

Individual Artists Grant Support 2026

Arts Council for Monterey County

Guidelines

Before you begin, please review these **Individual Artists Grant Guidelines**.

Application requirements include: eligibility questions, program / project information, professional information (letter of reference / support, resume), statement of need, [project budget](#) (click on the link to view and download the budget template) and work samples. Plan to allow plenty of time to request letters of reference / support. Letters must be dated within past 60 days and signed - digital or wet signature. We do allow 15% overhead expenses of the requested amount. Examples of overhead expenses: artists studio / work space rent and utilities, business insurance, travel expenses, exhibition and show fees, membership / classes, taxes.

Application tips:

- Please read each question carefully.
- You may draft your answers in a separate document and copy/paste them into the fields provided.
- Character counts are a guide to maximum length; your answers may be shorter. You may use bullet points. On average there are 6 characters per word.
- Your answers will save automatically. Once you start an application you can return to it through your Applicant Dashboard (click the "home" icon at the top of the page) and click the "edit" link.
- Applications are available in Spanish – please contact us for a copy

Program Structure

The Arts Council for Monterey County (Arts4MC)'s policies and practices prioritize racial equity and have a broad geographic reach into communities of all sizes and needs, and this includes providing critical services to artists and to the community at large. Arts4MC is committed to funding opportunities that support all of Monterey County's creative ecosystem. We support individuals who embody aesthetics recognizing all art forms and artistic traditions that enable full and meaningful creative expression.

Eligibility

- Applicant must be a resident of Monterey County for at least two (2) years, and be able to provide proof of residency;
- Applicant must be at least 18 years of age.

- In order to expand opportunities to new artists, individuals who were awarded a grant last year are not eligible to apply during this cycle.
- Arts4MC staff and board are not eligible to receive or apply to this grant.
- Career Tiers:
 - Emerging Artists are those in the beginning stages of making their work public and engaging the larger community in their practice. Individuals at this career stage may have had a few public showings of their work, but do not yet have ongoing resources or support. A total of 16 awards up to \$5,000 will be granted from within Monterey County
 - Established Artists regularly make their work public and engage the larger community in their practice. Individuals at this level can give multiple examples of artistic and/or cultural works that have made a significant social impact. A total of 2 awards up to \$10,000 will be granted from within Monterey County.

Selection Criteria & Review Process:

Arts4MC is committed to equitable distribution of funds throughout Monterey County.

Applications will be reviewed by an independent panel of evaluators from each of the five supervisorial districts in the county.

Applications will be reviewed separately by experience level (emerging or established).

Additionally, applications will be evaluated on the following criteria, using the point rankings of 1 (below average), 2 (average) and 3 (above average):

- Program/Project Description
- Project Impact
- Statement of Need
- Artistic Mission
- Work Samples

Application Deadline: Monday, March 23, 2026, 11:59pm.

This is a hard deadline.

Questions? Contact klara@arts4mc.org.

Application Support

Applicants are encouraged to join our Zoom office hours held Thursdays on February 26 and March 5, 12 and 19, 2026 from 2PM - 3PM [here](#).

Eligibility

Have you been a Monterey County Resident for the past 2 years?*

If the answer is no, then you are not eligible for this grant opportunity.

If the answer is yes, please continue to the next question.

Choices

No

Yes

Proof of Residency*

Please upload your drivers license, identification card or utility bill showing your Monterey County residency address. Please save the document as an Adobe PDF or jpg prior to attaching and move to the next question.

File Size Limit: 3 MB

Supervisorial District*

Click on [Supervisorial District](#) and enter your home address in the search window. Type the number of your district in the box below and move to the next question.

Character Limit: 5

Are you 18 years or older?*

If the answer is no, then you are not eligible for this grant opportunity.

If the answer is yes, please continue to the next section.

Choices

Yes

No

Program / Project Information

Primary Artistic Discipline*

Choices

Design (graphic design, architecture)

Digital arts (filmmaking, game design, photography)

Literary Arts (creative writing, drama, fiction, journalism, poetry, prose)

Performing arts (dance, music, opera, musical theater, magic, illusion, mime, spoken word, puppetry)

Visual arts (painting, drawing, printmaking, sculpture, including crafts such as ceramics)

Total Grant Requested*

Not to exceed \$5,000 (Emerging); not to exceed \$10,000 (Established)

Character Limit: 20

Program/Project Name*

Character Limit: 100

Program/Project Start Date*

To be eligible, your program / project must begin after May 1, 2026.

Character Limit: 10

Date of Completion*

(No later than one year from application approval)

Character Limit: 10

Program/Project Description*

Please describe your program/project, including how it is unique in Monterey County. Include the primary goals of the program/project and the strategies you will use to achieve them.

Character Limit: 1500

Project Impact*

Please explain the project impact on your ability to reach your career goal and the anticipated impact on our local community.

Character Limit: 1500

Statement of Need*

Please describe your challenges and / or barriers in your artistic career.

Character Limit: 1500

Professional Information

Number of Years of Professional Artistic Career*

Please select the number of years that best reflects your professional artistic career.

Choices

10+ years (established)

More than 2; less than 10 years (emerging)

What is your artistic mission?*

Please describe your background and focus, and the drive and inspiration behind your work as an artist.

Character Limit: 1500

Resume*

Please attach your resume - 2 page maximum.

Please save the document as an Adobe PDF prior to attaching.

File Size Limit: 2 MB

Website/Facebook/Instagram

Please list your website url , Facebook page or Instagram handle. **Leave blank if none.**

Character Limit: 2000

Reference / Support*

Please provide one letter of reference or support of your work from someone who works in the arts and who knows your work well (dated - within past 60 days - and signed - digital or wet signature). Please save the document as an Adobe PDF prior to attaching.

File Size Limit: 2 MB

Financial Information

Project Budget*

All Income, All Expenses.

(Income: *requested amount from Arts4MC, personal funds, if applicable*) Income and expenses have to equal.

Please save all documents as Adobe PDF before attaching.

Please view a project budget template here.

Download, edit and reupload to your application, if needed. Please note: We do allow 15% of overhead expenses of the requested amount.

Examples of overhead expenses: artists studio / work space rent and utilities, business insurance, travel expenses, exhibition and show fees, membership / classe, taxes.

File Size Limit: 2 MB

Artist Work Samples

5 Work Samples Total

Please attach images as *.jpg (suggested size about 800 pix on the longest side), pdf or docx; upload up to 3 minute audio or video clips.

Literary Arts: No more than 5 pages of literary samples per upload field. Previously published work or a current manuscript sample is allowed to submit.

(Please note: if your work samples files (audio/video) do not fit within the allocated file size

limit, you can upload these files to YouTube or other media outlets that support these files, and you can then share the link under "Video Link Upload" field instead the entire video/sound file.)

File Size Limit: 5 MB

File Size Limit: 5 MB

File Size Limit: 5 MB

File Size Limit: 5 MB

File Size Limit: 5 MB

Video Link Upload (if applicable) 3 minutes maximum

Character Limit: 2000

Video Link Upload (if applicable) 3 minutes maximum

Character Limit: 2000

Video Link Upload (if applicable) 3 minutes maximum

Character Limit: 2000

Video Link Upload (if applicable) 3 minutes maximum

Character Limit: 2000

Video Link Upload (if applicable) 3 minutes maximum

Character Limit: 2000