

# UNITED ARTS

## CENTRAL FLORIDA

### FY27 Individual Artist Award Guidelines

**Application Window:** March 11, 2026 – April 19, 2026 @ 11:59 pm

**Grant Activity Period:** July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027

Individual Artist Awards provide competitive funding to practicing, professional artists, historians, scientists, etc. across all disciplines. Up to 20 Central Florida artists will receive a \$5,000 award 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 individual 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 awards must promote creative excellence and merit and expand access to innovative arts, culture, history, and/or science experiences. For this cycle of the Individual Artist Awards, applicants will apply for either a specific project OR to acquire supplies/professional development. Only one application per individual will be accepted. An individual cannot apply for both.

As one of the funders, Duke Energy is interested in funding projects that promote, raise awareness of, or address environmental sustainability challenges. Artists with such a practice or project in mind are encouraged to apply. This is not a requirement to apply and projects, events, or new works with other focuses are still eligible to receive funding.

**Please note:** All Individual Artist 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 with United Arts 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, July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027.
  - 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 July 1, 2026 and after June 30, 2027
- 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: March 11, 2026
- FY27 Individual Artist Award Information Webinar: Monday, March 23, 2026 10 am – 11:30 am
  - Sign up and register [here](#). Registration is required to attend.
- Application Deadline: Sunday, April 19, 2026 @ 11:59 pm
  - Last Day for Staff Courtesy Review: Monday, April 13, 2026 @ 5:00 pm
  - Last Day for Staff Questions: Thursday, April 16, 2026 @ 3:00 pm
- Individual Artist Award Review Panels: May 15, 18, 19, and 20, 2026 from 10 am – 1 pm
- Board Approval: Mid-June 2026
- Notification of Award: Mid/Late-June 2026
  - Funding Period: July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027

For all questions before April 16, 2026, please contact Cameron Robinson at [cameron@unitedartscfl.org](mailto:cameron@unitedartscfl.org) or (407) 504-0684.

For all questions after April 16, 2026, please contact Elyse Jardine at [Elyse@unitedartscfl.org](mailto:Elyse@unitedartscfl.org) or (407) 790-7844. For technical questions about the grant portal that occur over the final weekend, email only.

### 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 or 30 days after project completion.

### 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](mailto:cameron@unitedartscfl.org) with questions or to discuss a potential change.
- Notification: During the project, awardees must keep [cameron@unitedartscfl.org](mailto: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