# ARTISTS WITH DISABILITIES ACCESS PROGRAM
## Professional Development Support for Artists with Disabilities

The Artists with Disabilities Access Program (ADAP) provides funding that gives individual artists with disabilities – and organizations that serve them – the resources they need to further their artistic development. Creative expression by artists of all abilities is essential to building dynamic and diverse communities throughout Ohio, and developing an artistic career is a long-term process. ADAP awards help artists with disabilities advance their artistic practices, making Ohio a more accessible and inclusive place to build an artistic career.

**GRANT AWARDS:** Grants are awarded to individual artists at both the emerging artist level ($500) and professional artist level ($1,000), with no match required. Organizational applicants may request between $1,000 and $3,000, a 1:1 cash match is required.

**APPLICATION DEADLINES:** May 1 annually (for up to 12 months of activities taking place July 1—next June 30) and, if program funds are not expended, November 1 annually (for up to six months of activities taking place January 1—June 30)

**STAFF CONTACT**
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NOTE: For the purposes of the ADAP program, **emerging artists** are individuals who have consistently worked in their chosen art form for more than three years, have demonstrated strong artistic potential, and want to develop their careers. **Professional artists** are individuals who devote a major portion of their time to creating, practicing, performing, or teaching any of the arts.

**ELIGIBILITY:** All applying **artists** must:

- Be an Ohio resident (the OAC defines an Ohio resident as someone who spends at least eight months of the year living and working in Ohio), and, if awarded funding, remain a resident during the grant period
- Have exhibited, performed, or published work as an artist within the past five years
- Have a disability (per Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) guidelines)
- Must be at least eighteen years of age.  Students attending high school or students pursuing undergraduate or graduate degrees at the time of application may not apply.

Both creative and performing artists who have a disability and are residents of Ohio may apply to this program. The OAC uses the definition of disability contained in Sec. 12102 of the ADA, as amended by the ADA Amendments Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-325), which went into effect on January 1, 2009. This act is available online: ada.gov/pubs/ada.htm.

All applying **organizations** must be based in Ohio, serve Ohio artists, and possess nonprofit status or nonprofit intent. Applicants need not be registered with the IRS as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Applicants may be: 1) arts and cultural organizations in any arts discipline (literature, performing arts, visual arts, traditional arts, multidisciplinary arts, etc.); 2) other organizations that provide arts programming (government entities, social service agencies, etc.); or 3) educational organizations (public, private, charter, and parochial schools from pre-kindergarten through university level) that demonstrate a commitment to arts programming in a larger community setting. (NOTE: Additional funding restrictions apply to applications from colleges and universities; see the Introduction and Overview for details.)

An ADAP organizational award may not be used to fund activities described in and already being supported through another OAC grant.

**HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS:** The Artists with Disabilities Access Program provides support to individual artists with disabilities, as well as organizations that serve individual artists with disabilities, engage in activities that help them advance their artistic practice, or develop their career. OAC funds are available for a variety of activities, materials, and services.

**Artists** must dedicate funds to activities that directly advance their artistic careers, including:
- Cover in-state travel to attend or present a performance, exhibition, conference, class, or workshop
- Undertake a planning process with a consultant or agent to develop business skills
- Rent studio space or art equipment, or purchase art supplies or equipment (e.g., cameras, printers)
- Pay for professional services (e.g., production, marketing, etc.) or auxiliary aids or services that facilitate engagement in artistic activities at a deeper or higher level

**Organizations** must dedicate funds to activities that directly advance the artistic careers of artists with disabilities or allow artists with disabilities to spend more time creating and promoting their chosen art form, as described in the list above. Requests to purchase equipment may not exceed $1,000.

**HOW TO APPLY:** Interested applicants are strongly encouraged to contact this program's coordinator to initiate the application process, or work through Art Possible Ohio (formerly VSA Ohio), the state arts service organization on arts and disability, which partners with the OAC to assist applying artists and organizations as they prepare a grant application. Accommodations can be made for the application process.

Art Possible Ohio is located at 77 S. High St. 2nd Floor, Columbus, OH 43215 and can be contacted by phone, 380-799-MAKE (6253), or email info@artpossibleohio.org.

ADAP applications are submitted electronically via the OAC's ARTIE system. If an applicant needs support in applying (in-person explanation, data entry, transcription, technology, etc.) the applicant or his or her designee can contact the OAC or Art Possible Ohio.

**SUPPORT MATERIALS:** Applications for this program must include support materials, including work samples, in order to be accepted.

The following support materials are REQUIRED for **emerging artists**:
1. Artist résumé or biography
2. Work samples – up to 12 images, songs, or writing samples, not more than five years old
3. One (1) letter of support from someone who is knowledgeable about the artist's work

    If applicable, materials describing proposed class, conference, or workshop, as well as résumé(s) of proposed instructor(s), teaching artist(s), or consultant(s), may also be submitted.

The following support materials are REQUIRED for **professional artists**:
1. Artist résumé
2. Professional Biography or Artist Statement
3. Work samples – up to 12 images, songs, or writing samples, not more than five years old
4. Two (2) letters of support, each from someone who is knowledgeable about the artist's work

    If applicable, materials describing proposed class, conference, or workshop, as well as résumé(s) of proposed instructor(s), teaching artist(s), or consultant(s), may also be submitted.

The following support materials are REQUIRED for **organizational applicants**:
1. Artist résumé(s) or biographies for artist(s) who will benefit from the grant activities (as appropriate)
2. Work samples – up to 12 total images, songs, or writing samples, not more than five years old, for the artist(s) who will benefit from the grant activities (as appropriate)

3. Two (2) letters of support for the organization and/or the artist(s) involved in the activity (letters of support for an organization should be from an outside professional knowledgeable about the organization's work in the disability field)

If applicable, materials describing proposed class, conference, or workshop, as well as résumé(s) of proposed instructor(s), teaching artist(s), or consultant(s), may also be submitted.

**EVALUATION AND SCORING:** A panel of arts and cultural professionals, educators, artists, and other community members evaluate and score ADAP grant applications. Panel meetings are open to the public and audio-streamed online, and applicants are encouraged to attend or listen online. Visit the calendar on the OAC's Grants page for meeting details and instructions for participating.  Applicants will be notified when the panel meeting is scheduled.

At the panel meeting, panelists discuss how well each application satisfies the program's evaluation criteria. Panelists highlight strengths and weaknesses, discussing all aspects of the application and its support materials. Following the public discussion, each panelist enters a final score for each application. Later, OAC staff use averages of these scores to determine funding award recommendations. The OAC Board is the only body authorized to make final funding decisions and must approve grant awards. The review process is competitive, and not all applications are funded.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to include as much information as possible in their responses to narrative questions in order to provide panelists with a complete picture of how the grant funding will advance the artists' professional pursuits.

**REVIEW CRITERIA:** Criteria are divided into four categories: Program Quality, Community Engagement, Defining and Measuring Success, and Resource Management. Evidence of meeting the criteria may be found in any portion of an application or associated support materials. Each criterion is worth up to five points, for a maximum of 60 points.

**Program Quality** (30 points)
☐ Ability in artist's chosen art form is evident
☐ Artistic work shows high potential
☐ Commitment to advancing artist's art form is demonstrated
☐ Goals are clearly stated
☐ Goals align with intended program's outcome to develop the artistic careers of artists with disabilities
☐ Applicant's proposed project demonstrates artistic, educational, and/or cultural value

**Community Engagement** (10 points)
☐ Artistic work is promoted in the community (through public events, website, promotional materials, etc.)
☐ Project will increase applicant's ability to engage community members in the future

**Defining and Measuring Success** (10 points)
☐ Applicant has established a quality plan for using the grant funds
☐ Project will advance the artistic career(s) of artist(s)

**Resource Management** (10 points)
☐ Project budget is complete and realistic, and supports goals for activity
☐ Applicant is qualified and demonstrates the capacity to complete the proposed project

**TIMELINE:** The following timeline outlines the ADAP grant lifecycle. Any deadline falling on a Saturday, Sunday, or state holiday, is extended until the next business day.

**Fiscal Year 2022 Applications**

| YEAR | DATE | TASK/DEADLINE |
|---|---|---|
| 2021 | March 1 | Application Available in ARTIE |
| | May 1 | Application Deadline for projects (July 1—next June 30) |
| | July | Panel Meeting |
| | August | Grant Award Announcement |
| | November 1 | Application Deadline for projects (January 1—June 30) |
| 2022 | January | Panel Meeting |
| | February | Grant Award Announcement |

**Fiscal Year 2023 Applications**

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