



The KFW Grantmaking Process

Here is a quick review of how it works! KFW staff are here to help you: Don't hesitate to contact KFW staff if you have any questions about the application or grant review process.

We don't participate in the funding decision making, so we are here to facilitate strong applications from feminist artists, arts groups, and organizations who believe in the power of art to create social change for women and girls across the state. We know that when women and girls advance, so does Kentucky.

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The Application Arrives

KFW typically receives an average of 75-120 applications per AE (Artist Enrichment) grant cycle, and 45 -75 applications per AMA (Art Meets Activism) grant cycle. Every application received is given careful attention.

The KFW Grant Program Manager reads each application, writes a brief summary of the proposed project, ensures the application is complete, and prepares the applications to be sent to the independent peer grant reviewers.

KFW staff do not review applications for their merits or make funding recommendations or decisions. Our job is to make sure every application is as complete as possible. [\[Return to Menu\]](#)

Grant Review Begins

KFW staff identifies panels of independent grant reviewers, whose work constitutes the heart of the grantmaking process. Each grant review panel consists of three reviewers — ideally, two from Kentucky and one from out-of-state — who are all highly qualified artists and activists from a range of disciplines, including literary, media, performing, and visual arts.

Once these panels have been assembled, the applications are divided among the reviewers, according to the art form chosen on the application: literary, media, performing, and visual. Their task is to carefully read, assess, and rank the applications and corresponding work samples, in preparation for the in-person or online grant review meeting.

Grant reviewers agree to abide by confidentiality and conflict-of-interest statements to ensure the fairness of the decision-making process. [\[Return to Menu\]](#)

The Grant Review Meetings

Each panel assembles either for a face-to-face meeting at the KFW office or on an online platform such as Zoom. Reviewers have already sent in their preliminary rankings, which are used to begin the discussion.

Although KFW staff is present to observe and take notes, the recommendations about which applications will receive funding and how much they will receive are made solely by our expert grant reviewers.

Discussion is often lively, and decisions are difficult to make, because there are so many worthy applications and grant funds are limited.

The criteria that appear on the application form (e.g., "artwork in sample is strong and reflects feminism and social change; applicant's understanding and practice of feminism; and understanding of the relationship between art and social change," etc.) are the same criteria that guide reviewers in making tough decisions about their final funding recommendations.

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Recommendations

Once the panels have agreed on their recommendations, the recommendations are forwarded to KFW's Board for final approval of the grant funds. Please keep in mind that KFW is unable to fund fully most applications. Many applicants receive partial funding/less than they requested. KFW staff works hard to provide each grant applicant constructive comments, taken directly from the deliberations of the reviewers to help her/him understand the final decision. [\[Return to Menu\]](#)

Notification

- For **Art Meets Activism** grants, applicants typically receive notification by early June.
- For **Artist Enrichment** grants, applicants typically receive notification by early December. [\[Return to Menu\]](#)

Typical Timeline

	AMA	AE
Application Deadline	Last Monday in February	Last Monday in August
Notification Sent	Beginning of June	Beginning of December
Checks Sent/Press Release	Beginning of July	By mid-January
Midpoint Check-In Report Due	The following January	The following June
Final Report Due	The following July	The following January

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