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

Deadline – January 10, 2022

Grant Information Workshop
Virtual Meeting Norms

• Prefer that you use chat for questions as we go along
• We will pause several times for Q & A to cover questions from the chat
  • Invited to ask questions aloud when prompted (“raise your hand” feature)
• Use “Re-name” to add pronouns to your name if desired
Agenda

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

Program Directors
Masami Kawazato
Jovan Rebollar
Scott Artley
Mirella Espino

Executive Director Kathy Mouacheupao
Director of Administration Becky Franklin
Panel & Events Manager Sam Stahlmann
Organizational Support Yong Her
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 $5,000 for individual artists

Arts Impact for Individuals
(deadline passed)
Up to $5,000 for individuals who identify as BIPOC, LGBTQIA2+, PWD, leading efforts to create access to the arts for communities and/or engage with communities through artistic endeavors.

Group/Organizational Grants
Arts Impact for Groups
Up to $10,000 for BIPOC, LGBTQIA2+, PWD, led groups leading efforts to create access to the arts for communities and/or engage with communities through artistic endeavors.

Flexible Support Grant
Up to $15,000 to support any kind of project for groups and organizations in the seven-county metro area
MRAC – Region 11
Funding for Next Step Fund

Approx. 30-35 awards approx. ($175,000)
Questions about MRAC overall?

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

Applicant/MRAC Staff

Application Deadline (Jan. 10, 2022)

Check-in Applications

Panel Reviews

MRAC Board of Directors
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.
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
Important Disclaimer

Please read the guidelines
## Next Step Fund – Important Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MRAC Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Application Deadline</th>
<th>*Panel Review</th>
<th>*Earliest Eligible Proposal Start Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 1, 2021–June 30, 2022</td>
<td><strong>Monday</strong>, January 10, 2022 11:59 p.m.</td>
<td>February – May 2022</td>
<td>May 18, 2022</td>
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</tbody>
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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 or be incurred before the Earliest Eligible Proposal Start 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

• Support to learn new skills that adapt, transition or expand your creative process or artistic practice. For example, participation in a training, master class or workshop (enrollment in a degree or certificate program is not eligible).

• Support to overcome a barrier to success, professionalize or increase artistic output or quality. For example, the acquisition of equipment to help an artist increase quality, diversify, or otherwise improve upon their artistic process or product.

• Research, produce or present new creative work.

• Support for development of a business plan, creation of promotional materials, and/or documentation of a creative portfolio.
Eligibility – Who can apply to Next Step?

• Identify as an artist, working in any discipline, at any stage in their career, who has evidence of artistic output respective of their career stage.

• Have a primary residential address in Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, or Washington county for at least the 6 months prior to the application deadline (July 10, 2021 – January 10, 2022), and continue to reside in this region for the entirety of the project period. (Please note that projects do not need to take place within the seven-county metro area, but applicants must reside in the seven-county metro area.);

• Be at least 18 years of age on the grant deadline date (January 10, 2022).
Eligibility – Who cannot apply to Next Step?

- Organizations/Groups, LLCs or any other incorporated entity. Applicants must be individuals. Grants will not be made to businesses.

- Individuals who are under the age of 18 on the grant deadline date.

- Individuals located outside of Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, or Washington county.

- 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.

- FY21 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. (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.

- Projects where the community is the primary beneficiary.

- Expenses related to a degree or certificate program are not eligible.
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. Links will be removed prior to panel review.

• 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 Name
2. Project Description
3. Application Narrative (The Artist, The Project, Budget) (Scored by Panel)
4. Project Discipline
5. Proposal End Date
6. Proposal End Date
7. Demographic Information
Application Content – Criteria

The Artist (4000 character limit)

The Project (3000 character limit)

Budget (1000 character limit)
Use this section to describe the art you make, your artistic vision, and your professional goals related to your artistic career.

This section may be very 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.
The Artist continued...

1. Describe your artwork and your artistic vision. Describe any significant accomplishments that demonstrate achievement in your artistic field.

2. What are your artistic goals, related to your artistic development or career goals as an artist? Where are you in meeting those goals?

3. How will these funds help you reach your art career goals?
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 seek funding. Not all panelists will be familiar with your artistic discipline – be sure to avoid technical jargon or assume familiarity with projects of this type.

2. What are the activities that will take place? Where will the activities take place? Describe the major activities or tasks that take place between the start and end dates of your project.

3. What are the goals of this project?

4. In what ways does this project align with or advance your artistic goals, related to your artistic development or career goals as an artist?
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.
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 taxes

If more than $5,000 is required, what additional sources of income will be secured?
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
Questions about the application content?

- Data Collection
- The Artist
- The Project
- Budget
Additional Questions?

mrac.org/next-step-fund

jovan@mrac.org or 651-523-6381