

About the Visual Arts Fund

The Visual Arts Fund is a grant program established in 2016 by Midway Contemporary Art with generous support from The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts. Minneapolis–Saint Paul is one of forty-two cities and regions included in Warhol's Regional Regranting Program, which is aimed at promoting vibrant artistic activity in cities across the United States.

The Visual Arts Fund awards \$60,000 (six \$10,000 grants) to artist organized projects in the Twin Cities metro region. The VAF supports the development of projects and initiatives that engage the public with visual art and seeks to support a wide array of innovative and diverse projects that otherwise might not occur.

What We Fund

- Projects that have a publicly accessible component
- Projects could include exhibitions or installations held in temporary spaces, new publications, a series of events or performances, digital initiatives, public art projects, and other activities that are related to the visual arts

What We Do Not Fund

- × An individual artist presenting exclusively their own work
- × Projects that are part of the programming of a 501(c)3 non-profit arts organization
- × Projects at a commercial gallery
- × Projects that do not offer an opportunity for free public engagement

Eligibility

- Projects must function primarily within a visual arts context (rather than performing arts, music, literature, or other arts). While projects can have interdisciplinary elements, they must have a strong basis in the visual arts.
- A publicly accessible component of the project must take place within the Twin Cities seven-county metro region.
- Projects must be artist-organized and self-initiated; 501(c)3s, incorporated businesses, and students* are not eligible to apply (*PhD students are eligible).
- Projects cannot charge admission or other fees to the public or to participants.
- Projects cannot start before January 1, 2027 and must be completed by June 30, 2028.
- The Lead organizer must play a key role in the creation and execution of the project and live within the seven-county Twin Cities Metro region (Hennepin, Scott, Ramsey, Dakota, Anoka, Carver, and Washington counties); additional collaborators can live anywhere.
- Lead organizers do not need to be U.S. Citizens, although they must have social security numbers in order to receive payment.
- Lead organizers may only submit one application per application round.
- Lead organizers of projects funded through past granting cycles are only eligible to apply for a 2026 VAF grant if their project has been completed and they have submitted their final survey by the application deadline.

Lead Organizer

If the project involves a group of artists working together, please choose one person to act as the Lead Organizer. The Lead Organizer will oversee the project and must play a key role in the creation and execution of the project. This contact person will also be responsible for receiving grant funds, communicating with Midway, and submitting the final survey. You may work with as many collaborators and/or artists as you wish.

Information Sessions

Midway will host information sessions before the application deadline. We encourage potential applicants to attend one of these sessions to learn more about the Visual Arts Fund and for tips on how to prepare a strong application.

Additional information session dates for the 2026 application cycle will be posted as they are confirmed. Information session locations are accessible to all visitors. ASL interpretation is available upon request with two weeks' advance notice. Please contact us for more information, or to request specific accommodations.

FAQs

Download a PDF of Frequently Asked Questions: [English](#)

Please email vaf@midwayart.org or call (612) 605-4504 if you have additional questions about the program.

We encourage you to call if you would like to discuss your idea or have specific inquiries related to the eligibility of your project proposal.

Application Details

The 2026 VAF Grant will open online on September 1st. Applications submitted in English must be completed through the online portal, which will be accessible at midwayart.org/vaf-info starting September 1st.

For individuals submitting an application in an alternative language, please use the application outline below and submit via email to: vaf@midwayart.org by Saturday, September 26th at 5:00 pm (CDT).

The application will include the following six sections; please use this as a guide to prepare your application in advance:

1) Contact Info

- Please provide the following information for the Lead Organizer:
- Name
- Address
- County (drop down list)
- Email
- Phone
- I identify as... (50 words max, please include all demographic information that applies)

2) Project Summary

- Title of Project
- Project Start Date
- Project Completion Date
- Total Project Budget
- Project Summary (100 word max)

3) Visual Support Materials

Visual support materials should help the jurors understand the project and your ability to realize it.

For each of your support materials, please include a description and relevant explanatory notes (max 50 words per entry). Please provide 10 visual examples, including:

- Images (up to 10 total, max 2MB each — .jpeg, .jpg, .gif and .png are accepted)
- Website URL (up to 2 total — must be relevant to the project and offer additional information on your ability to realize the proposed project)
- Video (up to 2 total, max 2 min each — video files must be hosted on a video platform such as YouTube or Vimeo; include a password in the description section if your account is private)

4) Project Description

Describe your project (max 100 words for each question):

- What is your project?
- How does this project involve the work/practices of other individuals?
- How will you determine others involved?
- Where will the project ideally take place?
- What is the project timeline?
- Who is your primary audience?
- What component of your project will be accessible to the public?
- Why is it important for this project to occur?

5) Bios

Please provide a short bio for the lead organizer, as well as any key collaborators and artists (up to 5 bios, max 100 words each). Focus on experience relevant to this project. We will not accept CVs or resumés.

6) Budget

Please list expenses for your project. This program supports fair pay for all artists involved with your project; Lead Organizers may budget up to 15% of the total grant requested for their time organizing the project (\$1,500 for \$10,000).

You are not expected to have additional income for the project outside of the Visual Arts Fund grant, but please indicate it if you plan to do additional fundraising and what your goals are. Your budget must show a zero balance between your Expenses and Income.

- Expenses (Lead Organizer stipend, artist stipends, materials, facility rental, equipment rental, production costs, marketing, reception costs, other)
- Income (other grants, crowd funding, personal contributions, etc. — not required)
- In-Kind donations (donated location, pro-bono design services, donated materials, etc.)

These guidelines can be made available in alternative formats or languages. To accommodate your request, please contact us at vaf@midwayart.org or (612) 605-4504.

2026 VAF Grant Timeline

Online Application Opens	Monday, September 1
Application Due	Saturday, September 26, 5:00 pm (CDT)
Grantee Notification	December 2026
Funding Awarded	January 2027

Application Review

Following the close of the grant application on September 26th, a panel of jurors, including individuals from outside of the Twin Cities, will review the applications for eligibility and priorities. Panelists will

consider each eligible proposal in the areas of Artistic Excellence, Community Impact, and Feasibility.

Grant Notification

Grantees will be notified in early December and will be publicly announced in mid-December. The Lead Organizer will manage the funding and complete a provided W9. The first installment of grant funds may be disbursed starting in January 2027 electronically via Venmo or PayPal, or by check following a tax-info session presented by Fox Tax. Funding will be disbursed in two payments, the first half up front and the second half once the project activity has begun.

VAF Archive

An archive of past VAF grant recipients is available online at: <https://www.midwayart.org/vaf/> Printed ephemera that past grantees have produced is also available to view in Midway's library during regular open hours.

About The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts' Regional Regranting Program

The [Regional Regranting Program](#) was established in 2007 to recognize and support the movement of independently organized, public-facing, artist-centered activity that animates local and regional art scenes but that lies beyond the reach of traditional funding sources. The program is administered by non-profit visual art centers across the United States that work in partnership with the Foundation to fund artists' experimental projects and collaborative undertakings. The Twin Cities is one of forty-two locations to host The Andy Warhol Foundation for Visual Arts' Regional Regranting program, making funding available for artists in the 7-county metro area.

Forty-one additional programs provide grants of up to \$10,000 for the creation and presentation of new work. Programs are developed and facilitated by organizations in Albuquerque (NM), Atlanta (GA), Baltimore (MD), Bozeman (MT), Buffalo (NY), Central Appalachia (KY, VA, WV), Chicago (IL), Cleveland (OH), Covington (KY), Denver (CO), Detroit (MI), Hartford (CT), Homer (AK), Honolulu (HI), Houston (TX), Indianapolis (IN), Iowa City (IA), Kansas City (MO), Knoxville (TN), Rapid City (SD), Los Angeles (CA), Medford (MA), Miami (FL), Milwaukee (WI), Mobile (AL), New Orleans (LA), Newark (NJ), Oklahoma City (OK), Omaha (NE), Philadelphia (PA), Tucson (AZ), Portland (ME), Portland (OR), Providence (RI), Raleigh (NC), Saint Louis (MO), Salt Lake City (UT), San Francisco (CA), San Juan (PR), Seattle (WA), Utica (MS), and Washington, DC.

Contact

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