

About the Fulcrum Fund



The Fulcrum Fund, operated by 516 ARTS in partnership with The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, serves as an essential support structure to enable artists to expand existing work and explore new directions in creating and showcasing projects that inspire curiosity, engagement and dialogue. The Fulcrum Fund offers direct grants to artists and collectives whose work centers around visual arts that are living and working in New Mexico. Grants from the Fulcrum Fund are direct to artists engaging in self-organized artistic activity and accessible to the general public. The awards serve as a springboard for artistic processes that are innovative, experimental and forward thinking, while celebrating projects that do not fit into conventional museum and gallery systems.

Emphasis on Visual Art

The Fulcrum Fund awards are intended for artists expressly working in the visual arts. Works and projects created with, and involving performance or media are eligible provided visual art is a major portion of the finished project. Prospective artists are encouraged to apply for funding in support of projects that embrace experimentation and utilize innovative, risk-taking approaches that seek to expand conceptions regarding contemporary visual art production in the greater Albuquerque area.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is eligible?

Visual artists and collectives living and working in New Mexico. Projects must function primarily within a visual arts context (rather than performing arts, music, literature, or other arts). Projects can have interdisciplinary elements but must have a strong basis in the visual arts.

What do you consider visual arts?

We have an expansive definition of visual art practice. In addition to more traditional forms such as drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, installation, and similar mediums, we are also open to artists practicing in film/video, new media, sound art, performance art, and social practice. Artists whose practices are firmly rooted in dance, theatre, music, or industry/feature filmmaking are not eligible to apply.

What types of projects are NOT eligible?

Projects for which the lead artist lives outside New Mexico, projects that are part of a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization's programming, projects proposed by students, and projects that do not have a public component will not be considered.

Does the Fulcrum Fund support emergency relief?

The program offers support for project-related requests only and cannot accommodate emergency requests at this time.

If I am a recent college graduate, am I eligible to apply?

Current students or anyone who was/will be a student during the time of application or granting period are not eligible. Granting period is February 2024 – February 2025.

I am doing a project later in the year or the following year at a non-profit or commercial gallery, but they don't have funding to pay me. Can I apply for funding for that project?

No. These awards are for self-organized artistic projects. The idea being that if you are doing a project tied to another organization/business/venue as their programming, they should be commissioning or paying you for that project directly.

Do you have to be a U.S. citizen to apply?

No, but the artist/lead organizer must have a social security number in order to receive payment of the award. Additional collaborators and/or participants do not need to be U.S. citizens or have social security numbers.

Does my project have to be socially engaged to be considered eligible to receive funding?

No. Previous grantees have worked across many mediums and disciplines. As long as the proposed project is considered visual art, or engages with visual art and has a component through which the public can interact or experience it would be eligible.

Does my project have to be collaborative?

Not necessarily. In previous years, applicants were required to collaborate with someone (another artist/ individual or group) but that is no longer required. Artists can now apply for projects in which they are the sole creator of a project.

What kinds of projects will the Fulcrum Fund recognize?

The Fulcrum Fund recognizes a wide range of projects and activities such as: a new exhibition or exhibition series, the ongoing work of an arts venue or collective, a public art project, a one-time event or performance, publications directly related to the visual arts, an online project, the creation of an artist residency, a series of film screenings and more. In general, the Fulcrum Fund seeks to create opportunities for the development and presentation of artist-led projects and programs that foster collaboration and are open to the public.

What is the maximum funding amount I can request for my project?

You may request any amount between \$2,000 and \$10,000.

Can I be granted less money than I ask for?

Yes. The jurors may decide to award you less than you ask.

How many grants will you give out?

Funding will be awarded to between 6-20 applicants.

How long do I have to complete my project?

Recipients will have one calendar year from the date of award notification to complete their projects and public event.

In the case that multiple individuals are affiliated with the project collectively, who should be designated as the lead artist?

The lead artist will be the primary contact and the main administrator for the grant application in the event of an award. Since the lead artist will be responsible for receiving the check, they will also be responsible for the additional dispersal of funds to collaborators and paying any income taxes owed as a result of receiving the grant. The lead artist does not need to be a U.S. citizen, though must have a social security number and reside in New Mexico.

Can I submit proposals for more than one project?

Applicants can be the lead organizer on more than one proposal at any given time, though in this case, only one of their projects will be funded. Alternatively, applicants can be listed as additional collaborators on multiple proposals without affecting their eligibility on projects where they are designated as the lead artist.

How and when will the awards be selected?

Each year 516 ARTS invites three jurors (comprised of regionally and nationally recognized curators and arts professionals), who will review the submissions and select the grantees. 516 ARTS staff do not determine which artists receive funding.

If my proposal is selected, how will I receive the money?

Once a formal agreement and tax documents have been signed and received, a check for 75% of the total amount will be distributed to the applicant (or lead artist in the case of a collective) in their name. The remaining 25% will be released upon completion of the final report.

Will I be responsible for paying taxes on the award?

Yes, the IRS classifies this award as income. 516 ARTS will mail all recipients a 1099-misc form at the beginning of the calendar year. ALL recipients will be responsible for any taxes resulting from the additional income. 516 ARTS

does not provide tax advice and recommends you speak with a financial advisor/accountant about how an award might effect your tax responsibility.

Is it possible to apply for a grant to purchase equipment?

Equipment purchase or rental can be included as an expense in the project budget as part of a larger project; however, applications submitted for the sole purpose of acquiring equipment will not be considered. As a general rule of thumb, new equipment purchase should not exceed 25% of the total funds being requested.

Can I apply for a grant to fund general operating expenses for a new or existing art space?

Yes, as long as the artspace/gallery/exhibition space is not a commercial gallery or a non-profit organization. Examples of general operating expenses associated with the launch of a new arts space or the support of an existing art space include: artist fees, rent, utilities, artist/designer fees, materials, supplies, administrative fees and promotional materials.

Can I apply for a project that has already started?

Yes, projects that seek to expand their reach or are considered "ongoing" can be considered. Keep in mind that the Fulcrum Fund will not allocate resources to finished projects or support individuals looking to document pre-existing or finished projects.

Where and how should I submit my budget information?

On the application, there is a space for you to submit information regarding your anticipated expenses including but not limited to: artist/participant/contractor/fabrication fees or honoraria, venue rental fee, permits, materials, marketing and printing, website and hosting, rental and/or equipment purchase, travel, food (in the case of receptions) etc... Just keep in mind that your projected expenses should equal the amount of money you are requesting. See the budget worksheet available for use and download on the 516arts.org/fulcrumfund webpage.

Should artist fees be factored into my budget?

Yes. If your project requires you to compensate your collaborators, participants or yourself, you should include those expenses in your budget.

Can I apply for funding to cover my total budget, or am I expected to secure matching or additional funding?

You may apply for a grants for full or partial funding of your overall budget. Additional funding sources are great, though not required. In the event you are accounting for additional income, jurors only want to know how you intend to spend the money requested from the Fulcrum Fund.

Can I apply to support a web-based project?

Yes, web-based projects are eligible (blogs, podcasts etc..), as long as the content is related to visual art.

How large should my images be?

Images should be less than 2 MB in size.

If I'm proposing a project or exhibition that requires a venue space, does it need to be confirmed by the time I submit my application?

No, but it would be helpful to describe the kinds of spaces that you envision would be appropriate for your project. Remember: the venue cannot be 516 ARTS (or similar organizations/institutions) and the project cannot be part of another venue's exhibition program.

I don't have any images that are representative of my proposed project. What kinds of visual aids should I include as part of my application?

Applicants should submit work samples that represent the plans for realizing the proposed project. This could include previous work samples of artists who will be presented, mock-ups, plans and schematics for a site-specific project or documentation of past projects that are similar.

What are the requirements for reporting?

Grantees will be expected to submit documentation upon the completion of the proposed project and complete an evaluation of the project.