



City of Aspen Grants Program: Cultural Vibrancy Fellowship

Grant Intent

This fellowship aims to further enrich Aspen's cultural environment by enabling community connection and providing opportunity for artistic growth.

Overview

This fellowship stimulates cultural vibrancy in Aspen through the direct support of local artists. This grant provides funding to local artists for their creative pursuits and fosters relationship building within the artistic community.

Local artists are important, and their work positively contributes to the community and culture of Aspen. This grant encourages these contributions through monetary support to adult artists who need it to further their career, creative practice, or pursue innovative ideas. There is a parallel youth grant to provide monetary support to further their skill and exploration of art. Along with the funding, recipients will participate in convenings intended to foster sharing, learning, and relationship building. Additionally, grantees are expected to make their own personal contribution towards Aspen's cultural collective.

This fellowship is an important part of fostering a network of support, growth, and celebration of Aspen's local artists. The required grantee convenings will be facilitated by a seasoned artist that will guide conversations along agreed upon topics such as: sharing and critiquing of each other's artistic work, items important to career or business development, issues facing working artists today, or pertinent discussions in art. Youth recipients will meet separately with an appointed artist facilitator and discuss topics relevant to their group. The convenings are intended to be a safe, welcoming, and enjoyable space for the recipients to get to know each other, share, learn, and grow together.

This grant will provide **up to \$4000 in funding to up to 12 adult artists** and **up to \$750 in funding for up to 10 youth artists** to support artistic pursuits such as, but not limited to: developing a project, buying relevant supplies, education, rehearsal space, marketing or growing their creative business, and other such efforts to support their creative pursuits.



Eligibility

Genres: The Cultural Vibrancy Fellowship is open to individual artists working in a wide spectrum of arts including performing, visual, film, literary, and new media.

Eligibility: The Cultural Vibrancy Fellowship grant is split into two categories: Adult and Youth.

For both grants:

- Applicants must demonstrate that grant funding is needed and will meaningfully further the applicant's career, creative practice, and/or will help them pursue innovative ideas.
- Funds must be used toward artistic pursuits such as, but not limited to: developing a project, buying relevant supplies, education, rehearsal space, marketing or growing their creative business, and other such efforts to support their creative pursuits.

For the Adult grant:

- Applicants must be artists living or working within the Aspen Urban Growth Boundary at least nine months a year and for at least three months preceding the application date.
- Applicants must be at least 18 years of age.
- Adult artists who received a grant award in last year's Cultural Vibrancy Fellowship Program **are not eligible** to apply for this year's grant cycle.

For the Youth grant:

- Applicants must be aspiring artists between 14 and 18 years of age.
- Applicants must live within the Aspen Urban Growth Boundary or attend school within the Aspen School District boundary.
- Youth artists who received a grant award in last year's Cultural Vibrancy Fellowship Program **are eligible** to apply for this year's grant cycle.

Awards:

- Up to twelve adult grantees will each receive up to \$4000.
- Up to ten youth grantees will each receive up to \$750.



Guidelines

Convenings:

- Recipients are required to engage in scheduled convenings occurring from February to May 2025.
 - Up to four convenings will occur, with each lasting two to three hours for the adult sessions and one to two hours for the youth sessions.
- Additionally, attendance at the final public convening to celebrate and share achievements in May 2025 is required. This event will honor youth and adult recipients, welcoming their friends, family, and the public to join the celebration.

Fellowship Statement:

- Within one month following the end of the grant period (January 2025-January 2026) for the Cultural Vibrancy Fellowship Program, recipients are required to submit a written narrative, accompanied by images, detailing how the grant funds were utilized and their impact on both their artistic pursuits and cultural vibrancy in the community.

Community Contribution:

- All adult grantees are expected to contribute, in their own way, to fostering community connection and further enriching Aspen's cultural environment. Some examples include mentoring youth artists, teaching, volunteering at art related events, speaking publicly about, performing, or exhibiting your work, advocating for new ways for Aspen to engage with art and artists, etc.

Anticipated Timeline:

Participants are required to attend monthly in-person convenings at either the Red Brick Center for the Arts or the Wheeler Opera House, as outlined below.

- Convening 1: February 2025
- Convening 2: March 2025
- Convening 3: March or April 2025 (Co-Convening with Youth and Adult Recipients)
- Convening 4: April or May 2025
- Convening 5: May 2025 – Final celebration convening with youth and adult recipients, their friends, family, and the public



Review Criteria

Criteria 1: Demonstrated Commitment to Artistic Pursuit

Adult Weighting: 30% | Youth Weighting: 40%

Definition: Does the applicant demonstrate through narrative, resume, and work samples a meaningful commitment to artistic development and pursuit? Does the applicant articulate how a grant award would allow them to develop their artistic skills and work?

Criteria 2: Impact of Funding

Adult Weighting: 30% | Youth Weighting: 20%

Definition: Does the applicant demonstrate that funding through and participation in the Fellowship program will have a meaningful impact on their artistic work and development as an artist? Does the applicant articulate the impact of joining a cohort of artists? Will a grant award enable the applicant to do work that is difficult or currently impossible due to financial constraints? Does the application create a clear and compelling case for funding?

Criteria 3: Artistic Merit

Adult Weighting: 25% | Youth Weighting: 40%

Adult Program Definition:

Do the work samples provided show artistic promise and/or demonstrate high artistic quality and fluency in the applicant's medium?

Youth Program Definition:

Do the work samples provided demonstrate high artistic quality and promise of continued artistic development in the applicant's medium?

Criteria 4: Community Contribution

Adult Weighting: 15% | Youth Weighting: 0%

Definition: To what extent will the applicant use this opportunity to contribute to community connection and further enrich Aspen's cultural environment?