

2025–2026 Artist Opportunity Grant Program Timeline

For the 2025–2026 application cycle, all proposed opportunities must take place between January 1, 2026 and December 31, 2026.

July 15th, 2025 – PR Announcement

July 22nd, 2025 – PR Reminder

July 29th, 2025 – PR Reminder

August 5th, 2025 – PR Reminder

August 11th, 2025 – PR Reminder

August 12th, 2025 – PR Reminder

August 13, 2025 – Application available at cultureworks.org.

August 19 & 20, 2025 at 3pm EST

Artist Opportunity Grant & Community Force Orientation for Applicants

Not familiar with the application? New to grant writing? Unfamiliar with the application portal, Community Force? Be prepared for a thorough introduction with time for your questions! No registration required – Come when you can, stay as you can! Check cultureworks.org Apply for Funding for the Zoom link.

August 27, 2025, at 3pm EST

Artist Statement Workshop for Applicants

The Artist Statement is your opportunity to share your vision as an artist and to tell grant reviewers about your journey as an artist, but how do you write one? Come read through samples with your fellow applicants and begin writing your own! No registration required – Come when you can, stay as you can! Check cultureworks.org Apply for Funding for the Zoom link.

Sep 2 at 4:30pm & Sep 3, 2025, at 3pm EST

Project Budget Workshop for Applicants

A project budget is a crucial part of an Artist Opportunity Grant application, but how do you develop one? And how do you balance the story of your project with the projected costs of that project? This workshop will offer support as you create a project budget with supporting documentation and narrative. No registration required – Come when you can, stay as you can! Check cultureworks.org Apply for Funding for the Zoom link.

September 10, 2025, at 3 pm EST

Peer Review Workshop for Applicants

An opportunity to receive feedback on an early draft of your application from fellow applicants and past grantees. Registration is required by October 1 for participation in this workshop. *Dates and

times may be updated based on participation. Check cultureworks.org Apply for Funding to register.

September 12, 2025

Application deadline, 4:00 pm EST.

Applications must be submitted online through the Community Force Application Portal.

September 13 – 17, 2025

Culture Works Eligibility Review

September 17 –23, 2025

MCACD Eligibility Review

September 25, 2025

Review Panel Orientation

A virtual orientation is required of all panel members.

Agenda:

- 1. Introduction to Culture Works, Montgomery Co. Arts & Cultural District (MCACD) and the mission behind the AOG**
- 2. The purpose behind the review panel**
- 3. Best “review” practices & the rhetorical situation**
- 4. Introduction to the application portal and rubric**

September 25th – October 28th

Panel Written Review

Panel’s Written Review is ongoing during this time.

Public Panel Review

Wednesday, October 29 – Panel A

Friday, October 31st – Panel B

The first panel discussion about points of strength and areas for improvement for the applications, to be held as a Zoom Webinar and open to the public. – Recorded.

November 3rd – Panel submits final scores

November 5th – Private meeting for panelists to discuss funding recommendations. One panel will meet in the morning, and one will meet in the afternoon.

November 7th – **Funding Request to MCACD for Grant Committee Approval (Nov 11 meeting)**

November 2025

Grantee Onboarding Sessions

Grantees meet with Culture Works' Director of Grantmaking & Impact to review and complete grant agreements.

December 1st – Funding Request to MCACD confirmation**January 2026**

Grant Payments

Culture Works begins issuing grant payments. (Grants are paid in one lump sum 30 days prior to each grantee's project start date and following completion of their grant agreement).

December 1st LATEST, 2026

Project Final Deadline

All projects/opportunities must be complete. (Note: Each grantee will have a unique project end date based on their timeline of activities, but all funded projects must be completed by December 31, 2026 at the latest. A final report is due 30 days following the grantee's project end date.