Statement of Purpose

As the Salt Lake Arts Council, we acknowledge that our current economic recession has disproportionately impacted our creative sector, but that Black, Indigenous, and other Persons of Color (BIPOC) have suffered greatly as a result of systemic racism and inequality which exists in our industry and beyond. We envision that these funds will help to increase revenue for the recipient, but will also result in the buoying up of the creative sector of Salt Lake City throughout the process and into our phased economic recovery from the COVID-19 Global Pandemic. This grant program was designed to provide financial support to individual artists and creative entrepreneurs to help stimulate, advance, and empower their creative interests and commercial enterprises. The goal of this grant is to provide economic opportunity and benefit to both the individual artist recipient, as well as the arts and cultural sectors, the creative community, and the economic ecosystems of our city.

Background

The Salt Lake Arts Council’s Artist Career Empowerment Grant program is a compilation of two separate budget allocations, each proposed by Salt Lake City Mayor Erin Mendenhall and approved through a vote of unanimous consent by the Salt Lake City Council in 2020. In summation, total funds available equal approximately $41,050. Grant awards for this program will range from $500 - $2,000, with a portion of these funds being prioritized and awarded to artists who self-identify as Black, Indigenous, and/or other Persons of Color (BIPOC).

Grant Eligibility

Applications for Salt Lake Art Council’s Artist Career Empowerment Grant must be submitted and administered by;

1. Individual artists who are current residents or artists who have a studio or business address within the boundaries of Salt Lake City;
2. Individual artists who will be 18 years of age or older at the time of submission;
3. Funds must be directed towards expenses incurred from March 1, 2021 through August 31, 2021.
Funding Limitations

Funds cannot be expended for the following activities:

1. Expenses incurred outside of the grant timeline;
2. Activities already underway or completed before the grant timeline;
3. Debt reduction;
4. Artists living outside of Salt Lake City;
5. Artists under the age of 18 years old.

Grant Usage and Guidance

The Salt Lake Arts Council envisions that these funds are utilized by artists and creative entrepreneurs to further their individual interests and emerging or professional careers. Potential fund usage can be, *but is not limited to*, the following projects and programs:

1. Participation in an exhibit, festival, vendor showcase, craft fair, market, and other events which require funds to participate;
2. Presenting at conferences, symposiums, or events related to the amplification of your creative process or product;
3. Equipment purchases directly related to the advancement, enhancement, or stabilization of your creative or artistic process or product;
4. Enrollment in professional development workshops and/or engagement with coaches or consultants to build technical, administrative, or adaptive skills;
5. Software and subscriptions to stay current on industry trends and interfaces;
6. Development and promotion of marketing and communications materials related to your work;
7. All activities which utilize these funds must adhere to all state and federal guidelines related to safe and healthy operations with regards to the COVID-19 Global Pandemic. As such, artists are encouraged to engage virtually, distanced, masked, and with proper hygiene and sanitation considerations made throughout the planning and execution of the efforts related to this grant.

All submissions will be carefully reviewed to ensure alignment with grant eligibility, fund usage, and granting priorities and guidelines. *Applicants are encouraged to contact Taylor Knuth with any questions or concerns regarding grant usage and guidelines.*

Funding Priorities

A grant review committee, made up of representatives from the Salt Lake Arts Council Board of Directors and Staff, will review and evaluate all complete applications received by the application deadline and in accordance with the following priorities which align with Salt Lake Arts Council’s Strategic Plan;
● All individual artists are encouraged to apply, however a portion of funds will be prioritized for and awarded to individual artists who self-identify as Black, Indigenous, and/or other Persons of Color (BIPOC);
● Funds will be prioritized for individual artists who foster cultural equity and provide a positive social impact;
● Funds will be prioritized for individual artists who aim to strengthen their individual and entrepreneurial health and development;
● Funds will be prioritized for individual artists who cultivate and build healthy partnerships in the community;
● Funds will be prioritized for individual artists who elevate the arts sector.

Application Process and Key Dates

● Guidelines Released: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 at 8:00 am MST
● Application Opens: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 at 5:00pm MST
● Application Closes: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 at 5:00pm MST
● Salt Lake Arts Council Grant Review Committee Process: From February 24, 2021 to March 10th.
● Salt Lake Arts Council Board Meeting: March 17, 2021 at 5:30pm MST. All applicants are encouraged to attend this public meeting.
● Award Notification: All applicants will be notified via email in the following days after the Salt Lake Arts Council Board Meeting, regardless of funding decision.
● Award Acceptance: All award recipients are required to complete a grant acceptance agreement form within five business days of receiving notification of funding awards.
● Checks Mailed: Within two weeks of receiving fully executed grant acceptance agreement.

Contact Us

If you require technical or adaptive assistance for any reason, please contact Salt Lake Arts Council Assistant Director, Taylor Knuth at taylor.knuth@slcgov.com or at 385-977-2027.

Frequently Asked Questions

● Why are artists who self-identify as Black, Indigenous, or other Persons of Color (BIPOC) being prioritized with the distribution of these funds?
In alignment with the Salt Lake Arts Council’s strategic plan, and Mayor Erin Mendenhall’s Diversity and Equity initiatives, substantial efforts and investments in these individuals and communities are required to achieve greater racial equity and inclusion in our arts sector and within the city. As such, we aim to invest, amplify, and uplift these artists whenever possible through a consistent, meaningful, and weighted means.
● **If I am an artist who receives funding, can it be taxed?**
These funds may be subject to U.S. taxes. Consult with your tax advisor.

● **Do I need to file a final report if I am awarded these funds?**
Yes. A grant report template will be provided with your grant acceptance agreement and must be submitted by the recipient within **30 days** of your funds being expended, your project being completed, or by the end of usage period, whichever comes first.

● **Is there a limitation on how much I can ask for?**
No. However, considering the total amount available for distribution, individual artists are encouraged to request no less than $500 and no more than $2,000.

● **How will the Salt Lake Arts Council prioritize the funds?**
Good question! In alignment with one of our core values, empowerment, our funding philosophy is to award based on the ability of the funds to empower artists. As such, awards distributed will likely not exceed the limitations outlined above, but will be awarded in such a way that the grant award amount is meaningful, impactful, and ultimately empowers the artists to achieve their goals outlined in the application. When that is not possible, funding will not be granted. Additionally, artists are encouraged to thoughtfully review our funding priorities outlined above and submit in careful alignment with those priorities.

● **Do I need to provide a budget?**
Yes, a template can be found [here](#).

● **If I have never received funding from the Salt Lake Arts Council, should I apply?**
Yes! All interested are encouraged to apply if they meet the outline eligibility criteria and limitations.