

Artist Enrichment Grant Program

The **Artist Enrichment (AE)** program provides opportunities for feminist artists and arts organizations to further their artistic development to create art for positive social change. Applicants may request funds for a range of activities including: artistic development, artist residencies, the exploration of new areas or techniques, or to build a body of work.

Applicants to the AE grant program, like the Art Meets Activism 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, and both share a commitment to creating positive social change through art.

Examples of awarded Artist Enrichment grants

A musician in northern KY transcribes and analyzes jazz solos created by five women musicians between 1910 and 1955, and places these solos within the musical and social contexts of their day. Transcribing the solos will enrich her own work as a jazz artist and bring awareness to the presence of women jazz musicians in the early 20th century.

A literary artist in Louisville completes one week of research in a library archives on pre-Judaic culture for a novel based on the apocryphal Book of Judith. The research and revisions will enrich her capacities as a writer, and the novel will raise awareness of the important role of women in religion, and the universal vitality of women's courage and friendships.

A photographer in Louisville completes and exhibits a photographic body of work exploring the female inmate farming program at Western Kentucky's Correctional Facility. The activities will increase her skills, and the completed work will raise awareness of women in prison and the programs that aid their rehabilitation.

A media artist in Russellville collects and audio records the voices of six African American women aged 70 and older singing spirituals and incorporates the songs into a play. The recordings help her learn to translate her research into theatrical productions, preserve this musical tradition, uplift elder artists and deepen understanding of the experiences of enslaved women.

A visual artist in Lexington creates a visual installation incorporating individual portraits of the disappeared and murdered women of Juarez, Mexico. The traveling installation raises awareness in Kentucky and beyond about violence against women, and explores the intersections between sexism, classism, exploitation, violence, poverty and immigration.

Thinking about Applying for an Artist Enrichment Grant

Questions to ask yourself if you're thinking of applying for an AE 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 Art Meets Activism grant?

Is my artwork (writing, performance, media or visual art) strong and highly original?

What do I need at this point in my artistic development to grow as a feminist social change artist and to increase the quality and impact of my art?

What opportunities exist in my community to enhance my growth as an artist? Have I fully taken advantage of the opportunities available to me outside of KFW?

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

Who are feminist artists in my community from whom I can learn? Is there someone I can invite to serve as a mentor for me in my artwork, or can point me to new ideas and resources?

What creative possibilities exist for presenting my work?

How will my art help create positive social change. What kind of indicators make sense to help me know if my art is making a difference?

AE Questions Frequently Asked of KFW Staff:

Can I apply to purchase equipment related to my art?

Yes. However, if the equipment is expensive and for long-term use, your request will be strengthened if you explain its relevance to your proposed artistic activities. Your budget request will be stronger if equipment purchases are directly related to the proposed activities AND will support your continuing artistic work. For example: A filmmaker applies to purchase editing software for a particular feminist project, but she explains in her description how the software will help enhance her future work as well.

Can I apply to work with a mentor?

Yes. If you apply to work with a mentor, be sure to show how working with this particular mentor will help you to develop your artistic skills and/or will help you to develop as a feminist social change artist. Your application will be strengthened if you include biographical information about the person with whom you would like to work, and a statement of commitment (not a letter of recommendation) from the mentor to confirm that she or he has agreed to participate in the activities outlined in the application.

Can I apply for funds to self-publish my writing or produce my own CD?

You can. However, please think about whether this will be the best path for your artistic development or the social change goals you want to achieve. Working with a writing group, an editor, producer, or other outside expert might strengthen your artistic development more than self-publishing or self-producing, especially if you are in your beginning stages as an artist. Sometimes attending workshops or having peers review your work is more valuable than self-publishing or self-producing your work.

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

You may, but the primary artist(s) for the grant must be a Kentucky resident, and the grant activities must focus on the artistic development of the applicant(s). If you do include work with an out-of-state artist in your grant activities, be sure to explain clearly how that artist's involvement will further your development as a feminist social change artist, and why this particular person is essential to developing your feminist work in Kentucky. 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 develop your or your organization's abilities and skills as a feminist social change artist or arts organization.