

UNITED ARTS

CENTRAL FLORIDA

FY26 Individual Artist Award Guidelines

Application Window: June 18, 2025 – July 13, 2025 @ 11:59 pm

Grant Activity Period: October 1, 2025 – September 30, 2026

Individual Artist Awards provide competitive funding to practicing, professional artists across all disciplines. Up to 20 Central Florida Artists will receive a \$5,000 grant to advance their creative practice, with up to \$100,000 in direct funding distributed throughout our community (Lake, Orange, Osceola, and Seminole counties). These awards are competitive. Depending on the number of requests received, not all may be funded. Only one application per artist will be considered.

This program is dedicated to fostering creativity, artistic career development, and community impact, enabling professional artists to thrive in Central Florida. All artists' awards must promote creative excellence and merit and expand access to innovative arts experiences.

Please note: All individual artists awardees are considered independent contractors and will receive a 1099. Recipients are responsible for any tax obligations under federal, state, or local laws. A W-9 form must be filed before award payments can be made.

Individual Artist Eligibility

- Must be a professional working artist living and working in Lake, Orange, Osceola, or Seminole counties.
 - Must plan to reside within one of the four counties listed above throughout the project period, October 1, 2025 – September 30, 2026.
 - Proof of residency will be required to receive payment
- Must be a citizen of the United States or a permanent legal resident with the right to work in the United States. Awardee must submit a W-9 Form. A 1099 will be issued to the grantee for tax reporting purposes.
- Must be 18 years or older at the time of application

Individual Artist Ineligibility

- United Arts employee or board member
- Must not be pursuing an undergraduate degree in the same field during the project period.
- Non-professionals who engage in the arts as a hobby
- A nonprofit arts organization [Artists are allowed to partner with organizations, but an individual cannot apply for a grant for an organizational project]

Maximum Request Amount: \$5,000

Allowable Expenses

- Artists' Fees – Paying yourself or collaborative artists
- Materials & Supplies – Equipment purchases and/or rentals
- Presentation & Documentation – costs related to producing materials, such as slides, discs, catalogs, demos, manuscripts, and marketing materials
- Facility rentals
- Training, workshops, classes – education directly related to your arts practice or arts business growth

Excluded Expenses

- Projects benefiting for-profit organizations.
- Projects occurring outside of Lake, Orange, Osceola, or Seminole counties.
- Costs incurred before October 1, 2025, and after September 30, 2026
- Alcoholic beverages
- Voter registration drives, fundraisers, or galas.
- Lobbying, including activities intended to influence the outcome of elections or influence government officials regarding pending legislation, either directly or through specific lobbying appeals to the public.
- Awards to individuals or organizations to honor or recognize achievement.
- Purchase and/or use of gift cards and gift certificates to support project costs.

Deadlines & Important Dates

- Application Open: June 18, 2025
- Application Deadline: Sunday, July 13, 2025 @ 11:59 pm
 - Last Day for Staff Courtesy Review: Monday, July 7, 2025 @ 5:00 pm
 - Last Day for Staff Questions: Thursday, July 10, 2025 @ 3:00 pm
- Individual Artist Award Review Panels: August 18 – 21, 2025
- Board Approval: Mid-September 2025
- Notification of Award: Mid-September 2025
 - Funding Period: October 1, 2025 – September 30, 2026

Please note that the United Arts Offices will be closed from Monday, June 30, to Friday, July 4. We will reopen on Monday, July 7th. The last day to ask questions about the application is Thursday, July 10, at 3 pm.

- For all questions before July 8, 2025, please contact Cameron Robinson at cameron@unitedartscfl.org or (407) 504-0684.
- For all questions after July 8, 2025, please contact Elyse Jardine at Elyse@unitedartscfl.org or (407) 790-7844

Reporting and Payments

- Funded Artists will receive 90% of the award upon signing an award agreement. The final 10% of the award will be paid upon the successful completion of the final impact report.
- Funded Artists are responsible for submitting a final report using the Final Impact Form located in the grant portal. This report will contain information regarding expenses, audiences, and impact.
 - Final reports are due on Monday, November 2, 2026, or 30 days after project completion, whichever comes first.

Requirements During the Grant Period

- Acknowledgement: Funded Artists must acknowledge the Award in all project publicity and materials (whether printed, online, verbal, or other), with the United Arts logo and statement “This project is funded in part by United Arts of Central Florida, your local agency for the arts”.
- Request Permission for Changes: Significant project or budget changes **must be requested in advance of the change**. Changes may or may not reduce the award amount, requiring a return of grant funds to United Arts. Contact cameron@unitedartscfl.org with questions or to discuss a potential change.
- Notification: During the project, awardees must keep cameron@unitedartscfl.org on their email list and notify United Arts of any changes to their contact information.
- Publicity: Artists are strongly encouraged to post their events on our website when the dates and other details have been set. United Arts promotes posted programs through our email newsletter and, if at least two months in advance, the calendar section of Artistry Magazine. To add your event, go to <https://calendar.unitedartscfl.org/login/>.

Acknowledgements



Thank you to Duke Energy for their support of Individual Artists.

Thank you to the players, sponsors, and partners of the Athletes for Artists Golf Tournament for their support of Individual Artists