



# The Kentucky Foundation For Women

The mission of the Kentucky Foundation for Women is to promote positive social change by supporting varied feminist expression in the arts.

## **Firestarter Grant Program Guidelines**

(effective January 1, 2019)

### **What is the KFW Firestarter Grant?**

In honor of young people (18-25) who show significant potential in developing as feminist, social change artists, and whose work has the potential to create change for women and girls in Kentucky, we are offering a small grant to start a fire of social change. While similar in structure to our larger annual grant programs, this program will be streamlined to allow young artists to request smaller amounts to meet short-term needs and will be accessible on a monthly basis.

These grants are for young artists who are taking risks in the creation of new art, engaged in social justice/ community engagement, and who demonstrate a developing feminist voice, including new insights and visions and/or fresh approaches to feminist topics or art for social change.

Applicants may request funds for a range of activities that will help them develop as feminist social change artists, including but not limited to: attending artist residencies, workshops, or conferences; purchasing equipment or art supplies; working with a mentor; seeking feedback on works-in-progress through workshopping or other avenues; exploring new areas or techniques; application fees, or starting a body of work.

Applicants must demonstrate their commitment to feminism and their understanding of the relationship between art and social change.

### **Who can apply?**

Individual artists ages 18-25, based in Kentucky who are engaging in arts-based activities may apply. KFW is committed to making grants accessible to all regardless of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical ability, educational level, economic condition, or geographic origin.

Grants cannot be used for: tuition, costs or living expenses while working toward a degree (or fees for auditing a class), promotion of specific religious doctrines, non art-related expenses

(i.e., overdue bills, taxes, etc.), work conducted by artists that are not residents of Kentucky, and activities that do not focus on improving the lives of Kentucky women or girls. A full list of eligibility requirements are listed here: <http://www.kfw.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Thinking-About-Eligibility.pdf>

### **How Do I Apply?**

Artists who live and work in Kentucky may apply through our [online portal](#). If you need help with the online system, need a paper copy of this information, or need to submit a paper application, contact [sharon@kfw.org](mailto:sharon@kfw.org).

Applications are due on the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month at 5 pm EST. Decisions will be made by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the following month. Activities should not begin until after the decision date for the grant cycle in question.

### **Awards**

Applicants may request up to \$500\*. (As an example: Awards can be for specific amounts such as a \$100 application fee or \$250 to purchase equipment.) Artists meeting the eligibility requirements may apply as often as they like, but may only receive up to \$500 *annually*.

\*Only \$500 total will be awarded each month, and will be divided between the strongest applicants in cases of equal merit. Please note that due to the competitive nature of the Firestarter Grant Program, partial funding is likely to be awarded, particularly for those requesting the full \$500.

While not required, priority will be given to applicants who have not already received support through the KFW Firestarter Program. With proposals of equal merit, priority should be given 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.

### **Completing the Application**

The online application portal is available on the KFW website. Applications will be due on the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month, 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 in advance.

*The application will include the following questions:*

APPLICATION FORM: You will fill in basic information about the applicant on this online form.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

- a. **SUMMARY:** In one or two sentences, summarize the Firestarter Grant request, and their intended results and impact. In this brief summary, explain the relationship of these art activities to feminism and social change. (200 word limit)
- b. **ACTIVITIES:** Please provide a brief description of the activity you wish to undertake or items you want to purchase. Include specific information on service providers, type of equipment or supplies, name of program, website, dates, times, locations, etc. for each activity requested. Clearly describe what you want to do, including how the activities described relate to your budget request. (500 word limit)
- c. **FEMINISM:** What is your understanding and practice of feminism, and how is it shown in your artwork? (300 word limit)
- d. **ARTISTIC DEVELOPMENT:** How will the proposed activities result in your development as a feminist social change artist? Please list or describe specific goals. (300 word limit)
- e. **IMPACT:** Please describe how the proposed activity or activities will impact your career or start a fire of social change. (300 word limit)

#### ACTIVITY BUDGET

- a. Total cost of proposed activity
- b. Total requested from Firestarter Grant
- c. Additional committed source(s) of funding for your activity, if applicable.

#### BIOGRAPHICAL STATEMENT:

Tell us what you would like reviewers to know about yourself. You can include your artistic and/or activist background or accomplishments, previous social change work, current work, and future goals. Are you in school? Are you working? Include information that is relevant to your application and shows experiences that relate to the goals you are proposing. (500 word limit)

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#### **About the Application Process**

##### *Who Reviews the Applications?*

A panel of independent peer reviewers will read all applications and make the final recommendations concerning the selection of the grantees. The reviewers have experience in a range of art forms represented in the applicant pool. KFW staff do not make selections for this program.

##### *What criteria are used in the review process?*

Reviewers assess each application based on the following criteria:

1. Proposed activities will further applicant's development as a feminist social change artist.

2. Application demonstrates applicant's understanding and practice of feminism.
3. Application demonstrates a clear understanding of the relationship between art and social change.
4. Budget is clear and realistic.
5. Applicant's ability to complete the proposed activities is clearly shown.

#### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO NOTE**

- Activities beginning prior to the notification date will not be considered. Applications are due on the 15th of the month with a one-month turnaround. Applications received after the 15<sup>th</sup> may be considered for the next month, if applicable.
- In order to meet the demand for funds, partial funding may be awarded.
- A brief final report of activities will be required within 30 days of completion. Failure to complete a final report could disqualify you from future funding consideration.
- Should you be awarded FG and are not be able to complete the activity as described in your application, you must notify us immediately in writing either by email to [Sharon@kfw.org](mailto:Sharon@kfw.org) or by direct mail describing why you were unable to complete the activity. Failure to complete the requested activity may require you to return the grant funds and could disqualify you from future funding consideration.
- Recipients must acknowledge KFW in social media and other communications of their work related to the this grant.

QUESTIONS? Contact the KFW at 502-562-0045 or by email at [team@kfw.org](mailto:team@kfw.org)

#### **A Note About Archives**

Duke University is the designated archive for all KFW records. The foundation forwards all paper and digital files concerning the grant programs to the Rare Book Manuscripts and Special Collections Library at Duke University. All KFW records deposited at Duke are open to qualified researchers. By submitting this application, you waive any right to claim a privacy interest if your project is accepted for funding.