FY27 Individual Artist Advancement Grant

Grant Funding Requests: $500-$1,500

Application Opens: **Monday, July 20, 2026**

Application Deadline: **Friday, August 14, 2026 at 5:00 P.M. MT**

Grant Activity Time Frame: **November 1, 2026 - June 1, 2027**

Virtual Applicant Informational Session: **Wednesday, July 22, 2026 at 12:00 P.M.**

> Connect with staff to review application steps and get your questions answered. Registration is required. The info session will also be recorded and available for later viewing. **Register for the Zoom meeting here.**

NEW THIS YEAR: If awarded funding, you will need to attend a required virtual grantee training on either **October 23, 2026 at 12:00 P.M.** or **October 28, 2026 at 6:00 P.M.**

HOW TO USE THIS DOCUMENT

Please read this entire document and refer back to it as you complete your application. The policies and procedures that follow the application questions are important. It is your responsibility to be aware of all information contained here.

There are several changes to the grant this year, including payment details. Look for the items below formatted as **NEW THIS YEAR.**

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GRANT GUIDELINES

GRANT OVERVIEW

Utah Arts & Museums (UA&M) provides individual artist grants to support the professional development and career advancement of artists. These grants are specifically designed to support individual artists by helping them take advantage of timely external professional opportunities/resources that will advance their artistic career/creative practice. Artists can apply to fund specific activities, opportunities, or experiences that will be helpful to them for their artistic trajectory. **This grant is not meant to fund the creation or distribution of a piece of artwork or a specific project.** Grants will be awarded based on artistic merit, demonstration of artistic professionalism, or practice of traditional skills. No cash match is required. A grant of between $500 and $1,500 will be awarded for approved expenses.

If you are applying for something that is not clearly listed on the "What This Can Fund" section, please contact the staff member who oversees your artistic discipline to discuss your idea before applying:

Folk & Traditional Arts:	Jackson Medel, jmedel@utah.gov or 801-645-2821
Literary Arts:	Alyssa Hickman Grove, agrove@utah.gov
Performing Arts:	Jason Bowcutt, jbowcutt@utah.gov or 801-236-7554
Public Art:	Hannah Nielsen, henielsen@utah.gov or 801-678-5826
Visual & Design Arts:	Peter Hay, phay@utah.gov or 801-600-2786

GRANT APPLICANT REQUIREMENTS

- UA&M restricts its funding to artists who are Utah residents with a Utah address.
- Performance Metrics: As per state law, all grants from the state of Utah must provide an accurate reporting of performance metrics. You will be asked to include performance metrics in the application and to track and report on these metrics in the report. Please view our **Performance Measure Template** for assistance and see more details in the application question section of this document (below).
- In order to pay an individual, we will require a valid Social Security Number, ITIN, or other recognized legal document. That number is used only to process the payment request, and then is managed according to state policy for data safety.
- **NEW THIS YEAR:** If awarded funding, you will need to attend a required virtual grantee training on either October 23, 2026 at 12pm or October 28, 2026 at 6pm.
- If awarded funding, the artist will receive a 1099 form for tax reporting purposes. This income may be subject to individual income tax.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Individual artists currently **residing in and practicing in Utah**, working in the following disciplines (more details below under "Eligible Artistic Disciplines"):

- Performing Arts
    - Dance
    - Theater
    - Multi-disciplinary
    - Music
- Literary Arts
- Visual Arts
    - Drawing, painting, photography, sculpture, installation, curatorial work, new media, etc.
    - Film and media
    - Craft
    - Public art
    - Design
- Folk Arts
    - Traditional
    - Craft

ELIGIBLE ARTISTIC DISCIPLINES

- Craft (ceramics, fiber, glass, jewelry, metals, textiles, etc.)
- Dance (dancers, choreographers, ballet, hip-hop, jazz, tap, etc.)
- Design (fashion, graphic, industrial, architecture, etc.)
- Film and media (traditional filmmakers as well as those working at the intersection of technology, aesthetics, storytelling, and digital cultures, etc.)
- Literature (fiction, nonfiction, poetry, literature for children, criticism, graphic novels, etc.)
- Music (composers, musicians, classical, contemporary, experimental, folk, instrumental, jazz, pop, world, etc.)
- Theater and performance (audiobook narration, directors, actors, playwrights, puppetry, costume design, set design, lighting design, sound design, stage management, stage crew, etc.)
- Traditional and folk (work related to the continuity and innovation of a tradition and/or cultural heritage such as dance, music, oral expression, craft, etc.)
    - If you have questions about whether your practice qualifies as a folk or traditional art form, please reach out to the Folk Arts staff before applying (contact information is listed on page 1)
- Visual (drawing, painting, photography, sculpture, installation, curatorial work, new media, etc.)

DISCIPLINES WE CANNOT FUND

Due to limited funding, applications cannot be accepted from individuals working in, but not limited to, the following fields: baking, balloon, barbering, burlesque, cosmetology, event planning and production, fitness, floral design, culinary, commercial or industrial welding, horticulture, marketing, martial arts, massage and healing therapy, modeling, nail design, professional speaking, soap making, or wedding photography. Additional decisions may be made at the discretion of the funding agency. If you are in doubt about the art form, please contact the appropriate staff member to discuss before applying.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must be able to positively affirm each of the following statements:

- I am applying as an individual artist and not on behalf of a band, group, or organization.*
- I am a practicing artist and able to demonstrate a sustained commitment to my artistic career.
- I am 21 years of age or older.
- I have a U.S. Tax ID Number (SSN, ITIN).
    - Note: Recipients are responsible for all applicable state or federal taxes. We urge that you keep all receipts and other appropriate records for tax filing purposes. Please consult a tax accountant with questions; we cannot advise on tax matters.
- Utah is my primary residence (i.e. I reside in Utah for more than half of the year).
- I am not currently pursuing an artistic academic degree (this grant is intended for professional artists).

*Multiple members of the same band, group, or organization may submit individual applications for their individual artistic pursuits, but may not apply for the same expenses.

Note: Payment will be made to the individual applying and will be associated with their Social Security Number (SSN), not to their business/EIN. Funds cannot go to a fiscal sponsor.

WHAT THIS CAN FUND

This grant is not meant to fund the creation or distribution of a piece of art or a specific artistic project. These grants are specifically designed to support individual artists by helping them take advantage of timely external professional opportunities, experiences, or resources that will advance their artistic careers. Artists can apply to fund specific activities or experiences that will be helpful for their artistic trajectory.

This list is not comprehensive, but it should give you a good indication of what can be funded. For specific questions, contact the appropriate staff listed in the Grant Overview section.

- Creation/design of marketing materials: professional photos, website, videos, recordings, etc. for publicity and marketing. Again, please remember this is funding for individuals, not groups.
- Expenses associated with an exceptional learning experience such as a residency or intensive study with a recognized mentor. Please note that degree-seeking programs are not eligible.
- Framing, freight, or shipping associated with studio expenses. Please do not request funding for a specific exhibition.
- Conference registration fees and/or associated travel costs.
    - Must be within the contiguous United States.
    - We cannot fund any food or drink.
- Travel within the contiguous United States, including Utah, associated with an artistic career advancement opportunity (please note that international travel is NOT allowed).
- Vendor application or artistic license fees for professional artistic opportunities.
- Purchase of credit card processing system for use of sale of artwork.
- Studio or performance/rehearsal space rental fees.
- Purchase or rental of equipment or tools required for an artistic genre, such as a musical instrument, software, regalia, sound equipment, canvas, paper, paint, studio lights, cameras, etc.
- Engagement of a videographer, photographer, sound engineer, etc. to document work.

WHAT THIS CANNOT FUND

Please refer to the online **UA&M Grant Expenses Reference Guide** for more details on allowable and unallowable expenses for UA&M grants.

- Creation of a specific piece of art or a specific artistic project.
    - If you have questions about this, please reach out to our staff.
- Academic awards and/or work, including: fellowships, grants, or tuition fees for student work; as well as in-school curriculum projects and/or projects that are part of a required course or curriculum.
- Individuals who are currently pursuing an artistic academic degree (this grant is intended for professional artists).
- Organizations (rather than individual artists).
- Performing groups (rather than individual artists).
- Artists who live outside the state of Utah or who live in Utah for less than half of the fiscal year.
- **Food, drink, or alcohol.**
    - This includes per diem for food, drink, or alcohol related to grant travel. If your request includes this, we will remove it from your grant award.
    - If you are requesting funds for a conference/residency that has meals included, this is an eligible expense.
- International travel.
- **A fiscal sponsor or LLC** (all funds must go directly to the applicant artist).
- Items purchased or services rendered before the grant is awarded (please pay attention to the time frame of the grant).
- Capital improvements.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- **NEW THIS YEAR:** There will be two payment options: 100% up front or 100% reimbursement. Please see the *What If I Receive a Grant* section below for details.
- Each application will be reviewed on its own merit.
- Multiple members of the same band, group, or organization may submit individual applications for their individual artistic pursuits, but may not apply for the same expenses.
- Applicants must have been performing/practicing in their respective art forms for 3+ years.
    - Applicants planning to apply for a mentorship in the folk or traditional art forms category are exempt from this requirement but must demonstrate clear experience with the art form to be considered.

    - Potential applicants in this category for mentorship should contact Folk Arts Coordinator Jackson Medel for consideration (jmedel@utah.gov or 801-645-2821).
- All work samples must have been produced within the past five years.
- Applicants may not use this grant to pay immediate family members for services or materials/products.
- Applicants may not be a current board member, staff member (full-time, part-time, or contractual), or an immediate family member of UA&M staff or board.
- Visual arts applicants must own the original design and concept of their artwork and the artwork samples submitted. We do not accept applications from visual artists whose work includes reproductions of copyrighted material.
- **NEW THIS YEAR:** Artificial Intelligence (AI) Note: Acknowledgment must be made of any artwork created with AI assistance. Artists must include AI in the medium description of the submitted artwork. Neglecting to acknowledge AI use in the making of a submitted artwork is grounds for disqualification.

APPLICATION TIMELINE

- Eligible Grant Start Date: November 1, 2026 - Do not request support of expenses occurring prior to this date.
- Application Opens: Monday, July 20, 2026
- Virtual Info Session: Wednesday, July 22, 2026 at 12:00 P.M. (register here)
- Application Closes: Friday, August 14, 2026 at 5:00 P.M. MT
- Panel Review: August - September 2026
- Award Notification: October 2026
- Payment: After the contract is fully executed by the State of Utah
- Required Grantee Training: Oct. 23, 12:00 P.M. or Oct. 28, 6:00 P.M.
- Funds Spent & Final Report Due: by June 1, 2027

APPLICATION QUESTIONS & GUIDANCE

SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION ONLINE

All applications must be submitted online through the **Grants Portal**. It can take up to two days to set up a new portal account. Please plan accordingly.

GENERAL INFORMATION (not scored)

- On the first page of your application under “description”, provide a 2-3 sentence description of the activity or opportunity for which you are applying.
- Provide basic contact information and artistic discipline

PERFORMANCE METRICS (not scored)

The state is interested in understanding your goal for this grant. We invite you to share your goal using our **performance measure guide.** Examples are included below. You will be asked to include performance metrics in the application and to track and report on these metrics in the report.

- What is your "Performance Goal" for this grant?
  - Example: *I want to improve my vocal range through targeted coaching with a professional vocal instructor in order to secure casting contracts for at least two professional musical theater productions within the next 12 months.*
- What is your "Performance Measure" for this grant?
  - Example: *Number of casting contracts.*
- What is your "Performance Target" for this grant?
  - Example: *2 (productions)*

ADVANCEMENT OPPORTUNITY REQUEST SECTION

WHAT WE ASK: Briefly summarize the activity/opportunity you are requesting in a couple of sentences.

WHAT WE’RE LOOKING FOR: In a couple of sentences, explain what you are requesting.

WHAT WE ASK: Provide a longer explanation of how this proposed activity/opportunity will advance your artistic career or help you achieve your artistic goals. (minimum of 500 characters, max 2,000 characters)

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR: Provide a clear explanation of how you plan to use this grant funding, the opportunity it would create, and how it relates to your artistic career goals. Be specific. Please note that a very short answer will not adequately explain what you are requesting. Provide enough information here for the reviewer to make a decision about funding.

WHAT WE ASK: When will the activity/opportunity be completed?

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR: This funding does not apply retroactively. Your opportunity cannot begin or be completed before November 1, 2026, and all funds must be fully spent by June 1, 2027.

WHAT WE ASK: Fill out the "FY27 Individual Artist Budget Template" and upload it here.

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR: The budget sheet can be found on our website. Clearly list all costs associated with your request. Requests should be for either a single item or for directly related expenses. Do not combine multiple unrelated requests in order to request the maximum funding amount.

WHAT WE ASK: (OPTIONAL) Upload bids for any products or services you outlined in the above questions.

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR: If you have bids that are available to share with the reviewer, it can support your application.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION SECTION

UPLOAD: Upload a current artist statement as a PDF. Alternatively, folk artists may provide a letter of support. (minimum 500 characters, max 2,000 characters)

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR: The statement should be written in the first person, describing your artistic practice, inspirations, and aspirations.

UPLOAD: Upload current artist résumé or CV as a PDF (no more than 6 pages).

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR: Your résumé/CV should detail your accomplishments as an artist working in your discipline. Please limit your resume or CV to no more than 6 pages. If applicable, the résumé should list exhibitions, shows, publications, awards, education, teaching experiences, and/or any other accomplishments that will help us evaluate your trajectory as a working artist.

UPLOAD: Please provide three samples of your artistic work. Upload samples that have been produced in the past five years.

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR: Upload work samples to demonstrate your skills as an artist.

- Performing/Visual Arts: Provide a PDF document with links to websites, or you may upload three digital files of representative artwork.
- Literary Arts: Three literary samples (poems, essays, book chapters, short stories, etc.)

REVIEW CRITERIA & AWARD INFORMATION

Grants made by Utah Arts & Museums (UA&M) support arts, museums, and cultural experiences in communities statewide. Grants are intended to provide Utah residents with opportunities to participate in cultural activities. No organization or individual is guaranteed funding from one year to the next. Funding levels are contingent on many factors, including resources available, number of applications, a written application, and meeting specified criteria.

Eligible applications will be reviewed by UA&M staff and a panel of community professionals. (We welcome applicants to participate as **panel reviewers**). Each review panel will evaluate applications based on the criteria outlined in the guidelines. All grant allocations are approved by the UA&M board. The board reviews and approves final funding recommendations and may consider a special exception to these guidelines based on agency priorities.

UA&M is a state agency that provides public funding for arts and museums. As a public entity, it reserves the right to make final decisions about the use of public funds for projects, programs, acquisitions, commissions, or other activities as deemed appropriate by the agency and/or board. Receipt of this grant is intended for artistic personal and professional growth and does not equate to an endorsement of specific artistic creation.

UA&M takes the responsibility of awarding public funding seriously. UA&M carefully follows grant review and award procedures as permitted by statute and board policies. UA&M reserves the right to revoke awarded public funds (current, multi-year, and/or future) as deemed necessary. The revocation of any public funds will be taken under consideration by the UA&M Advisory Board.

OTHER REVIEW NOTES

- Artistic career readiness will be considered: whether this support will help advance the artist to a next level. Grants will not be awarded based on need.
- Grants will be given to both emerging and established artists.
- Grants will be awarded based on artistic commitment, excellence, and feasibility of the request.
- Utah Arts & Museums will take into account general standards of decency and respect for the varied beliefs and values of the people of this state.

WHAT IF I RECEIVE A GRANT?

We have included a step-by-step guide to assist you after you are awarded a grant.

1. NEW THIS YEAR: MANDATORY GRANTEE TRAINING

To receive your grant contract and funds, you must attend one of the virtual training sessions:

- Option 1: Friday, October 23, 2026, at 12:00 PM
- Option 2: Wednesday, October 28, 2026, at 6:00 PM

Note: Zoom links for these sessions will be emailed to grantess at a later date.

2. ONBOARDING & CONTRACTS

- Award Notification: You will receive an official email notifying you of your award and important grant details. You will be given a choice on how to receive your grant funds:
    - **100% Upfront (Federal Funding):** Funds are disbursed at the start of the project. Grantees must comply with all federal regulations and reporting requirements.
    - **100% Reimbursement (State Funding):** Grantees cover all project costs out-of-pocket and will be reimbursed in full after submitting the final report.
- Vendor Setup: You must be registered in the state's vendor system to receive payment. If you are not already in our system, our grants team will contact you to complete this paperwork.

- Grant Contract: After you attend the mandatory training and are set up as a vendor, you will receive a State of Utah Grant Contract via CongaSign (an online signature service). You must review and sign this contract digitally. This will allow us to execute your contract and process your payment.

3. NEW THIS YEAR: PAYMENT OPTIONS

This year, you will have two options to receive your grant funds:

1. **100% up-front payment option**
    - After we receive your signed contract, you will receive 100% of your grant award payment.
    - You must comply with all federal regulations. You are required to maintain a sound financial management system and keep detailed source documentation—such as receipts, invoices, and cancelled checks—to prove that all expenditures were allowable and directly related to your approved project.
    - Furthermore, all financial records and supporting documents must be securely retained for a minimum of three years from the date you submit your final report.
    - Finally, your records must remain available for review by the state and/or federal government.
2. **100% reimbursement option**
    - After we receive your signed contract, **you will need to use your own funds** to pay for your grant expenses.
    - Once you spend all funds and complete your opportunity, you will submit your final report. Reports can be submitted anytime before June 1, 2027. After your report is approved, you will receive your funds as a reimbursement.
    - This option does not require you to agree to and abide by federal grant requirements, including the possibility of a federal audit.

4. FUND USAGE & BUDGET CHANGES

Individual Artist Advancement Grant recipients must use their funds **exactly** as stated in their approved application and budget. Funds cannot be transferred to other events or activities unless you face extenuating circumstances. If you need to make changes:

- **Request Approval First:** Any proposed changes must be submitted in writing (via email) and approved by UA&M before you proceed. You may email us at: uamgrants@utah.gov
- **Be Mindful of the Deadline:** If you realize you will be unable to use your grant funds by **June 1, 2027**, please contact the grants staff immediately.

Note: Making unapproved changes to your scope of work or budget can result in your funding being **revised, revoked, or completely rescinded.** UA&M retains the final right to approve or deny any modifications.

5. FINAL REPORT REQUIREMENTS

You must submit your final report online in our Grants Portal by June 1, 2027. You can submit your final report as soon as your activity/opportunity is complete and all grant funds have been expended. The final report must demonstrate that the activity/opportunity is complete and all grant funds have been expended. The report will ask you to provide the following:

- **Narrative**: An explanation of how the funds were spent in relation to your original application proposal.
- **Itemized Expenses**: A clear breakdown demonstrating that the full award amount has been spent.
- **Detailed Receipts** (Proof of Purchase): Grant expenses must be verified with detailed proof of purchase. Receipts (including Venmo and Zelle confirmations) must explicitly show:
    - **Who was paid** (Company or individual name)
    - **When it was paid** (Payment date)
    - **How much was paid** (Total amount)
    - **What was purchased** (Itemized list or description of products/services)

CONTACT THE GRANTS STAFF WITH TECHNICAL QUESTIONS

The UA&M Grants Staff (Stephanie Rokich and Racquel Cornali) can be reached at uamgrants@utah.gov.