Next Step Fund workshop beginning soon

- Please keep your microphone muted for the entirety of the presentation unless asked to unmute.
- If the presentation video or audio becomes choppy, turn off your video and that may improve the connection.
- Today’s workshop is going to be recorded and shared online for those who were unable to attend the live version.
- You can turn on live automated captioning using the CC button at the bottom of the screen.
Next Step Fund

Grant Information Workshop
Agenda

- About MRAC
- About the Application Process
- Overview of the Next Step Fund Grant Program
  - Program intent and Eligibility
- Application Content
- How to apply using the online grant interface
- Q&A
MRAC Staff

Program Directors
Jovan Rebollar
Masami Kawazato
Scott Artley

Executive Director Kathy Mouacheupao
Assistant Director of Administration Becky Franklin
Panel Manager Khin Oo
Funding for Next Step Fund

Approx. 35 awards approx. ($175,000)
MRAC – Region 11
MRAC’s Mission

The Metropolitan Regional Arts Council improves arts access for communities in the seven county metropolitan area through support to artists and organizations.
MRAC Grant Programs

**Individual Artist Grant**
- **Next Step Fund**
  Up to $5000 for individual artists

**Group/Organizational Grants**
- **Equity Response Grant**
  Up to $2500 to BIPOC, Disability, and/or LGBTQIA+ Led Organizations
- **Flexible Support Grant**
  Up to $15,000 to support any kind of project for groups and organizations in the seven-county metro area

Supported by State Arts Funding System
Questions about MRAC overall?

- MRAC staff
- McKnight Funding
- MRAC’s mission/region
- MRAC grant programs
Application Process

Applicant/MRAC Staff

Application Deadline

Check-in Applications

Panel Reviews

MRAC Board of Directors
Application Accessibility

• MRAC requests that all applicants apply online unless a disability prevents them from doing so.

• Contact us to begin a conversation about how to make sure you have an equal opportunity to apply.
Before Applying – Resources

Help with your application

Questions about the Next Step Fund grant?

If you would like to talk with a program director about this grant program, fill-out this Next Step Fund meeting request form. Someone will follow up (ideally within 2 business day) to schedule a meeting.
Important Disclaimer

Please read the guidelines
# Next Step Fund – Important Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MRAC Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Application Deadline</th>
<th><em>Panel Review</em></th>
<th><em>Earliest Grant Expenditure Date</em></th>
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*Finalists will be required to submit work samples in late-March.  
*Activities and expenses described in the proposal may not begin before the Earliest Grant Expenditure Date.
Next Step Fund – Program Intent

To provide grants up to $5,000 to individual artists in any creative discipline, and at any stage in their career.

Artistic projects may be for research, career development, maintaining artistic production and/or artistic achievement.
Project Examples

- Purchasing equipment to help an artist increase quality, diversify, or otherwise improve upon their artistic process or product.
- Creation of a business plan, promotional materials, or documentation of past works.
- Developing new methods of sharing artistic creations and staying connected to audiences.
- Participating in a training, master class or workshop that will enhance the artist's abilities (enrollment in a degree or certificate program is not eligible).
- The production or presentation of a new body of work.
Eligibility – Who can apply to Next Step?

• Emerging, mid-career and established artists, working in any discipline, who have evidence of artistic output respective of their career stage.

• Applicants must have resided in the seven-county metro area during the six months prior to the deadline (July 11, 2020 – January 11, 2021). Projects do NOT need to take place within the seven-county metro area but applicants MUST reside in the seven-county metro area.

• Recipients must live in the seven-county metro area for the entirety of the contract period.

• 18 years of age or older.
Eligibility – Who cannot apply to Next Step?

• Individuals seeking to begin a career as an artist, or make a professional transition to the arts.

• Individuals whose portfolio only reflects client or freelance work.

• Artists currently enrolled in a degree or certification program in their respective art form, unless the applicant can demonstrate they maintain a career as a professional artist outside of their educational program.

• Arts administrators seeking support for their administrative profession.

• FY18 and FY19 Next Step Fund grant recipients
Eligibility – This program does not fund:

- Projects where the applicant is applying on behalf of a duo, group, or organization.

- Projects that include expenses that will be paid or incurred before the earliest grant expenditure date (May 19, 2021). Examples: airline tickets, registration fees, etc.

- Activities that engage in projects that attempt to influence any state or federal legislation or appropriation, serve the religious socialization of participants, or discriminate against persons or groups.
Eligibility – staff review

• Staff will review each application for eligibility

• Review guidelines carefully - Staff may deem parts of your application, or the entire application, ineligible
Questions about the application process?

- Application process
- Application accessibility
- Before applying – resources
- Eligibility
Application Tips

• You will type your application into the text boxes online.

• Character counts include letters, numbers, spaces, and paragraph breaks. There is no formatting (bold or italics).

• Do not include links in the text fields, the review will be limited to your application.

• The application system will auto-save your work every few minutes, but some applicants may wish to work in another document and paste your answers in once written.
Application Content – Data Collection

1. Project Summary
2. Amount Requested
3. Location of Permanent Residence
4. Artistic Discipline
5. Project Expenditure Date
6. Project End Date
7. Demographic Information
Application Content – Criteria

The Artist (5000 character limit)
The Project (5000 character limit)
Budget (1000 character limit)
Describe your artistic vision, your current body of work, and your professional goals.

This section may be similar to an artist statement, but should emphasize a self-reflection of your artistic and professional accomplishments to date, particularly as they relate to a clearly defined path towards the future.
1. Describe your work and your artistic vision. Describe any significant accomplishments that demonstrate achievement in your artistic field.

2. What are your career goals, both professional and artistic? Where are you in meeting those goals?

3. What significant barriers are you currently facing? These barriers may be related to COVID-19 and/or social change realities of today.

4. What unique opportunities can you identify that would help you in achieving your goals, or staying visible/relevant to your audiences?
The Project

This section should focus on the project for which you are seeking funding. Be as specific as possible, and be sure to make a strong connection between the proposed project and your unique needs as an artist.

*Stronger projects are those that support your goals and vision as outlined in the Artist section.*
1. Describe the project for which you are seeking funding. Please be specific. Not all panelists will be familiar with your discipline – be sure to avoid technical jargon or assume familiarity with projects of this type.

2. How will this project help you advance and/or adapt artistically and professionally? Please be sure to relate this discussion to your artistic and professional goals. The panel’s evaluation will focus on the project’s potential impact on you as an individual artist, as opposed to an external community or broader audience.
Budget

List the major expenses of your project with dollar amounts; do not include in-kind expenses like items or services that do not have an actual cost.

Your project may be larger than the amount requested in this grant program.

Provide simple explanations for the expenses.
Budget

Expense descriptions might appear like this:

$3,000 equipment: laptop, printer, and desk
$1,000 artist stipend ($50 (hr) x 20 hrs)
$500 child care ($25 (hr) x 20 hrs.)
$500 studio assistant ($25 (hr) x 20 hrs.

If more than $5,000 is required, what additional sources of income will be secured?
COVID-19 Considerations

• Our understanding of the pandemic is changing daily.

• The shapes of these projects are likely to change, and MRAC will work with grantees to make those changes with integrity.

• My best guidance is to focus on designing and building the project you’d like to do given what you know now – but don’t spend too much time making contingency plans.
Submitting Your Application

• All applications must be submitted online by the 11:59 p.m. deadline
  ○ If you do not have access to a computer/internet, contact us

• Staff technical assistance is available until 5:00 p.m. on deadline day

• Have an active email address you check often, official communications happen through email
Take a Break!

You deserve it!
Additional Questions?

mrac.org/next-step-fund

jovan@mrac.org or 651-523-6381