Emerging Artists Grant Program

A partnership program of the Durham Arts Council, Orange County Arts Commission, Chatham Arts Council, and Person County Arts Council.

Funded by The Mary Duke Biddle Foundation, the Durham Arts Council Annual Fund, the Anika James Foundation, the Linda A. Ironside Arts Fund, Partner Counties and other individual donations.
• These slides are available on the DAC website: https://durhamarts.org/eap/

• Questions and Answers will follow the presentation

• You can email with questions: mdemott@durhamarts.org
• Provide support to individual artists for career development projects

• The project must help the artist take their career forward
Eligible applicants have lived in Durham, Orange, Chatham, Person or Granville Counties, NC, for at least one year before the application deadline.

- Are at least 18 years of age.
- Are not enrolled in a degree program in your art form.
• Strength of the artist’s work and commitment of artist – 10 Points

• Feasibility of project – 10 Points

• Impact on the artist’s career, as they define it in their career goals – 10 Points

Criteria for review
• An Emerging Artist is simply moving from one point to another to build their career.

• The “emergence” can be about the business of art (“I need a plane ticket to get to my audition”)

• Or the creation of art (“I need to rebuild my wood fired kiln”)

What do you mean by “emerging”?
Career is defined by long term commitment to mastering the skills of your art form and developing a voice.

One path is not more convincing than another – you can be self-taught, have an MFA or learn from your grandmother.

Making money with your art is not required to be considered a professional.
The application is your chance to tell the reviewers who you are – as **an artist** and as a **project manager**.
• Your work sample
• your career goals
• your resume

help the reader understand you as an artist.

Your story as an artist
• Your project description
• timeline and
• budget

help the reader understand your ability to manage the project.

Your story as a project manager
• Make the effort to explain the impact of the project on your career – this is often a deal breaker if your application gets to the final round.
• Submit a **coherent body of work** for your work sample. You can upload files or link to a recording.

• Your resume. . .or bio. . . or CV should explain **how you learned your skill** as an artist and what you have accomplished.

• **Check the math** in your budget. Include income and expense. **Income should equal expense.**

• You can include artist fees for yourself in the budget. **The grant is taxable income.**
• If you have a complicated project it will probably take more words to explain than a simple one.

• Provide enough information for the reader to understand what you are proposing, but don’t drown them in detail.

• **Get a friend to read your narrative** and tell you what they understood – you are very close to your subject matter and may not express yourself as clearly as you think.

**Say enough but not too much**
Put yourself in the reviewer’s place – how can you make it easy for them to understand your proposal?

What will make them remember you?
We hope that completing this application will develop your skills to
- describe your work and your vision
- build a coherent budget
- curate work samples.

These skills will help you to write strong proposals for commissions, residencies, grants and jobs in the future.
You can email Margaret DeMott with questions: mdemott@durhamarts.org

Looking forward to your application! Deadline Oct. 31, 2021
• **DAC Arts Recovery Fund**: COVID loss, artists living in Durham County. Rolling deadline. https://secure.acceptiva.com/?cst=pqYAAw

• **DurhamArtsNetwork.org**: online directory for artists, organizations, arts businesses. Set up free profile.
The Emerging Artists Program is supported by:

- DURHAM ARTS COUNCIL
- The Mary Duke Biddle Foundation
- Anika James Foundation