



FIVE WINGS
ARTS COUNCIL
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Message from Executive Director Mark Turner

Howdy All,

I am reaching out to share some news on the current programs and services of the Five Wings Arts Council. We can call it a "Situational COVID-19 Update," if you will. What we know right now is the Coronavirus pandemic has been extremely challenging and outright devastating to our arts community. Five Wings understands and empathizes with the struggles of our regional artists and arts organizations. At the onset of the crisis, Five Wings responded with an immediate shift in our grant process to allow for application and report deadline extensions, removal of match requirements, vast flexibility in cancellations and postponements, and alternate deliverables. We also offered Zoom Video Licenses to organizations, a Fast Track Professional Development Fund, hosted several networking video-chats, and facilitated a no-fee custom tailored learning experience on how to bring your arts programming to a digital platform.

Our intent is to be as flexible and supportive with our allotted funding as possible while maintaining the accountability and transparency that comes with public dollars. We know there is a vast need out there in our arts community for additional financial support and certainly wish we could do more right now. But, as a recipient of funds derived primarily from the state coffers, Five Wings is currently in a holding pattern. Our new fiscal and grant year started July 1, but we have not yet received a final word on the amount of our state allocation. We do know a few things - Five Wings will likely be cut about 15% (potentially more) and the state will transfer the money to us at a much slower rate than a typical year. We are also being advised that funding for the next two years is also likely to be reduced due to both a downturn in sales tax collected and COVID-19 related expenses incurred by the state.

With that said, it is not all doom and gloom! The Five Wings Board and Staff is dedicated to our mission of encouraging, promoting, and supporting the arts and we are certainly in this together with all of you for the long haul. We currently have funding available in our Individual Artist pool and in an effort to help support and stabilize our established community arts organizations, Five Wings has shifted enough resources to move ahead with the General Operating Grant program as normal without reductions in funding amounts from the previous year.

Unfortunately, we were forced to cancel our regular July 15 round for Community Arts Access Projects and our School Project Grants are on a temporary hiatus. We are hoping that we will still be able to offer an October 15 grant round for Community Arts Access Projects, but that will depend on the timing of payments (if any) from the state. We are prohibited by state law to award any grants until we have a contract in place with the state governing authority.

Rest assured, that as soon as we get the word, Five Wings will be ready to roll with a revised deadline to accommodate as many projects as we can! Please stay tuned to www.fwac.org and our [Facebook page](#) for the latest updates. We also pledge to be flexible in working with you as you navigate the COVID-19 realities of being an artist, arts presenter and producer. It has been inspiring to see the creativity and determination of all of you during these times.

In the meanwhile, please know that the Five Wings Staff is here to help, however we can. We are truly your advocates! Do not hesitate to reach out with any questions, comments, or concerns that relate to your local arts group or as an individual artist. We are continuing to work on your behalf to encourage, support, and promote the arts in our region.

Take Care and be well.

Mark Turner
Executive Director

Artist Grants Available

The Five Wings Arts Council Individual Artist Grant Program provides financial assistance to artists in any arts discipline at any stage of their career as an artist. This grant program offers funding for costs associated with the exhibition, performance, or production of a creative work; purchase of materials or equipment necessary for a creative work; educational opportunities; mentorships; marketing and promotion to advance your artistic career, and proposals for other career-enhancing projects or opportunities. Grants up to \$1500 for Professional

Development Opportunities are available. Grants up to \$2500 are available for Project Support. Online applications are accepted on an ongoing basis.

Open to individual artists in all art disciplines who are at least 18 years old and have lived for at least 6 months in one of the counties we serve: Cass, Crow Wing, Todd, Morrison and Wadena. For a full list of eligibility requirements for both the applicant and the project, please read the [Individual Artist Grant Program Guidelines](#).

The online grant application will ask a series of questions - questions about demographics which we use for reporting to the [Minnesota State Arts Board](#), and questions based on our scoring criteria. This is a project-based grant and you will need to provide an estimated budget for your project (Individual Artist Project Budget form is provided in the application) There are also pieces needed for the grant application which you should gather before you apply, such as work samples , an artist statement, and artist resumes.

[FY21 Individual Artist Application](#) (Word Version-Sample only - cannot be submitted - only online submissions are accepted)

To Register and start the online grant application, click here: [Five Wings Arts Council Grant Login Page](#)

Funding for the Individual Artist Grant Program is generously provided by the McKnight Foundation.