



## ARTSWESTCHESTER VOICES FOR CHANGE Grant Guidelines

### OVERVIEW

**Our Goals:** A central principle of ArtsWestchester's Grant program is the advancement of diversity, inclusiveness and equity. To further these aims, ArtsWestchester announces **Voices for Change**, a unique artist grant opportunity designed to promote social awareness through the arts.

At ArtsWestchester, we believe that art has the power to illuminate complex issues, encourage civic discourse and open the community to new ways of thinking. *Voices for Change* provides the creative community with an opportunity to develop and present new work that inspires and informs, and may be a catalyst for action.

**The Opportunity:** Artists and artist collectives in all disciplines are invited to submit proposals for ArtsWestchester's inaugural *Voices for Change* project grant. Applicants are encouraged to submit projects that include a collaboration with a cultural, service or community-based organization. ArtsWestchester will award three (3) grants of \$10,000 *Voices for Change* grants through a competitive selection process.

The winning projects will be selected by a panel that will be diverse, have broad knowledge about the arts, cultural equity, and contemporary concerns, and have experience that aligns with the purpose of this grant.

The *Voices for Change* Projects must be completed and ready to present to the general public by October 31, 2022. Unless otherwise appropriate, completed works will be presented at ArtsWestchester.

Please review all details in this document before making your submission.

**RFP DEADLINE:** Artist proposals must be submitted online via the link provided by April 5, 2021, 11:59PM, E.S.T.

**PROJECT BUDGET:** The \$10,000 grant will cover all services from final design through fabrication, including artist fee, fabrication, planning, project execution, and insurance.

**OPPORTUNITY WEBSITE:** [artsw.org/voices-for-change](https://artsw.org/voices-for-change)

**APPLICATION PORTAL:**

<https://artswestchester.submittable.com/submit/185904/artswestchester-voices-for-change>

**APPLICATION INFO SESSION:** Artists interested in applying to *Voices for Change* are encouraged to attend an application virtual info session run by ArtsWestchester.

**Session 1 February 23, 2021 at 5PM**

To register: [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_VmvD-4-TTOqm0Zyn\\_iUsrA](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_VmvD-4-TTOqm0Zyn_iUsrA)

**Session 2 March 2, 2021 at 5PM**

To register: [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_5kCo46jqTCG7pLwaXGwKNQ](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_5kCo46jqTCG7pLwaXGwKNQ)

## GUIDELINES

ArtsWestchester's *Voices for Change* grant program supports the creation and presentation of new work by Mid-Hudson Valley Region individual artists and artist collectives. We seek proposals that reflect a broad and diverse range of creative voices and art forms, ranging from an expression of ethnic/folk traditions to contemporary and experimental forms.

*Voices for Change* seeks to support visionary work that encourages deep thinking about complex social issues. Projects must reflect significant understanding and analysis of the topic presented. Applicants are encouraged to submit projects that include a collaboration with a cultural, service or community-based organization.

Projects may address, but are not limited to, the following categories: Social Change, Social Justice, Civic Equity and the Public Good.

The following are examples of themes that may be considered:

- Civil Rights
- Criminal Justice
- Cultural Equity
- The Constitution
- Public Health
- Climate
- Human Rights
- Barriers to Participation in Civic Life

### **ELIGIBILITY:**

This opportunity is open to individual artists and artist collectives who live or maintain a studio/creative work space in the Mid-Hudson Valley region: Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster or Westchester counties. We encourage projects from a wide range of artistic disciplines.

Artists who have previously received funding through one of ArtsWestchester's grant programs are eligible to apply, but must submit a new and not previously-funded project.

### **Ineligible Projects:**

Voices for Change grants do not support the following projects:

- Advocacy for or against political candidates or legislation
- Fundraising events
- General operating support
- Staff positions

### **PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS:**

Proposals must include the following:

#### **1. Resume/CV**

*Format:* Word Doc or PDF.

A chronological resume, not a biography demonstrating a minimum of three (3) years of professional art experience. If submitting as a team, a current resume should be submitted for each team member. Total resume may not exceed 3 pages and must include your education history.

## 2. **Artist's Statement:**

*Format: Word Doc or PDF.*

A written description of the artist's body of work to give the panel understanding or insight. It should inform, connect with an art context, and present the basis for your work. It can be descriptive or reflective in nature (1-page maximum).

## 3. **Work Samples:**

*Format: JPEG, TIFF, PDF, MPEG, MP4, MOV, MP3, WAV*

- Submit a minimum of five (5) and up to ten (10) DIGITAL documentation of original completed works, not proposals, which demonstrate the artist's qualifications for the project. Teams may submit a total of ten (10) samples with at least one representation of every team member.
- Artists submitting video or audio work may include links to youtube or similar sites, but must link to specific works.
- File names should use the following convention: artist last name\_work\_title\_date.
- Samples emailed or mailed as hardcopy will NOT be accepted. All work samples must be submitted electronically through the online application portal on Submittable, which will remain open until TBD.

## 4. **Work Sample Checklist:**

*Format: Word Doc, PDF*

A checklist of works uploaded in application part 3, "Work Samples." For each work submitted, please include the following information: file name, title, date, materials, artwork location, and if applicable, commissioning entity. If multiple documentations of the same work are being submitted, please note accordingly in the checklist document.

## 5. **Project Vision Statement:**

*Format: Word Doc or PDF*

Brief statement summarizing the artist's vision for the project. Include a description of the work (including, for example, the materials, methods, and the proposed presentation format.) Please address how you see this project fitting into the overall theme and mission of the Grant. How do you envision the project will serve the local community and become a potential catalyst for local action? If applicable, describe your community partner organization or group, their role in formulating the project to date, and the role they will serve in the implementation of the project. (Not to exceed 2 pages, 12 point font, 1 inch margins. Additional pages will be removed from the application.)

## 6. **Project Budget & Budget Narrative**

*Format: Word Doc, Excel Doc, PDF*

The \$10,000 grant will cover all services through completion, including artist fees, fabrication (if applicable), planning, execution, and insurance. Artists must provide a proposed budget showing how the \$10,000 will be spent towards the project. Budget items may include: fees for actors to perform final reading or performance of a play, fees for dancers, art materials, studio fees, engineering fees, fabricator costs, framing. If applying with a partner or co-sponsor, please indicate contribution of cash or in-kind services. ArtsWestchester will be the venue for the presentation of the completed artwork. However, any special equipment or staffing required to present the work should be included in the proposed budget.

## 7. **Statement of Support/ Letter of Reference:**

*Format: Word Doc or PDF*

If working with a community partner, include a letter of support from the partner organization stating its involvement in the development of the project to date and its role in its implementation. Artists may include no more than three (3) letters of support or professional references. References should have an intimate knowledge of the artist's work. Include complete addresses, email, professional title, and telephone numbers in the letters. References may be contacted by the panel.

## **8. Proof of Hudson Valley Residency/Affiliation**

*Format: PDF, JPEG, and TIFF*

Please provide proof of Hudson Valley Region residency or work place. Examples of identification can range from photocopy of an active NY driver's license/permit/identification card, W-2 form, reference from employer, a current mailing address, notarized letter, etc.

## **9. Additional Support Materials**

*Format: Word Doc, PDF, jpeg*

Any additional documents that may better illustrate the Artist's vision to the selection panel should be included. Additional materials are optional and may include materials such as:

- 2D renderings/sketch of proposed visual artwork
- Music that may accompany a new choreographed work
- Stanza of poem, etc.
- If using subcontractors, please provide bios/resumes of proposed subcontractors.

Applicants are encouraged to apply early to reduce risk of technical difficulties. Incomplete, late, hand-delivered, mailed or emailed submissions will NOT be accepted for any reason. Artists understand that by submitting to the *Voices for Change* Grant Opportunity, they grant permission to ArtsWestchester to use their biography, likeness, and proposal materials for non-commercial promotional purposes related to the Grant opportunity, including but not limited to social media, digital communications, and press packages.

## **CRITERIA:**

- Artistic merit as demonstrated by work samples, significance of the proposed work, and overall concept.
- Originality and timeliness of the vision.
- Demonstrated insight into the selected theme.
- Strength and authenticity of community engagement.
- Artist commitment to diversity, equality, inclusion, and accessibility.

## **SELECTION PROCESS:**

The initial review for eligibility and application completeness will be conducted by ArtsWestchester staff. Eligible applications will enter a two-stage panel review process. Round One Panelists will be diverse, have broad knowledge of the arts, cultural equity, and contemporary concerns, and have experience that aligns with the purpose of this grant. Round One Panelists will identify finalists who will have the opportunity to present their proposals to a Committee of the Board. The Committee will recommend grant recipients, to be voted on by the full Board of ArtsWestchester, which makes the final decision on all grants.

## TENTATIVE TIMELINE & PROJECT SCHEDULE

<b>Application opens:</b>	February 5, 2021
<b>Application Info webinars:</b>	February 23 and March 2, at 5PM
<b>Application close date:</b>	Monday April 5, 11:59PM EST
<b>Panelist Review Period:</b>	Approximately April 12 - 30
<b>Finalist Presentations to Committee:</b>	Approximately week of May 17, 2021
<b>Final Selection:</b>	By or near June 11, 2021
<b>Project Start Date:</b>	July 1, 2021
<b>Completed project presented by:</b>	October 31, 2022

## PROJECT CONTACTS:

All questions about this opportunity should be directed to ArtsWestchester.

Kathleen Reckling  
Director of Public Programs, ArtsWestchester  
[kreckling@artswestchester.org](mailto:kreckling@artswestchester.org)

Logan Hanley  
Gallery Manager, ArtsWestchester  
[LHanley@artswestchester.org](mailto:LHanley@artswestchester.org)

## ABOUT ARTSWESTCHESTER

ArtsWestchester began in 1965 as a conversation among arts advocates and volunteers in a living room and has grown into is New York State's largest private, not-for-profit cultural service organization.

Our mission is to provide leadership, vision, and support to ensure the availability, accessibility and diversity of the arts in Westchester County.

Our vision is of a Westchester in which every man, woman and child can explore his or her creative impulses; where the arts are accessible to every sector of society and are an educational priority in our schools; where opportunities for artists are plentiful; where public art is fundamental to the landscape and cityscape; and where a new generation can use the arts as a window to the world.

Our programs and services enrich the lives of everyone in Westchester County. We help fund concerts, exhibitions and plays through grants; bring artists into schools and community centers; advocate for the arts; and build audiences through diverse marketing initiatives.

