

ARTREACH



ARTIST CREATION PROJECT GRANT GUIDELINES

2026

This grant supports the creation of new artistic works by emerging Toronto-based artists aged 16-29 from equity-deserving communities.

Projects must be completed in a four-month time period with a maximum budget of \$1,000

ARTREACH RUNS ONE GRANTING ROUND FOR THIS PROGRAM ANNUALLY

APPLICATIONS OPEN SEPTEMBER 1ST AND ARE DUE OCTOBER 1ST AT 11:59PM EACH YEAR

THIS GRANT WAS CREATED BY OUR FRIENDS



2026 TIMELINE

**GRANT
OPENS**

**INFO
SESSIONS**

**GRANT
CLOSES**

**RESULTS
OUT**

**GRANTEE
ORIENTATION**

**FUNDS
OUT**

**REPORT
DUE**

**SEPTEMBER
1ST**

**SEPTEMBER
9TH**

**SEPTEMBER
23RD**

**OCTOBER
1ST**

**NOVEMBER
16TH**

**DECEMBER
2ND**

**EARLY
JANUARY**

**MAY
31ST**

1-1 SUPPORTS AVAILABLE

CREATION

ELIGIBILITY

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

This grant is for applicants who...

- Identify as emerging artists aged 16-29 from equity-deserving communities*, face financial barriers, and experience reduced access to professional arts opportunities
 - **By equity-deserving communities, we mean those that face systemic barriers to equal access, opportunities, and resources due to disadvantage and discrimination on the basis of identity markers like race, ethnicity, income, gender identity, sexual orientation, Indigeneity, age, ability, language, health, housing status, neighbourhood, and/or immigration status, among others*
- Live in the City of Toronto (including only Toronto, Etobicoke, North York, and Scarborough, not the wider GTA)
- Have not previously received a significant grant for their arts practice (EG. funding from an arts council or any other substantial arts funding for their personal practice)
- Demonstrate experience and completing works in the art form they're applying for

PROJECT ELIGIBILITY

- This grant funds the creation of new artistic work(s) in any discipline
- Projects must be completed in a 4 month period, from approximately January to April
- Projects must cost up to a maximum total of \$1,000

ELIGIBILITY

THIS GRANT DOES NOT FUND...

- Projects or applicants that do not meet eligibility criteria
- Workshops/ programming
- Events
- Music videos
- Promotion or duplication (*see Money Matters section for details*)
- Exhibition/ performance/ public release costs
- Professional development activities
- Parts of projects (must be a complete arts project)
- Projects that cost more than \$1,000 (we do not fund parts of larger/ longer/ more expensive projects)
- Business start-up costs
- Research projects that don't result in a finished artistic work
- Multiple projects (funding is for one, cohesive project)

USE OF AI IN GRANT APPLICATIONS

We recognize that while AI tools can be helpful for improving accessibility, applications to ArtReach should reflect your own ideas and voice.

We value original ideas that are created by and communicated by humans, and encourage applicants to not rely on AI to develop projects or generate application content.

RULES

GENERAL RULES

- Applicants can receive a maximum of 2 Artist Creation Project grants. Because this grant is a continuation of CUE's artist grant, this means that grants issued by either ArtReach or CUE count towards this total
- Grantees must complete their current ArtReach Artist Creation Project grant and submit their final report before re-applying
- Work on projects cannot start before notification on grant results have been sent
- Applicants may receive less than the amount requested
- Applicants may only submit one application to this granting program per funding round
- Groups of artists working collaboratively may apply, however, one artist must be responsible for acting as the project lead and being accountable for funds. All group members must meet eligibility criteria
- This is a creation grant. Public presentation/ exhibition is not a requirement or eligible expense of this grant

MONEY MATTERS

WHAT CAN I APPLY FOR?

You can apply for a maximum of \$1,000

Only expenses directly related to the project you're applying for can be included in your funding request

ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

- Artist fees
- Art supplies
- Equipment rental or purchase costs
- Transportation costs (for transporting supplies/ equipment)
- Basic quality finishing (EG. framing, mixing/ mastering, kiln firing)
- Workspace rental costs
- Software necessary to the project

INELIGIBLE EXPENSES

- Promotion (EG. marketing/ advertising materials like social media ads, posters, flyers; music videos; album artwork; personal websites; portfolio building; documentation of work; works created to promote a business or organization; merchandise or the creation of products to be used for promotional purposes)
- Exhibition/ performance/ public release costs
- Duplication (EG. making copies of existing work, duplication not necessary to the creation of the proposed project)
- Retroactive expense coverage
- Costs not directly related to the project being applied for
- Travel outside of Toronto

REVIEW CRITERIA

APPLICATIONS ARE REVIEWED BASED ON:

VIABILITY

- A viable project will have a clear process and vision for its execution, and can be reasonably accomplished in the set time frame with the funds available
- The budget should be resourceful, accurate, well-researched, realistic, and include all required expenses
- The applicant should have experience creating art in the proposed art form, and demonstrate that they're able to follow through on completing artistic works

ARTISTIC MERIT

- The applicant should have a strong artistic vision and intention for their project, with a solid grasp on their concepts and themes. Their discipline should be clear, and they should demonstrate creativity and originality
- The project results in an original, human-made artistic work
- Their supplementary material should show experience and skill in the medium they're applying for

SEE EXAMPLES OF PREVIOUSLY
FUNDED PROJECTS [HERE](#)

FUNDING DECISIONS

If your application is eligible, ArtReach's Grant Review Team (GRT) will review your application and funding request. The GRT is a group of qualified artists from across Toronto, experienced in a wide variety of artistic disciplines. All GRT members are former grantees

ArtReach does not use AI to assess applications or to make funding recommendations and decisions. Our GRT is prohibited from using AI tools as part of the assessment process.

You will receive a notification email with results on the success of your application approximately 6-7 weeks after the deadline. Please add grants@artreach.org to your contact list to avoid this message going to your spam folder.

ALL FUNDING DECISIONS ARE FINAL

If your project is not approved for funding, you can request feedback via email on your application, and if applicable, a recommendation for next steps or alternative funding options



BEING A GRANTEE

ARTREACH EXPECTS THEIR GRANTEES TO...

- Provide their SIN number to ArtReach for tax purposes
- Stay in contact with us throughout the production process
- Document their progress through whatever means works best for them (EG. photo, video, voice notes, journaling, sketches, etc.)
- Keep all expense receipts and submit to ArtReach, if requested
- Acknowledge ArtReach funding support (where applicable)
- Complete the project within ~4 months of funding receipt
- Complete a short report at the end of the project
- Sign a contract agreeing to these terms



HOW TO APPLY

**THIS GRANTING PROGRAM OPENS ANNUALLY
ON SEPTEMBER 1ST, AND APPLICATIONS ARE
DUE OCTOBER 1ST AT 11:59 PM**

WE DO NOT ACCEPT LATE SUBMISSIONS

To submit an application:

1. Head to artreach.org/projectgrant
2. Check out our [application questions](#)
3. Draft your responses
4. [Apply](#) through the button on our website, being sure to upload your support material (note: link is active 09/01 - 10/01 annually)

SUPPORTS

- [Meet](#) with our team (link active while grant is open)
- [Attend](#) an info session (registration available while grant is open)
- [Read](#) our FAQs
- You can also reach out to us at any time at grants@artreach.org

ACCESSIBILITY

We understand that not everyone will find our application form or process accessible. If you require any support in completing your application package, or would like to submit in an alternative format, please contact grants@artreach.org