Creative Connections

Creative Connection Application Questions and Explanations

This document presents all the parts, sections, and questions in MRAC's 2027 Creative Connections grant and describes the reasons behind many of the questions. The instructions and explanations are also within the Submittable interface
This is not the Creative Connections application. You cannot upload this document to Submittable and MRAC staff will not accept it via email.
This document is for your personal use to review the application questions. Listed in parentheses throughout is each question's input type, such as textbox or dropdown.
If you are considering applying, we **highly encourage** you to make an account and review the application in Submittable. Familiarizing yourself with the Submittable interface can be useful when you are ready to fill out the information there!
You can log into MRAC's Submittable interface to get started.

Part 1: Individual Applicant Information

In Part 1, enter your personal contact information and identify your primary area of interest in the arts. Except for your public-facing name, your pronouns (if provided), and your artistic discipline, the information in this part is not shared with application reviewers.
Information about artistic disciplines is shared with the Minnesota State Arts Board.

Section 1: General Information

Information in this section is reviewed by program staff to determine application eligibility. It is shared with the Minnesota State Arts Board.

Legal name (required) (textbox)
: Provide your legal name. This is the name we are required to use when addressing checks or delivering mail and must match the name provided on your IRS W-9 form should you receive an award.

Public-facing name (required) (textbox)
: Write your public-facing name. This may be the same as your legal name or a preferred name, nickname, or artist name different from your legal name. This is the name that will be made available to application reviewers and the public in grant award announcements.

Pronouns (optional) (textbox)
: If desired, provide your pronouns.

Phone number (required) (textbox)

Email (required) (textbox)
: MRAC will communicate with you about this grant via Submittable. In case we are not able to reach you via Submittable, MRAC will follow-up our communications using email and/or the phone number provided here.

Primary residential address (required) (textbox)
: Please enter your primary residential address. P.O. boxes are not acceptable.
Applicants must have a primary residential address in Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, or Washington county, have resided in this region for at least six (6) months prior to the application deadline, and continue to reside in this region for the entirety of the proposed funding period. If you have temporary or unstable housing, please enter your most recent address.

County of residence (required) (dropdown)
: Please select the county of your primary residential address. It must match the address provided above and be in one of the seven metro counties for you to be eligible. A portion of funds for this grant will be set aside for all individuals from Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Scott, and Washington counties.

Individual discipline code (required) (dropdown)
: Select one category that best represents your primary area of interest in the arts. This information is shared with the Minnesota State Arts Board to track arts funding in the region and state.

Section 2: Demographic Information

In the following section, you may indicate whether you identify as Black, Indigenous, and/or a person of color (BIPOC); and/or a person with a disability; and/or lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer (LGBTQ+). This information allows MRAC to track our funding distributions as well as meet and maintain our goals for equity in grantmaking.

All applicants may request up to $5,000. A portion of funds for this grant will be set aside for individuals who identify as any of the above, as well as all individuals from Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Scott, and Washington counties regardless of identity.

This information is shared with the Minnesota State Arts Board to track arts funding in the region and state.

Individual identity: race/ethnicity (required) (dropdown)

Select your race/ethnicity.

These categories are defined by the Minnesota State Arts Board and are used to track arts funding in the region and state.

Additional identities (required) (checkboxes)

Select any of the identities that apply to you.

Part 2: Your Proposal Description

In Part 2, describe the proposal for which you are seeking funding. The answers to these questions are provided to review panelists.

Do not include hyperlinks in narrative text boxes, as reviewers will be limited to the content of your application. Any hyperlinks will be deleted and may affect your application's eligibility.

What is the name or title of your proposal? (required) (textbox, limit: 10 words)

Provide a short description of your proposal (required) (textbox, limit: 25 words)

In the textbox above, summarize your proposal. The content of this answer may be used and/or lightly edited by MRAC's communications team for announcements should you receive an award.

What are the goals of your proposal and what specific activities will you undertake with this grant funding? (required) (textbox, limit: 200 words)

Who are the participants or communities that will be served by your proposal? (required) (textbox, limit: 200 words)

How will this proposal create access to the arts through engagement with Minnesota communities? (required) (textbox, limit: 200 words)

What experience do you have in creating meaningful access to the arts for Minnesotans? (required) (textbox, limit: 200 words)

Where do you envision proposal activities taking place? (required) (textbox, limit: 200 words)

Provide a timeline of the activities funded by the grant (required) (textbox, limit: 200 words)

Provide months and years for your timeline. For example, "July 2027: Art classes for children."

All proposal activities must take place between April 5, 2027, and June 30, 2028.

Proposal Start Date (required) (date selector)

Enter the date on which you will begin grant-related activities. This date must be on or after April 5, 2027.

Proposal End Date (required) (date selector)

Enter the date by which all grant-funded activities will be completed, all grant funds spent, and all expenses incurred. Your Proposal End Date must be on/before June 30, 2028.

If the application is awarded a grant, the Final Report will be due one (1) month after the Proposal End Date. Your answer is reviewed by program staff to determine application eligibility.

Proposal discipline code (required) (dropdown)

Select the discipline that best describes the primary area of arts for your proposal.

Part 3: Your Budget Plan

In Part 3, show your planned budget and expenses. Your request for MRAC funds may not exceed $5,000. You may request less than $5,000 if that will cover your expenses. There is no advantage or disadvantage to asking for an amount smaller than the maximum. Budget expenses should clearly align with your proposal description.

Budget Plan Spreadsheet (List Only What MRAC Funding Will Cover) (required) (input answers in spreadsheet)

List only expenses that the MRAC Creative Connections grant will cover.
This information is shared with application reviewers.
The Budget Plan Spreadsheet includes columns for Expense Description and Dollar Amount. Note:

1. Use the Expense Description column to describe the expense (examples: cost of art supplies, software subscription).
2. Some common expenses are pre-filled. If you do not have expenses in that category, enter 0.
3. **Do not** use dollar signs ($). You may include commas, but it is not necessary: you can enter values as either 1000 or 1,000 for example.
4. The Total Grant Request Dollar Amount field will **round automatically** to the nearest dollar.
5. If the Total Grant Request Dollar Amount field is not automatically updating, click on it before moving on to more input rows.

Does your proposal require additional funds beyond your MRAC request to be completed? (required) (yes/no selection)

If your proposal requires funds **beyond those you are requesting from MRAC and listed above to be completed successfully**, you will need to provide a list of additional expenses and their funding amounts and well as funding sources and whether that funding is secured or pending.

Why do we ask this? Funding for this grant comes from Minnesota's arts and cultural heritage fund through a legislative appropriation. As required by the Minnesota State Arts Board, these funds may be granted for an entire proposal or for part of a proposal, as long as the recipient accounts for the entire cost and can demonstrate that they have adequate resources to complete the entire proposal.

Additional Expenses Description Spreadsheet (required if you select "yes" to the additional funding question) (input answers in spreadsheet)

List additional expenses required to complete your proposal beyond those you are requesting from MRAC.

This information is shared with application reviewers.

The Additional Expenses Description Spreadsheet includes columns for Additional Expense Description and Dollar Amount. Note:

1. Use the Additional Expense Descriptions column to describe what the additional funds are paying for (examples: cost of art supplies, software subscription).
2. Do not use dollar signs ($). You may include commas, but it is not necessary: you can enter values as either 1000 or 1,000 for example.
3. If the Total Additional Expenses Dollar Amount field is not automatically updating, click on it before moving on to more input rows.

Additional Funding Sources Spreadsheet (required if you select "yes" to the additional funding question) (input answers in spreadsheet)

List where the additional funds are coming from, the dollar amount, and whether the funds are secured or pending. If they are pending, indicate when you will know whether the funds have been secured.

Examples of additional funding sources: ticket revenue, private donations, other grants, membership dues

This information is not shared with application reviewers.

The Additional Funding Sources Spreadsheet includes columns for Additional Funding Source, Dollar Amount, Pending or Secured, and If Pending, expected date of securing. Note:

1. Use the Additional Funding Source column to describe where the funds are coming from.
2. Do not use dollar signs ($). You may include commas, but it is not necessary: you can enter values as either 1000 or 1,000 for example.
3. If the Total Additional Funding Dollar Amount field is not automatically updating, click on it before moving on to more input rows.

4. In the "If Pending" column, indicate when you will know whether the funds have been secured.

Part 4: Data, Outcomes & Evaluation

In Part 4, estimate how many individuals will participate in proposal activities, imagine successful proposal outcomes, and describe your evaluation plan. The information in this part is not shared with review panelists. This information is shared with the Minnesota State Arts Board. If the application is awarded a grant, it is also used in your Final Report.

Section 1: Participation Data

You will provide estimates for number of individuals that will participate in your proposal activities. Enter numbers in each box, even if that number is 0. To ensure eligibility of your project, MRAC staff will confirm least three (3) people other than the applicant will participate in the project in some way.

How many adult artists will benefit from your proposal? (required) (number input)

Provide an estimated number of adult artists who will be directly involved in or providing art or artistic services for the grant proposal. Include living artists whose work is represented whether or not the work was provided by the artist or an institution.

How many adults will participate in your proposal activities? (required) (number input)

Provide an estimated number of adults who will be directly engaged with the arts during your project through attendance at arts events, participation in arts learning, or other types of activities in which people will be directly involved with artists or the arts.
Do not include employees*, paid performers, artists participating, children/youth, and broadcast audiences. Actual number must be reported in your final report.
*Exception: include employees if employees are the target audience.

How many children/youths will participate in your proposal activities? (required) (number input)

Provide an estimated number of children/youth (0–18) who will be directly engaged with the arts during your project attendance at arts events, participation in arts learning, or other types of activities in which people will be directly involved with artists or the arts.
Do not include broadcast audiences. Actual number must be reported in your final report.

How many people will participate in proposal activities only through online, broadcast, or remote means? (required) (number input)

Provide an estimated total number of individuals who will participate in proposed activities only through online, broadcast, or remote means. Actual number must be included in your final report.

Section 2: Outcomes

Funding for this grant comes from Minnesota's arts and cultural heritage fund through a legislative appropriation via the Minnesota State Arts Board (MSAB). MSAB provides three broad categories to define outcomes of a grant-funded proposal:

Outcomes defined as Arts Access include:

- A reduction in geographic, cultural, and/or physical barriers to arts participation.
- A change in knowledge, attitude, behavior, or condition due to public art, arts festivals, or arts events.
- Artists/arts groups strengthened by connecting to their communities through the arts.
- Artists expand and improve their work and the way in which they create it.
- Artists connect to new audiences, building relationships that provide artistic growth.

Outcomes defined as Arts Education include:

- Residents learn new arts skills & techniques.
- Residents gain awareness and appreciation for artistic disciplines and mediums.
- Artists build their capacity through professional development.

Outcomes defined as Arts and Cultural Heritage include:

- Residents build connections to their own and others' cultural heritage through events and/or activities.
- Minnesota folk and traditional artists/audiences are expanded.
- Minnesota folk and traditional artists see an increase in demand for work.

Which outcome category is most closely aligned with what you hope to achieve with this proposal? (required) (dropdown)

Using the definitions provided above, select the outcome most closely aligned with what you hope to achieve with your proposal. You may anticipate multiple outcomes, but please select the one that seems most significant.

Section 3: Evaluation Plans

If your proposal receives a grant award, you must evaluate the impact of the funds on your organization/group and/or participants.

What evaluation methods will you use to track the impact of grant funds? (required) (checkboxes)

Select all that apply.

Part 5: Final Agreement

You must agree to the following statement to submit your application.

I certify that I have read the 2027 Creative Connections Grant Overview and Application Instructions document and all information in the submitted application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Further, I resolve to carry out the proposal as it is described in the submitted application if funding is awarded by MRAC.

Additionally, I agree to supply additional documents and/or update the application if requested by MRAC staff.

By selecting “I agree” you will certify the statement above. (required) (check yes or no)

This application is due by **11:59 pm on November 20, 2026**. Late applications will not be accepted.

Before submitting, be sure to double check all your answers, answer every question marked "required," and confirm budget amounts and totals. You cannot make changes or updates after submitting.

To avoid technology and connection errors, do your best to submit well ahead of deadline.

Click the Submit Form button to complete your application. You will receive an automated email response from Submittable confirming the submission.

After submission, applicants should check the email associated with their Submittable account regularly, as MRAC staff may reach out with questions or request additional information. If we do not hear from you within the timeframe in the email, we may make your application, or a portion of your proposal, ineligible.