

VAF / FAQs

* We welcome questions about your application and will gladly offer guidance as needed.

** Because many applications describe complex projects, we recommend having someone outside the applicant group review your proposal for clarity and completeness.

If I have already been the Lead Organizer for a funded project, can I apply again?

If your grant period is complete by the opening date of the application and you have submitted your final survey, you are eligible to apply. Please note that the VAF is not intended to sustain projects.

Should I apply for \$5,000 or \$10,000?

Be realistic about your budget. Applications will be reviewed together and considered equally. We place a great deal of consideration on the feasibility of completing the project with the amount of funding requested.

If I want to apply for funding toward a larger project, should I apply with the entire project or just the portion that the VAF will fund?

This depends on the complexity of the project. Please contact us via email or phone to discuss.

Can I partner with a nonprofit?

The Regranting program funds projects that do not have access to other funding sources and supports activities happening outside of traditional visual arts venues. Nonprofits are able to apply for grants and receive tax-deductible contributions, unlike the majority of artist-organized projects.

Can I include purchasing equipment, paying rent, or renovating a space in my budget?

Yes, but please consider the percentage of your budget going toward these items. Previous applications with budgets that have a high percentage dedicated to equipment, rent, or renovations have not been as competitive as those with a higher percentage devoted to programming expenses. Please contact us via email or phone to discuss if you have questions regarding your budget.

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 the individuals, and how you plan to invite them. If you plan to use a call for submissions, let the jurors know how you will select individuals and what criteria you will use when considering submissions.

How do I determine if my project involves the work/practices of other individuals?

The VAF does not fund an individual artist presenting their own work. If you are organizing the project on your own, are you offering other artists opportunities they might not have otherwise, such as an exhibition, screening, inclusion in a publication, etc.? If you have collaborators, can everyone involved claim ownership and be included in the decision making process? Please contact us via email or phone to discuss if you are unsure of your project's eligibility.

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.

What if my project already exists in some form?

If you would like to submit an application for a project that has already begun (i.e. an exhibition space, publication, series, website, etc.), your request for funding should coincide with a next step (reaching out to a new community, etc.) or new initiative (paying artists involved, a new series, etc.) Please contact us via email or phone if you would like to discuss.

What qualifies as publicly accessible?

You determine your audience and how to make the project publicly available to them, such as producing an event/exhibition/screening that is free and open to the public, an online project that is available to anyone using the web, or a publication that can be distributed and available free of charge. 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.

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 exhibitions/publications/screenings/spaces/etc. 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?

Fair pay should be based on your total budget and the number of individuals involved. The VAF supports artists being compensated for the work they do, although we have observed that budgets with a high percentage of funds going to a small number of artists are less competitive overall. Your budget must be feasible, showing that you can cover all costs associated with the project while also compensating those involved. Your budget does not have to offer pay to those involved, but if it does, it should be fairly distributed.

How many grants will be awarded?

The jury will determine how many \$5,000 and \$10,000 grants will be awarded to reach a total of \$60,000.

What will the jurors consider when reviewing my application?

Artistic Excellence, Community Impact, and Feasibility

When will grant recipients be notified?

Grant recipients will be notified in mid-December and grant funds will be disbursed in January.

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

Yes. If you are awarded a grant, the VAF offers Lead Organizers a free tax-info session to learn best practices for tracking and recording expenditures associated with the grant and filing an IRS Schedule C (Form 1040).