

Art Meets Activism Grant Program

The **Art Meets Activism** (AMA) grant supports feminist artists and organizations in Kentucky to engage individuals and communities in artmaking that directly advances positive social change. Applicants should be able to demonstrate their commitment to feminism, their ability to engage community members, and have a concrete plan for positive social change through arts-based activities. Applicants may request funds for a range of art activities that address social change including but not limited to: community participation in creating art, collaborative or individualized artmaking with women and/or girls, artistic creation of new work in a community context, or arts education programs primarily focused on women or girls.

Applicants to the AMA grant program, like the Artist Enrichment grant program, should show high artistic quality in the work sample, and should be able to demonstrate their commitment to feminism and their understanding of the relationship between art and social change. Both grant programs are arts-based and feminist in nature.

Examples of awarded Art Meets Activism grants

A visual artist in Ashland provides weekly mixed media art workshops at a domestic violence shelter to help women express their emotions, build their self-respect and develop their abilities to become empowered women.

Two media artists in Eastern Kentucky record oral histories of diverse generations of eastern KY women artists, share the oral histories on a website, and establish an online community of women artists interested in social change in this region. The project connects women artists and encourages them to become agents of social change.

A dancer in Louisville teaches modern dance classes that incorporate body image and self-esteem discussion workshops for African-American women. The classes will uplift and educate the participants by engaging them through dance.

A writer in Paint Lick leads writing activities with women over the age of 70 living in an independent retirement community. The activities assist the writers to become lifelong contributors to the community, and encourages them to continue to write and share their experiences with women and girls in Kentucky.

An arts organization in Lexington partners artists with survivors of domestic violence to create art rooted in the survivors' experiences. The program gives survivors an opportunity for creative self-expression, provides artists an opportunity to use their skills, and advances social change by raising community awareness about violence against women.

Thinking about Applying for an Art Meets Activism Grant

Questions to ask yourself if you're thinking of applying for an AMA grant:

Is KFW's mission a good match for my work? Is this the right grant for me? Is my idea a stronger match for the Artist Enrichment grant?

Do I have the skills and abilities to create art in a community context, through collaboration or in workshop settings?

Who are the individuals or groups I want to work with to create art in my community?

If I don't already have a connection with a specific group, how will I find and invite the women and/or girls with whom I want to work? What local organizations might be helpful in identifying potential participants?

How will I engage these individuals/this group/community through art? How will those individuals or groups benefit from the proposed activities?

How will engaging with these individuals or groups also benefit me as an artist?

What sources of support do I already have for my ideas? Have I fully accessed this support?

What are the participatory artistic activities that I want to do? What materials do I need?

What are the results that my community and I want to achieve together? How long will it really take us to achieve these results?

What social change do we want to make and what are the indicators we will use to know that we are making a difference?

AMA Questions Frequently Asked of KFW Staff:

I want to use my art to benefit women and/or girls. How do I get started?

Think about the activities you wish to pursue in this grant. Who will participate, and how will they benefit? Who do you most want to reach? It is best if you already have some kind of connection with individuals or a group of women or girls with whom you want to work. If not, you could consider partnering with an organization that is already working with women you're interested in reaching. You may want to consider seeking training if the women you want to work with have any kind of special circumstances. Also, keep in mind that all relationships are reciprocal. If you want to advance social change through the power of art, recognize what you are receiving through this relationship. How will these activities help you grow as a feminist social change artist?

How do I partner with an artist to advance positive social change?

Community-based art is a powerful way to advance the social change issues you are passionate about. There are many ways artists and organizations can work together with community members to create positive social change through art. Keep in mind that KFW funded grant activities must be artist-driven. If you have an existing relationship with a feminist artist or artists, you might start by brainstorming together about what collaborative artmaking activities might help you reach your social change goals. It is best when the artist and organization can work together to develop activities that engage a community of people.

May I apply for a grant to work with an out-of-state artist?

You may, but be sure to explain clearly how that artist's involvement will benefit women and/or girls in Kentucky. Also, keep in mind that your activities should be artist-driven. KFW rarely supports the full cost of an out-of-state artist, and your application and budget should reflect how bringing in an artist from out of state will further your Art Meets Activism goals.