

Midway Contemporary Art

Frequently Asked Questions / VAF Community Relief Grants

Why do Co-Lead Organizers need to live in Hennepin and Ramsey counties?

The VAF Community Relief Grants are funded by the Visual Arts Fund Regional Regranting program with support from the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts. While the Visual Arts Fund traditionally is open to artists working within the 7-county Twin Cities metro region, this iteration of the VAF program is geared toward supporting artists and communities in North Minneapolis as well as areas of South Minneapolis and St. Paul that were listed in the eligibility section.

Why does the VAF Community Relief Grant program require Co-Lead Organizers?

Co-Lead Organizers will be able to share the responsibilities of carrying out the proposed project throughout the grant period. Both will be compensated for their time (if budgeted for in the grant proposal). If funded, Co-Lead Organizers will determine which of the two will receive and manage the funding and complete a provided W9. The VAF will communicate directly with both of the Co-Lead Organizers during the grant period.

What areas of Minneapolis and St. Paul are eligible?

The VAF Community Relief Grant program is focusing on North Minneapolis; [South Minneapolis neighborhoods including Central, Bryant, Bancroft, Powderhorn Park, Corcoran, Lyndale, Whittier, East Phillips, Midtown Phillips, West Phillips, Ventura Village, Cedar-Riverside, Seward, and Longfellow](#); and the [St. Paul neighborhoods of Hamline-Midway, Frogtown/Thomas-Dale, Rondo, Payne-Phalen, Dayton's Bluff, and Greater East Side](#).

What if I do not know all of the artists/collaborators who will be involved when I apply?

There will be an opportunity for you to let the jurors know how you will determine who will be involved with your project. If you will be inviting individuals to participate/collaborate, mention the individuals you would ideally like to work with, your connection to them, and how you plan to invite them. If you plan to use a call for submissions, let the jurors know how you will select individual artists and what criteria you will use when considering submissions.

Do I need to have a location/space confirmed when I apply?

No. We ask that you let us know where your project will ideally take place: a park, a garage, an empty storefront in your neighborhood, on a bus, online, etc. This information helps the jurors better envision your project.

Can my project take place at an existing arts venue?

Yes. While the regular VAF grant program seeks to fund projects happening outside of traditional existing arts venues, the VAF Community Relief Grant project activities may be held at already established spaces. Projects may also happen in temporary or non-traditional art spaces, community centers, public spaces, etc. Please ensure the Covid-19 safety measures are enforced in whatever location you choose to host your project.

What qualifies as publicly accessible?

As Co-Lead Organizers, you determine your audience and how to make the project publicly available to them, such as producing a community event/exhibition/program/platform that is free and open to the public, something that can be distributed and available free of charge, or an online project that is available to anyone using the web. Projects cannot charge admission or other fees to the public or to participants; grant funding should be used to cover costs associated with producing the project. You may include a component of your project that raises additional funds to continue the project or donate, such as selling t-shirts, publications, other goods, but the primary activity of the project must be free of barriers for artists and community members to participate.

Does my project need to be ADA-Accessible?

If you are using a project location that may not be physically accessible to all visitors, Midway staff will work with you to find ways to anticipate visitors' accessibility needs, communicate accessibility challenges, and accommodate requests.

How do I submit visual support materials if the project has not already begun?

Your Visual Support Materials should help the jurors envision the overall project. If your project involves working with artists, we recommend that you submit images or videos of works by the artists that you would like to work with. You could also show images of activities that inspire what you would like to do. You could submit a drawing or diagram if it makes sense with your project.

How do I determine fair pay for artists involved?

The VAF supports artists being compensated for the work they do. Your budget must be feasible, showing that you can cover all costs associated with the project (materials, space rental, event/reception costs, etc) while also compensating those involved. Co-Lead Organizers are encouraged to budget up to \$1,500 each for their time in overseeing the project; others involved with the production of the project should be compensated fairly for their time as well.

Who will review the applications?

A panel of four artists, including Alex Buffalohead, Christopher Harrison, Pao Houa Her, and Jonathan Herrera Soto, will review the applications online and meet via Zoom to determine 10 projects to award funding. Midway's staff will facilitate the review process and be available to assist the panel as necessary.

When will we know if our project is funded?

Grant recipients will be notified the second week of August 2020.

Will we need to report on the grant?

At the close of the grant in July 2021, Grantees will be asked to fill out a brief four question survey related to activities accomplished during the grant period.

As a Co-Lead Organizer, will I be responsible for paying taxes on the grant funds?

Yes. If you are awarded a grant and have been determined the Co-Lead Organizer who will accept the funds and complete a provided W9 form, you will be responsible for reporting the grant funds. With most of the funds being paid out to produce the event and pay others involved, you will only be responsible for taxes on the amount that you keep as your fair pay (up to \$1,500). The VAF offers guidance on best practices for tracking and recording expenditures associated with the grant and filing an IRS Schedule C (Form 1040). [Prepare + Prosper](#) is also a great resource for anyone looking for assistance with taxes due to changes to their income.

Am I still eligible to apply as a Co-Lead Organizer if I have received VAF funding in the past?

Yes.

Will I still be able to apply for regular VAF grants in the future?

Yes, you will still be able to apply as usual beginning in the 2021 grant cycle.

If I have applied to the VAF in the past, can I use my same login credentials?

Yes. If you have already set-up an account on the VAF application portal, you may use the same username and password to apply for the 2020 VAF Community Relief Grant.

How do I contact Midway if I have more questions?

Please email vaf@midwayart.org or call Megan McCready at (612) 605-4504 if you have additional questions about the program. We also encourage you to call if you would like to discuss your idea or have specific inquiries related to the eligibility of your project proposal.