

East Central Regional Arts Council

Mid-Career Artist Grant Guidelines

reflects revisions adopted by the ECRAC Board on June 15, 2026

East Central Regional Arts Council
540 Weber Avenue South, Suite 109
Hinckley, Minnesota 55037
email: info@ecrac.org
www.ecrac.org
320-336-0200



- Fiscal Year 2026 -

Grant Application Deadlines: Oct. 1 2025; Feb. 1, 2026

- Fiscal Year 2027 -

Grant Application Deadlines: Oct. 1 2026; Feb. 1, 2027

**This activity is made possible with funds
generously provided by the McKnight Foundation.**

EAST CENTRAL REGIONAL ARTS COUNCIL (ECRAC)

INTRODUCTION

The East Central Regional Arts Council (ECRAC) is a regional grant-making agency that supports the arts through funding from the Minnesota State Legislature and The McKnight Foundation. The Council distributes grant awards to artists, culture bearers, arts and other non-profit organizations, educational institutions, and local units of government and provides technical assistance for these grants.

Mission/Vision/Values:

ECRAC's mission is to support the arts and bring the life enhancing values they afford to Region 7E residents. The vision is that all Region 7E residents can participate, appreciate, create, and invest in the arts. The values of ECRAC are arts in action; integrity; artistic merit; and legacy. ECRAC is committed to providing opportunities for all in the arts by fostering inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility in our organization and in the Region 7E arts community.

The East Central Regional Arts Council accomplishes this mission through programs and special initiatives for artists and arts organizations. The work program of the Arts Council includes the following: Grant programs for organizations (501(c)3 non-profits, units of government, schools, or other groups using a fiscal sponsor) are the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund, Art in Our Schools, the Small/Art Project Assistance Grant, Resiliency Grant and the Essentials Support Grant (formerly General Operating); Grant Programs for individual artists such as the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund, the Resiliency Grant, ECRAC Individual Artist Mid-Career and Essential Artist Award Programs, and - IMAGE - the annual regional art show. Other resources include hosting various grant workshops, an arts library, art display equipment rental, an art gallery, and providing other arts related technical assistance and resource information.

ECRAC receives funding through appropriations of the Minnesota State Legislature and through The McKnight Foundation. These funding sources enable ECRAC to provide grant funds for local or regional arts projects in these Region 7E counties of Minnesota: Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Pine, and Mille Lacs; including the sovereign Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe lands. All grants are contingent upon the availability of funds. Funds are offered to organizations and individuals for a variety of arts projects that develop or enhance local arts, arts organizations, artists, or art audiences.

The East Central Regional Arts Council is an independent 501(c)3 non-profit. The address is 540 Weber Avenue South, Suite 109, Hinckley, Minnesota, 55037. You can reach ECRAC by telephone at 320-336-0200, and by email at grantinfo@ecrac.org. The agency website is: www.ecrac.org.

It is always best to contact staff of the ECRAC for assistance well in advance (see the grant deadline section) prior to submission of a grant application to determine current funding availability, and for information on the correct application form to use. This also allows applicants time to review the grant guidelines and to ask pertinent questions regarding your proposed grant project.

What is ECRAC's definition of art?

Art can describe several things: a study of a creative skill, a process of using the creative skill, a product of the creative skill, or the audience's experience with the creative skill. The Regional Arts Council defines "arts" as activities resulting in the artistic creation or artistic performance of works of the imagination. When we say arts, we are speaking very broadly of visual, performing, media, literary, and interdisciplinary art forms through which we learn about, explore, shape, and express the human experience. Every project funded by ECRAC must be an art project.

These activities include the disciplines listed in ECRAC's online application form. The list of disciplines is part of the National Standard for Arts Information Exchange which was developed by the National Endowment for the Arts and other state, regional, and national organizations. Arts agencies are required to report on their activities using this standard set of codes. The Regional Arts Council uses these disciplines to define and report the art project activities supported.

ECRAC Art Disciplines

Discipline	Code	Discipline	Code	Discipline	Code
Dance	01	Visual arts	05	Photography	08
Dance, ballet	01A	Visual arts, experimental	05A	Media Arts	09
Dance, ethnic or jazz	01B	Visual arts, graphics	05B	Media Arts, film	09A
Dance, modern	01C	Visual arts, painting	05D	Media Arts, audio	09B
Music	02	Visual arts, sculpture	05F	Media Arts, video	09C
Music, band	02A	Design arts	06	Media Arts, tech/experimental	09D
Music, chamber	02B	Design arts, architecture	06A	Media Arts, screen/scriptwriting	09E
Music, choral	02C	Design arts, fashion	06B	Literature	10
Music, new-experimental, electronic	02D	Design arts, graphic	06C	Literature, fiction	10A
Music, ethnic	02E	Design arts, industrial	06D	Literature, non-fiction	10B
Music, jazz	02F	Design arts, interior	06E	Theater, playwriting	10C
Music, popular	02G	Design arts, landscape architecture	06F	Literature, poetry	10D
Music, solo/recital	02H	Design arts, urban/metro	06G	Interdisciplinary	11
Music, orchestral	02I	Crafts	07	Folk/Traditional Arts	12
Opera/Musical Theater	03	Crafts, clay	07A	Folk/Traditional dance	12A
Opera	03A	Crafts, fiber	07B	Folk/Traditional music	12B
Musical Theater	03B	Crafts, glass	07C	Folk/Traditional crafts/vis arts	12C
Theater	04	Crafts, leather	07D	Folk/Traditional storytelling	12D
Theater, general	04A	Crafts, metal	07E	Humanities	13
Theater, mime	04B	Crafts, paper	07F	Multidisciplinary	14
Theater, puppetry	04C	Crafts, plastic	07G		
Theater for young audiences	04D	Crafts, wood	07H		
Theater, storytelling	04E	Crafts, mixed media	07I		

Source: Minnesota State Arts Board

GRANT PROGRAM DESCRIPTION – GRANT AMOUNT \$3,600

The East Central Regional Arts Council (ECRAC) developed the Mid-Career Artist Program with McKnight Foundation funding to provide financial support to artists and culture bearers committed to personal artistic growth. Applications must be made for a specific art project designed to: enhance your artistic skills, artwork, experimentation, collaboration, or art business career. Projects may be in any art form or discipline as described in the ECRAC definition of art.

The artwork and rights to the works resulting from grants given to artists by the East Central Regional Arts Council are the sole property of the grant recipient.

ELIGIBILITY

MID-CAREER INDIVIDUAL ARTISTS & CULTURE BEARERS are individuals who create, perform, teach, preserve, or share artistic or cultural practices, traditions, knowledge, or artistic expressions within their community. Formal training, degrees, or professional experience are not required.

What is a Mid-Career Artist? Mid-career artists and culture bearers are recognized by their peers and arts professionals, have produced an independent body of work and have a record of projects, exhibitions, or commissions.

You may apply if you:

- Are a mid-career artist or culture bearer who is **18 or older**.
- Have lived for at least **6 months** in one of these areas:
 - Chisago County
 - Isanti County
 - Kanabec County
 - Mille Lacs County
 - Pine County
 - The sovereign Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe lands
- Submit **proof of residency** with your application. This is a new requirement.
- Are a **U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident**.
- Do not have any overdue or incomplete grant reports with ECRAC.
- Have not received a **Misuse of Funds** determination from the Minnesota State Arts Board or any Minnesota Regional Arts Council.

The Mid-Career Artist applicant must not have received ECRAC's McKnight funding for two years (Example: FY 2027 ECRAC/McKnight grantees are not eligible again until FY 2029.)

What Can Be Funded

The following are examples of individual artist projects and are not meant to be limiting or all inclusive:

- ❖ **Money to Produce Artwork.** Those materials and/or services necessary for the completion of new work or works of art. This does include time to work (for example, an applicant's time in the project).
- ❖ **Money to Present Artwork.** Costs involved in the arrangement of a visual arts exhibit, portfolio production, composer or musician demo production, or film/video.
- ❖ **Money to Learn.** Costs involved in training or mentoring with a renowned professional artist *excluding college or university courses for credit*. Workshops are eligible.

Funding Restrictions - The Mid-Career Artist program cannot fund: artists that are not permanent residents of Region 7E; in school work by any level of students; projects which have, or will, receive funding from the Minnesota State Arts Board for the same project; or applicants who intend to use the funding to relocate from Region 7E.

GRANT FUNDING LIMITS

The grant request for ECRAC Mid-Career Artist Grants can be up to \$3,600. Partial funding may be awarded, and the Regional Arts Council may put stipulations on the award.

An artist is limited to one ECRAC artist award (Mid-Career Artist Grant or Essential Artist Award) every two years. Artists are limited to one active ECRAC grant at a time unless the other grant is a Resiliency Grant.

Other grant requests may be made through ECRAC ACHF Individual Artist Grant Program (\$2,000) or the Essential Artist Award (\$9,000). Younger artists can be funded through the K-12 Scholarship Program (up to \$599). Please contact ECRAC staff if you have questions regarding which program is most appropriate for you.

Individual applicants are not required to provide a match for this program, but matching funds are encouraged and are evidence of an artist's need and support for the grant proposal. Matching funds may consist of cash, in kind contributions, earned income, or other grants. In kind are donated items such as materials, labor, and space that can be given a dollar value and are a significant part of the project. Applicants must be able to prove that in kind is committed (for example, letter from donor indicating commitment and value).

Applicants are required in the grant application budget form to identify where all grant project funds will be expended. All matching funds included in the budget should be committed to the grant project.

No part of the grant may be used to cover expenses incurred before the approved start date or after the end of the project. The entire project must be completed within 14 months of the grant deadline date.

At the grant review ECRAC will use a ranking system to determine funding allocations. A lower ranking may mean either a partial grant or no grant award.

You will be invited (but are not required) to attend the grant review meeting. ECRAC does not allow presentations but applicants are strongly encouraged to attend the grant review. In other words, no additional information or comments are allowed at the review meeting.

Special Requirements for Art Project Equipment Purchases

Grant funds may support equipment purchases when they are tied to clearly defined project activities and outcomes. Equipment-only requests are not eligible for funding.

If your project includes the purchase of equipment, your application must include a detailed description of how the equipment will support project activities and goals. Individual applicants must also certify that the equipment will not be sold or transferred without prior approval from ECRAC. ECRAC may file a UCC financing statement to document its interest in the funded equipment.

WHERE AND HOW TO APPLY ONLINE

ECRAC has competitive grant programs. Because of that a reasonable amount of planning time should be allowed to develop a grant proposal application. Grant writing technical assistance is provided by ECRAC staff upon request by the grantee. The staff person can best be of help to you if you contact them in advance of the application technical assistance deadline. However, if time is available, they will still answer questions after the assistance deadline. Keep in mind that assistance from an ECRAC staff person does not imply that grant funding will be received.

There are different application forms for organizations and for individual artists. Schools, and units of government, use the organization form and guidelines. If in doubt about which application to use, contact ECRAC staff.

Upon request the application and grant guidelines can be made available in alternative formats. To accommodate your request for an alternative format, ECRAC will need 10 working days' notice.

You may access the ECRAC website for the online application forms at www.ecrac.org/grants . You will find information on past funded grant projects at the bottom of the webpage.

For the online grant portal, used to access the upcoming grant applications and your previous grant proposals, go to <https://www.ecrac.org/manage-my-grant>

Do not apply for more than one grant per grant program deadline. Be sure to include all attachments with your application, or your application will be considered incomplete and ineligible.

The Mid-Career Artist Grant application attachments include artist résumé, mentor résumé, workshop details and instructor résumé, work samples, a project budget and/or other project expense details such as an equipment use plan. Applications will be completed and submitted via online application, and you will need to provide a project budget and detailed budget explanation. The attachments used will be determined by your project, however, artistic work samples are always required and have the most weight in the grant review.

Applicants cannot submit any grant application proposal materials by mail, in person, or by email. The online application materials are at: www.ecrac.org/grants. The ECRAC grant portal is available at: <https://www.ecrac.org/manage-my-grant>. Completed applications must be submitted online before 11:59 p.m. on the deadline date. Grant questions? You can reach ECRAC by telephone at 320-336-0200 and by email at: grantinfo@ecrac.org.

DEADLINES

When you submit a grant application proposal, please be aware that it will take about 2-3 months before a final decision is reached by ECRAC. The earliest allowable starting dates and the corresponding end dates are listed here.

The grant deadline dates for Fiscal Years 2026-2027 are:

GRANT DEADLINE at 11:59 p.m.	FINAL APPROVAL BY	EARLIEST START DATE	LATEST END DATE
October 1, 2025 & 2026	December 31, 2025 & 2026	January 15, 2026 & 2027	June 30, 2027 & 2028
February 1, 2026 & 2027	April 30, 2026 & 2027	May 15, 2026 & 2027	June 30, 2027 & 2028

**If a deadline date falls on a weekend, or a holiday,
the deadline will be 11:59 p.m. on the next working day.**

What determines a project's start date?

The start date for an ECRAC grant is defined as “the point at which the project is set in motion (e.g. rehearsals, advertising and public notification, payment of fees, ordering and/or paying for supplies or printed material, etc.).” ECRAC does not fund projects that are already underway. Grantees must wait until their notification of grant award before printing and/or disseminating publicity materials. No funds can be expended prior to the project start date. Funds incurred before the project start date (such as paying for an art class previous to the start date) cannot be included in the grant project and may make your project ineligible. Please contact ECRAC staff if you are unclear about whether ECRAC would consider your project as already started.

GRANT REVIEW PROCEDURE & CRITERIA

- Your application is your responsibility. Ensure you are eligible and that your application is accurate, complete, and clearly describes the artistic impact and outcomes of your project.
- After you submit your application, ECRAC staff will review it to confirm applicant and project eligibility. Grant applications will not move forward to panel or Board review if:
 - The applicant does not meet the Region 7E residency requirements described in these guidelines.
 - The proposed project includes activities listed in the *What ECRAC Does Not Fund* section.
 - Only eligible applications will advance to the panel review process.
- Your application will also be reviewed for completeness. Staff may note any application concerns for the review panel and Board. If reviewed, the ECRAC Board of Directors makes the final determination on application eligibility and completeness.
- You'll receive an email from administrator@grantinterface.com confirming that your application has been successfully received. You will also receive an email letting you know when the grant review meeting will take place.
- If eligible for review, you're strongly encouraged to attend the review meeting to observe the process. However, please note that you won't be able to add or clarify any information during the meeting.
- Grant reviewers are either the ECRAC Board of Directors or a panel of community members.

Who Makes the Funding Decisions?

1. The ECRAC Board of Directors makes final funding decisions for eligible applications through a majority vote.
2. ECRAC staff do not score applications or vote on funding recommendations. Their role is to support the review process by providing eligible application information, identifying completeness or other concerns, and documenting grant review discussions.

Communication Guidelines

To ensure a fair process for all applicants, please refrain from contacting ECRAC board members or grant review panelists regarding your application. Any communication may result in disqualification of your application. If you have any questions during this time, you are welcome to contact ECRAC staff for assistance.

ECRAC OPEN MEETING POLICY

All grant review meetings are open to the public. Members of the public audit the meeting only. Disruptive people will be asked to leave. Applicants are encouraged to attend and are not allowed to provide additional information. All discussion of grant applications is public record. An agenda is available at an in person meeting, by request, or on the ECRAC website.

❖ REVIEW CRITERIA

The East Central Regional Arts Council makes every effort to distribute available funds fairly and equitably among the various art forms and across all geographic and cultural areas of the region. Projects supported by ECRAC are expected to encourage and reflect the high standards of artistic excellence. The Regional Arts Council will consider each application on its own merits. Applications are reviewed in the order received. In reviewing the applications, a grant review panel and/or the ECRAC Board of Directors will use the following criteria.

ECRAC recognizes that lived experience and community connections are valuable. This policy is designed to ensure that all applicants are reviewed fairly and equitably, while honoring the integrity of our decision-making process.

These factors constitute the grant review standards: quality of the artist's work; quality of the proposed project; and the artistic résumé. If the application is determined to be complete, an art project, and of sufficient artistic quality to indicate further review, the following 3 grant review criteria will be discussed.

❖ Quality of the artist's work – 30 points available

Grant review considerations used to address this criterion may include:

1. Do the work samples substantiate the artistic merit and quality of the project?
2. Are the work samples 4 years old or less and, if not, was information included regarding why not?
3. Are the work samples an accurate representation of the project presented?

❖ Quality of the proposed project – 20 points available

Grant review considerations used to address this criterion may include:

1. Does the proposed project describe how the artist will expand their skills as an artist?
2. Will this project assist the artist in their career as an individual artist?
3. Does the artist include sufficient details about the project to inform the reviewers?

❖ Artistic Résumé – 10 points available

Grant review considerations used to address this criterion may include:

1. Is the artistic résumé complete?
2. Does the artistic résumé include the artists experience as it pertains to the planned project?
3. Does the planned project align with the artist's résumé and experience level?

Eligible applications will need to receive a minimum score of 40 out of 60 in the review scoring to remain eligible. A score of 40, however, does not guarantee a grant award.

Review Criterion	Points Available
Quality of the Artist's Work	30
Quality of the Proposed Project	20
Artistic Résumé and Experience	10
Total Possible Score	60

Based on the grant review standards and the recommendation of the grant review panel (if applicable), the East Central Regional Arts Council Board of Directors shall make one of the following decisions for each grant applicant: full funding of the amount requested; partial funding

of the amount requested; table the request, pending receipt of additional information or stipulations for the application; or no funding.

The grant review panel (if applicable) will present its recommendations for the grant review in writing to the East Central Regional Arts Council Board of Directors. ECRAC relies heavily on the recommendations of the panel if used.

The ECRAC Board of Directors will determine if grant review procedures have been properly followed and will approve, disapprove, or table based on adherence to the procedures and guidelines herein described. They can also set stipulations for applicants based on these.

All grant applicants will receive a grant allocation notification by email within 30 days after the final funding decision is made by ECRAC.

Applicants are encouraged to contact the ECRAC office early in the grant application process for individual assistance, or to attend a grant workshop. The granting of such assistance in no way implies that funding will be approved. **(More applications are not funded for being incomplete or having poorly prepared work samples or attachments than for any other reason).** Also, this contact with the staff person will help you to determine if grant funding is still available. Keep in mind that working with ECRAC staff does not guarantee grant funding.

GRANT PAYMENTS

Grantees will receive notification regarding the ECRAC grant funding decision. If funded, a contract called the Notification of Grant Award (NGA) and a Request for Payment (RFP) form will be included in the notification. In cases where the grant is less than the full amount requested, or if the ECRAC Board of Directors has stipulated revisions, the applicant will receive them and a revised approved budget in the NGA. If the grantee agrees with the approved budget and other terms of the contract, the applicant must sign and submit both forms to ECRAC.

A current IRS Form W-9 must be submitted with your grant contract. ECRAC uses this form to verify the legal name and tax identification information of organizations that may receive grant funds, helping ensure compliance with grantmaking and financial reporting requirements.

Failure to provide required documentation or comply with applicable laws and regulations may result in an application being deemed ineligible, termination of an awarded grant, or the return of grant funds.

If you are awarded a grant, ECRAC will request a completed W-9 form before issuing payment. W-9 forms are collected only for tax reporting purposes and are not public records.

Grant funds awarded to individuals may be subject to federal and state income taxes. Please consult a tax professional if you have questions about your tax obligations.

No funds will be authorized until the NGA contract and RFP have been executed and the completed W-9 form returned to ECRAC. Funds will then be approved and forwarded to the grantee within 45 days of receipt of the NGA and RFP. If stipulated by the ECRAC Board of Directors they may split grant payments by providing initial grant funds after the receipt of the NGA and RFP, and the final payment after receipt of a successful interim progress review. If so, details will be included in the NGA and RFP notification.

Additionally, before the first grant payment of a fiscal year is made to a grantee ECRAC requires grantees to complete *Grant Management Training (GMT)*. If requested, travel expenses incurred related to this training can be reimbursed by ECRAC. However, most GMT sessions are now held online.

Legal Compliance and Required Documentation

All applicants and grantees are responsible for complying with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

GRANT REVISION REQUESTS

When the grant is funded grantees agree to notify ECRAC staff in writing, for prior approval, of any proposed changes to the grant project or any revision of the approved budget in the NGA. The Regional Arts Council must pre-approve significant changes in the project such as changes in dates, project goals or outcomes, and/or budget changes of 20% or greater (per line item), if the amount is over \$600. No revisions are allowed to the NGA contract or to the grant project without ECRAC prior approval. There are instructions for this, if needed.

GRANTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

If a grant is received, the grantee must:

- ❖ Grantees agree that the project will be completed within 14 months of the grant deadline and as described in the grant application and budget. **Per the contract, any changes in the project from what was approved by ECRAC must be requested of and approved by ECRAC in advance.**
- ❖ Include the ECRAC logo and the following credit line in all publicity, advertising, and promotional materials: **“This activity is made possible by a grant from the East Central Regional Arts Council with funds generously provided by the McKnight Foundation.”** In addition, you should use the hashtag #ecrac when talking about your grant on social media.
- ❖ Ensure that access to participation in the project, if any, will not be limited on the basis of national origin, race, religion, age, or gender, and will be ADA accessible.

- ❖ Be legally responsible for the completion of the project and for the proper management of the grant funds. This includes keeping copies of project-related receipts for the amounts to be included with the final report. **All grant records must be kept by you for 3 years in case of audit.**

GRANT FINAL REPORT & EVALUATION SUMMARY

Once the grant project is completed grant recipients must submit a final report to ECRAC. Mid-Career Artist Grantees have 30 days, from the end of the grant project date as proposed in the approved application and as stated on the NGA and RFP. ECRAC may also require an interim report or may conduct a mid-point grant progress review. The final report must be the ECRAC online format provided in the grant portal and will include: project narrative; documentation of press releases & project publicity, website pages, and news articles. The final report will show how grant funds were used and will provide documentation of income and expenses pertaining to the project. Grantees are required to keep all copies of proofs of payment for 3 years in case of audit. The Regional Arts Council cannot provide any grant funds to applicants who have outstanding or unaccepted grant final reports or unsatisfactory interim progress reviews.

Misuse of Funds Policy

The East Central Regional Arts Council has a Misuse of Funds Policy as required by the State. The ECRAC staff document their questions and conclusions about possible misuse of grant funds after reviewing the grant final report. Staff then consult with the grantee regarding these concerns and request additional information. Any determination of Misuse of Funds is made by the East Central Regional Arts Council Board of Directors. A misuse determination will impact the grant in question and future funding. Any Misuse of Funds determination is reported to the Minnesota State Arts Board and the Forum of Regional Arts Councils of Minnesota.

GRANT TERMINATION OR REVOCATION

The NGA contract may be terminated at any time upon written request of the grantee. Such termination does not necessarily relieve the grantee of its responsibilities as set forth in the grant contract. ECRAC may terminate a grant contract at any time upon failure of the grantee to comply with one or more of the conditions of the grant contract. A contract may be terminated by mutual written consent of ECRAC and recipient. Occasionally, additional stipulations or conditions will be placed on the use of the grant funds. These conditions, or in some cases recommendations, from the Regional Arts Council will be clearly outlined in the NGA contract.

ECRAC will rescind its grant commitment if:

- a grantee does not submit their signed NGA and RFP within 45 days, or
- upon request, the recipient does not agree to, or return any required grant stipulations at the time the NGA and RFP are due.

GRANT REVIEW APPEALS POLICY & PROCEDURE

If an applicant can show cause that the established grant review procedures have not been followed, the applicant may file an appeal. There is no right of appeal for disputes of decisions of the East Central Regional Arts Council with respect to artistic merit.

To file an appeal, the applicant must notify the Regional Arts Council Executive Director in writing within 10 days of the notification of ECRAC's action and describe the point or points of issue with the grant review procedure. ECRAC will approve, disapprove, or table the appeal based on adherence to its grant review procedures within 45 days.

NOT FUNDED BY ECRAC

The following activities, expenses, and applicants are not eligible for ECRAC funding:

- Applicants with a misuse of funds determination from the Minnesota State Arts Board or any Minnesota Regional Arts Council.
- Applicants with outstanding or unsatisfactory final reports due to ECRAC.
- Project expenses incurred before the earliest allowable grant start date.
- Projects used to match or support another ECRAC-funded grant or grant application.
- New building construction, purchase of real property, or endowment funds.
- Purchase of alcoholic beverages or related expenses.
- Events or activities that are not open and accessible to the general public.
- Applicants who have received McKnight Artist funding through ECRAC within the past two years.
- Activities involving an organization where the applicant is employed.
- Tuition, fees, or coursework toward a degree or academic credential.
- Translation of literary works.
- Development of curriculum, teaching materials, or educational programs intended for use as part of the applicant's regular employment.
- Costs related to relocating the applicant's legal residence outside of Region 7E.
- Establishment of any type of arts organization.
- Vanity press publishing or self-publication expenses.
- Activities that require artists to pay excessive entry, participation, or exhibition fees.
- Payment of debts or obligations incurred before the grant start date.
- Activities primarily intended for religious instruction, faith formation, or religious socialization of participants or audiences.
- Activities taking place in primary or secondary parochial schools.
- Fundraising activities.
- Activities involving terrorism or support of terrorist activities.
- Activities intended to influence federal or state legislation, appropriations, or political decision-making.

Artificial Intelligence (AI): AI may not be used to fully generate artistic work, application responses, or grant proposals. Applications containing substantial AI-generated content may be determined ineligible. For more information, please review ECRAC's AI Policy at ecrac.org.

ECRAC has attempted to provide thorough and clear articulation of its eligibility rules, but it reserves the right to declare an application ineligible for reasons not explicitly stated here. If you have questions about the eligibility of your project, please contact the ECRAC office. Grantees are responsible for complying with all federal, state, and local laws, rules, regulations, and ordinances in relation to the use of these funds. Failure to comply may result in termination or forfeiture of the grant.

SUMMARY

You will first need to familiarize yourself with the basic information about grant funding through the East Central Regional Arts Council. Please read through this entire document before beginning the application form. The application form includes specific questions which will assist the Regional Arts Council review team in determining artistic quality and merit, ability, and artistic need for the project.

Technical assistance is available for applicants who need advice in developing a grant proposal. The Arts Council also conducts grant workshops that help applicants understand the philosophy of the Council as well as the process for submitting successful grant applications. Assistance from the staff does not imply funding for an application. The content, accuracy, completeness, and merits of the grant proposal are solely the responsibility of the applicant.

The grant portal opens 4-6 weeks before the deadline. A reasonable amount of planning time should be allowed to develop an application. Grant writing technical assistance is provided by ECRAC staff as requested. The staff person can best be of help to you if you contact them well in advance of the application technical assistance deadline. Assistance from the staff person does not, however, imply that grant funding will be received.

Contact the ECRAC office to determine the availability of funding and which of the grant programs your proposed project best fits into.

Attend an ECRAC Grant Information Session. This is not currently a grant requirement, but it is strongly recommended by ECRAC for this funding.

Make sure you understand all the application questions. You may call the ECRAC office at (320-336-0200), or email grantinfo@ecrac.org if you are unclear about the application questions or grant review criteria.

Use the online forms provided by ECRAC. The application materials are on the ECRAC website: <https://www.ecrac.org/grants-available> in the Individual Artist section. For the list of past funded grant projects scroll down on this page for them listed in a pdf. Grant tutorials are also available.

You will have to remain within the specified amount of space for answers. Do not submit additional materials. Additional pages and materials not requested won't be reviewed by the Council or by a grant review panel. Do not mail or email any application-related materials to ECRAC.

Complete and submit your online application before 11:59 p.m. of the deadline date. Applications submitted after this are ineligible.

To be eligible, your application must include all required materials. If not, the application can be found ineligible.

Applications to the East Central Regional Arts Council become public documents. DO NOT submit information with private personal information such as social security numbers, or other non-public information.

If your proposal is funded you will be required to submit a W-9 form to ECRAC. Grants to individuals are subject to state and federal income tax. Please contact your tax preparer for further information.

OTHER ECRAC SERVICES

ECRAC provides a variety of services to the arts community in the region, including:

- Art Gallery showcasing regional artists
- Arts Resource Information to support planning and growth
- Community & Economic Development Support through arts-based initiatives
- Arts Library with materials for inspiration and learning
- Workshops for artists and arts organizations
- Grant Information Sessions to guide applicants through the process
- Grant Writing Technical Assistance available by request
- Art Show Display Equipment Rental for community art events
- Annual IMAGE Art Show celebrating local artists
- Meeting & Event Space available for arts-related gatherings
- Annual Zoom reimbursements for art organizations or groups of artists
- Reimbursements for professional development, *Event Scholarships* for artists or art project personnel

Please contact ECRAC if you would like further information regarding these services.

Grant Application Workshops: Information sessions are held monthly. Participants will learn about the grant programs, application process, and how to write an effective ECRAC grant application. This is a great opportunity to get your questions answered on your project ideas.

Grant Library: ECRAC maintains a library of submitted and funded grant applications. Reviewing these materials can enhance your understanding of the process and may improve your application. The application library is normally open during regular office hours (Monday – Wednesday 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.). Our staff is happy to help you. Calling to make an appointment in advance is required.

To see a list of all previously funded projects, visit this web page and scroll to the bottom:

<https://www.ecrac.org/grants-available>

QUESTIONS & GRANT FUNDING CREDIT LINE

ANY QUESTIONS??? Call 320-336-0200
or email grantinfo@ecrac.org www.ecrac.org

**East Central Regional Arts Council
540 Weber Ave S, Suite 109
Hinckley, MN 55037**

STAY UP TO DATE!

Make sure you are on the ECRAC newsletter mailing list!

ECRAC Mission

The ECRAC mission is to support the arts and bring the life enhancing values they afford to Region 7E residents.

If funded by this grant program, any publicity for your grant project needs to include

- 1.the ECRAC logo, found at
<https://www.ecrac.org/manage-my-grant/press-kit>**
- 2.the following funding credit line
and hashtag (for social media use).**

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#ecrac