses grant funds to attempt to convert others to the applicant’s own particular religion cannot be funded by KFW. However, KFW does not have any restrictions barring grant funds being used for activities that might conflict with another religion but do not in themselves proselytize. In addition, an applicant can express her religious views in the application and/or work sample as long as they are expressed in a way that conveys one’s own personal experience and not with the intent to convert others.

Does KFW Have Funding Priorities?

KFW is committed to making the grant program accessible to a wide range of women regardless of age, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, physical ability, educational level, economic condition, or geographic origin. For this reason, when considering applications of **equal artistic merit**, the KFW Board of Directors has asked reviewers to give priority to: first-time applicants, women from rural and inner city areas, women of color, especially African American women, lesbians, low income women, women who did not complete high school or college, and women with disabilities.