



The Kentucky
Foundation For
Women

2019 Grant: Advancing Democracy, Building Power

Deadline to apply: March 1, 2019

“History is right here, right now. We are in it; we are making it.”

– Joy Harjo, Native American Poet

Overview:

*How do we build power for women and girls? How do we share power?
How do we advance an equitable democracy?*

In this era of extreme political division in our nation, we reflect on the promise of our democracy, as well as the ongoing struggle to live up to its unrealized potential. We honor the long history of social justice work through small networks, largely unseen and unrecognized, often led by women of color, to secure voting rights for women and access to full participation in our democracy¹. We also recognize that this struggle is far from over.

There is a hunger and opportunity to challenge those who traditionally hold power and change the stories currently at the center of our politics and economy. The steady erosion of our democratic systems, rising authoritarianism, uneven rule of law, and weakening civil and human rights protections signal challenges to essential aspects of our democracy.

This moment provides an opportunity for feminist artists to use an intersectional lens to imagine a world where all women and girls and gender-nonconforming people can engage equitably. Where women lead and are seen. Where people from diverse worldviews and cultural backgrounds build, share and wield power, leading us toward a future of inclusion across boundaries of age, race, ethnicity, ability, gender identity, sexual orientation, citizenship status, geographic homeplace, and socio-economic status. Where women lead the charge to create an equitable democracy for all.

¹ These efforts include, for example: the passage of the 19th Amendment in 1920; the passage of the Indian Citizenship Act in 1924; the passage of the Voting Rights Act in 1965, and the enforcement that followed; the extension of the Voting Rights Act in 1975 that ended discrimination against so-called ‘language minorities’ and affected many Latinx populations, Asian Americans, Alaskans, Hawaiians among others; the Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act of 1984 and further efforts to increase accessibility at polling places; current efforts to restore voting rights for former felons; and much, much more.

"The most common way people give up their power is by thinking they don't have any."

- Alice Walker, Author

"The arts are not a frill. The arts are a response to our individuality and our nature, and help to shape our identity. What is there that can transcend deep difference and stubborn divisions? The arts. They have a wonderful universality. Art has the potential to unify. It can speak in many languages without a translator. The arts do not discriminate. The arts can lift us up."

- Barbara Jordan, Former Texas Congresswoman

With this grant, we invite you to imagine how your art² can inspire action towards building power for women and girls, sharing power among and within your communities and wielding power towards fulfilling the promise of an equitable democracy. You might consider:

- Art that emphasizes decision-making power and affirms personal agency for women and girls.
- Art that turns to indigenous ways of sharing power that can unseat current power structures and dominant paradigms.
- Art that illuminates untold stories, currently and historically, of women of color, rural women, or women with disabilities in the struggle for full participation.
- Art that addresses electoral politics, voter protection, misinformation and disinformation, voter intimidation, who is counted in the census, gerrymandering, restoration of voting rights for former felons, citizenship status, (currently and historically), building democratic power and catalyzing democratic renewal.
- Art that honors the ancestors as well as prepares for the generations to come. Art that reflects on history while inspiring action.
- Art that explores what shared power looks like in relationships, organizations or communities. Art that envisions new ways of practicing democracy and community.
- Art that opens opportunities for young women and allies to learn about what it means to participate in our democracy.
- Art that is designed to build sustainable collective power for women and our allies, resulting in greater civic participation and impact.

*"I am living a life I don't regret
A life that will resonate with my ancestors,
And with as many generations forward as I can imagine.
I am attending to the crises of my time with my best self,
I am of communities that are doing our collective best
To honor our ancestors and all humans to come."*

--Adrienne Maree Brown, Author and Activist

² "Art" includes visual, performing, media and literary art forms.

Who can apply:

Individual artists and nonprofit organizations based in Kentucky who are using arts-based activities to address democracy and power for women and girls may apply. Each applicant must be a resident of Kentucky. KFW is committed to making grants accessible to all, regardless of age, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical ability, educational level, economic condition or geographic origin.

Applicants to this Special Grant, like all KFW grant programs, 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. KFW grant programs are arts-based and feminist in nature.

In addition, the following are KFW's eligibility requirements³:

Grants cannot be used for: business enterprises or for-profit organizations, tuition, costs or living expenses while working toward a degree (or fees for auditing a class), promotion of specific religious doctrines, endowment or capital campaigns or renovations of institutional facilities, general operating costs for organizations, non art-related expenses (i.e., overdue bills, taxes, etc.), work conducted by artists or organizations that are not residents of Kentucky, and activities that do not focus on improving the lives of Kentucky women or girls.

"Artists are truth-seekers and storytellers. They create, translate, and illuminate. They influence, inspire, and build movements." -- Suzy Delvalle, President & Executive Director, Creative Capital

Grant Range:

Grants will range from \$1000-\$7500. This one-time grant will be a yes or no decision; there will not be an option for reduced funding.

Note: Applicants may apply for both this one-time grant, and also the Art Meets Activism (AMA) grant, either for the same project or for a different project. Applicants must complete a separate application for each grant program. When applying for both grants for the same project, if an application is awarded the one-time grant, that application will be withdrawn from consideration from the AMA grant. When applying to the two grants for two distinctly different projects, the applications will both be eligible to receive funding if selected.

"We can... help cultivate understanding of and appreciation for the values, norms, and, most important, the practices that underpin our liberal democracy, as well as the shared sense of national community it requires." -- Larry Kramer, President of the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation

³ For full explanation of eligibility requirements, see <http://www.kfw.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Thinking-About-Eligibility-2018.pdf>.

Who will review the applications?

A panel of three independent peer reviewers will read all applications and make the final recommendations concerning the selection of the grantees. The reviewers are feminist social change artists who are chosen specifically to match up with the range of art forms represented in the applicant pool. Like KFW's regular grantmaking programs, KFW staff will not make selections for this grant.⁴

"We will never have peace in the world until women take power." -- Coretta Scott King, Author, Activist, Civil Rights Leader

What criteria are used in the review process:

Each application will be assessed based on the following criteria:

1. Artmaking is central to the activities. Artwork in sample is strong, highly original, and reflects feminism and social change.
2. Artwork and proposed activities inspire action toward building a future democracy grounded in equity and inclusive engagement.
3. Artwork and proposed activities build power for women and girls and explore feminist versions of shared power.
4. Work plan, timeline, and budget are clear, detailed, and realistic.
5. Audience: the activities or artwork have a defined audience, and the activities or art will reach the intended audience in an effective way.
6. Impact: application and work sample articulate a vision for feminist social change, and have a plan for collecting data and effectively measuring the desired impact.

NOTE: When making final selections, in considering applications of equal merit, reviewers will be asked to consider KFW's priority populations and geographic location. In addition, priority will be given to projects that approach these questions through an intersectional lens.⁵

Timeframe:

⁴ The following is KFW's official statement concerning staff participation in funding decisions: KFW staff establish review panels for all grant and residency applications. KFW staff do not participate in discussions of the applications, and do not weigh in on funding decisions. Reviewers make recommendations for funding based on their artistic expertise. These recommendations are sent to the KFW Board for approval. Final funding decisions are made by KFW Board as part of their fiduciary oversight of the Foundation's finances. The board follows the reviewers' recommendations unless there is evidence that the foundation's guidelines and policies weren't followed.

⁵ Intersectionality is a term coined by Kimberlé Williams Crenshaw to examine how different forms of discrimination (racism, sexism, and classism, for example) overlap and intersect in people's lives. For the purposes of this grant, priority will be given to projects that address overlapping systems of privilege and power within our democratic institutions, rather than viewing "sexism" or "gender discrimination" in isolation from other forms of inequality.

Due date: March 1, 2019
Notification: May 2019

Checks Sent: June 2019
Final Report to KFW Due: December 2020

How Do I Apply?

***The online application portal will be available on the KFW website by January, 2019.
All applications must be submitted by March 1, 2019 at 5 pm EST***

These are the questions that will be on the online application. They are provided here for you to prepare your application materials and work sample in advance. If you have questions about this grant or need help with the online system or need to submit a paper copy of your application, call 502-562-0045 or email Sharon@kfw.org. Also, there will be a segment devoted to this special grant at each of the three AMA Grant workshops.

The application will include the following questions:

APPLICANT BASIC INFO: applicant name, address, contact info, art form, demographics etc. For more information about creating an online account and getting started, including notes for partner applicants, see <http://www.kfw.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Getting-started.pdf>.

NARRATIVE: The following questions will have a text box where you can copy and paste your responses.

1. **Summary:** Please summarize in 1-3 sentences your proposed activities and how they focus on advancing equitable democracy and building power for women and girls.
2. **Activities:** Fully describe the proposed activities. Include a clear, detailed and realistic timeline and work plan.
In this question, you could consider addressing:
 - *What artform is primary? What will the activities look like, specifically?*
 - *What kinds of questions will you be asking with your art? How will the artwork or activities provoke thought and discussion?*
 - *What is the context for this work? What's happening culturally/politically that inspires this work? What kind of work has been done previously that you're building on? What models are you drawing on to design this project?*
 - *How will the artwork/activities create opportunities to take informed action?*
 - *How will the artwork/activities create space for deeper community engagement?*
 - *What is important going forward? How will the activities or artwork help forge a path for the future?*
3. **Democracy and Power:** How does your proposed artwork or the proposed activities point toward a future democracy grounded in equity and inclusive engagement? How do the activities or artwork build power for women and girls and explore feminist versions of shared power? *Note: Priority will be given to projects that approach these questions through an intersectional lens (see footnote 5).*

In this question, you could consider addressing:

- *What is your working definition of “equitable and inclusive democracy” and how will the activities/artwork engage that concept?*
- *How will the activities encourage shared power and inclusion across boundaries of age, race, ethnicity, ability, gender identity, sexual orientation, citizenship status, geographic homeplace, an/ or socio-economic status?*
- *What traditions are being drawn from? How will the artwork/activities address or unseat current power structures and dominant paradigms?*
- *How will the activities address overlapping systems of privilege and power within our democratic institutions?*
- *How will the activities/artwork explore feminist versions of shared power?*
- *How will the activities/artwork help women and girls recognize, claim, build and wield their own power?*
- *How will the artwork/activities create space for civic engagement and dialogue, centering women’s voices?*

4. **Feminism:** Describe your understanding and practice of feminism, and how that is reflected in your activities and artwork.
5. **Audience/Relationship:** Who is your audience for these activities or proposed artwork? Are you working with a small group, a larger group or making artwork intended for a broader audience? If working with a group, describe your relationship with the people you will be working with. If making artwork for an audience, describe the audience, and your relationship with your audience. *In this question, you could consider addressing:*
 - *Have you worked with this group previously? If not, how will you reach the people you intend to reach?*
 - *How does your background help you connect with participants around their life experiences and challenges?*
 - *Are you an artist partnering with an agency or mainstream organization for this work, doing work in a school or classroom, or are you an agency or organization partnering with an artist? If so, how are you establishing and strengthening the relationships between arts, advocacy and civic engagement?*
 - *How are you establishing and strengthening cross-cultural collaborations?*
 - *How have you explored power, privilege and cultural context in your life, in your role as an artist or as a leader/facilitator, in relationship with your audience or participants and in the process of developing the activities and artmaking?*
 - *How are you practicing shared power?*
6. **Impact:** What kind of feminist social change impact do you hope for? How will you collect data during the activities to see if that impact is happening? (observations, comment cards, talkbacks, etc.)

In thinking about your hopes for impact, you might consider:

- *What is your vision or intent for feminist social change in the project?*
- *How do you see this work making an impact on you, on a small group of people or in your community?*
- *How do you see the artmaking making an impact in the broader community?*
- *How will you solicit feedback from the community or audience about the impact of the activities?*
- *What tools will you use to see whether or not the impact you hope for is happening?*
- *How might the activities generate inspiration, action or connections beyond the initial activities?*

In thinking about **measuring** impact, you might consider what **indicators** you will use to see if the social change you hope for is happening. Will you choose to look at qualitative or quantitative indicators, or both? Indicators can measure:

What — the attitude, awareness, behavior, policy or characteristic to be measured

Who — the intended audience or community

How much — the degree of change that is expected

How many — the number of audience or community members reached or involved that would indicate a successful level of achievement (*note: a “successful level of achievement” doesn’t necessarily have to be met by large numbers of participants/audience. For example, sometimes a project with a small number of participants that engages them over a longer time period might have a deeper impact than a one-day event with a large number of participants. Think about your project and what types of measures would benefit the project and indicate success with your specific population.*)

When — the time frame in which this change should occur

BUDGET: You will be asked to upload a budget that shows how the grant money will be used. The budget should detail both income and expenses. Expenses can include artist fees, materials, travel, and other items. Income should include your KFW grant request and also other anticipated grants, donations, or in-kind contributions. The budget should clearly indicate how items listed relate to the proposed activities. For more about budget see <http://www.kfw.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Preparing-a-Budget-Special-Grant.pdf>.

BIOGRAPHICAL STATEMENT:

Write a statement explaining your (or the lead artist’s) most important artistic and/or activist accomplishments, previous social change work, current work, and future goals. Include information that is relevant to your application and shows experiences that relate to the goals you are proposing. It can include artistic, personal, educational, and job-related experiences. For more about preparing a biographical statement see

<http://www.kfw.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Composing-a-Biographical-Statement-AMA-2018.pdf>.

WORK SAMPLE: You will be asked to upload or provide a link to examples of the applicant or lead artists' work and/or artwork they have done leading others in artmaking in the past. Depending on your primary artform, please include either: 10-12 visual images, 15-20 pages of writing, 8-12 poems, or 10-15 minutes of audio or video material. You will also be asked to provide a brief description of the work samples submitted. For more about preparing a work sample see <http://www.kfw.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/5.-Submitting-a-Current-Work-Sample-AE-2018.pdf>.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION: Please include two letters of recommendation. Letters of recommendation should address the current or potential quality of your art, your commitment to feminism, your understanding of social change, and a realistic assessment of your ability to complete the activities you are proposing. Letters of recommendation should include the contact information of the person writing the letter.

You will also have the option to include statements of commitment. If your work is dependent on the involvement of a particular person, organization or place, they may provide a simple statement of their involvement with the activities and what they are contributing to make the activities possible. For more about letters of recommendation and the difference LOR and SOC, see <http://www.kfw.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/6.-Letters-of-Recommendation-AE18.pdf>.

Further quotes and inspiration

"The power of women of color will help regain the soul of America." - Barbara Lee, Congresswoman from California

"Art is fundamental, unique to each of us...Even in difficult economic times - especially in difficult economic times - the arts are essential." –Maria Shriver, Award-Winning Journalist and Author

"Politicians don't bring people together. Artists do." –Richard Daley, Former Mayor of Chicago

"It is a paradox in the contemporary world that in our desire for peace we must willingly give ourselves to struggle." - Linda Hogan, Native American Author and Storyteller

"Art for me must develop from a necessity with my people. It must answer a question, or wake somebody up, or give a shove in the right direction- our liberation." - Elizabeth Catlett, African-American Graphic Artist and Sculptor

“At the local level, we—Americans—don’t know how to do democracy. We don’t know how to make decisions together, how to create generative compromises, how to advance policies that center justice. Most of our movements are reduced to advancing false solutions, things we can get corporate or governmental agreement on, which don’t actually get us where we need to be. It was and is devastatingly clear to me that until we have some sense of how to live our solutions locally, we won’t be successful at implementing a just governance system regionally, nationally, or globally.” -Adrienne Maree Brown, Author and Activist

“The moment a woman comes home to herself, the moment she knows that she has become a person of influence, an artist of her life, a sculptor of her universe; a person with rights and responsibilities, who is respected and respects herself and her deepest knowing...the resurrection of the world begins.” -Sister Joan Chittister, American Benedictine Nun, Theologian, Author, and Speaker

“Democracy was not built for us, but women of color for centuries have been part of expanding the definition of who matters and whose voice matters and how democracy functions.” - Aimee Allison, president of Democracy in Color and the host of the “Democracy in Color” podcast

“If you want to know if you’re going the right way, follow women of color. When we fight for justice, we fight for all people.” - Linda Sarsour, founder of MPower Change and a Women’s March Board Member

“[The 19th Amendment]... covered the needs of middle-class white women quite nicely. But it meant very little to black women in the South, where most lived at the time and where election officials were well practiced in the art of obstructing black access to the ballot box.” – Brent Staples, from Opinion Piece, How the Suffrage Movement Betrayed Black Women⁶

“Without justice, there can be no love.” – bell hooks, Author, Intellectual, Feminist, and Social Activist

“Art is a powerful medicine for the world. If you are an artist with the gift of a mission, sometimes you have to carry the medicine for a long time.” - Buffy Sainte-Marie, Musician, Artist and Activist who focuses on Indigenous peoples’ issues.

“The arts have always played a significant role in Native cultures, and are a powerful path for connecting one generation to the next.” –T. Lulani Arquette, President/CEO, Native Arts and Cultures Foundation

"We don't have a word for art, but we have words for creating an image. Our art is a way of life." – Bunky Echo-Hawk, Native American Artist and Poet (Pawnee/Yakama)

⁶ <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/07/28/opinion/sunday/suffrage-movement-racism-black-women.html>

“When I dare to be powerful, to use my strength in the service of my vision, it becomes less and less important whether I am afraid.” – Audre Lorde, Writer, Intersectional Feminist, Womanist, and Civil Rights Activist

“Traditional wisdom is systems thinking ... spiritual life, intellectual life, philosophical life intertwined.” - Elizabeth Woody, Navajo-Warm Springs-Wasco-Yakama Artist, Author, and Educator