



## The Arts & Culture Alliance Ann and Steve Bailey Opportunity Grants for Individuals, Fiscal Year 2025

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### OBJECTIVES

Through the generosity of Ann and Steve Bailey, the Arts & Culture Alliance offers Bailey Opportunity Grants, providing opportunities for growth to individual artists and small, professionally oriented arts and culture organizations. The goal of Bailey Opportunity Grants for Individuals is to create a more vital creative community in Knoxville by:

- Encouraging artists' contributions to the city's economy and quality of life
- Positioning Knoxville as a community that honors its artists and supports their efforts to achieve excellence
- Raising artists' public profiles within the city and beyond

*The mission of the Arts & Culture Alliance is to serve and support a diverse community of artists and arts and culture organizations.*

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### DESCRIPTION

Opportunity Grants are designed to spur continued artistic and professional growth in innovative, entrepreneurial artists at any stage in their careers who may be engaged in one or more of a broad array of diverse disciplines. The eligibility criteria and support structure are geared toward artists who have demonstrated sustained commitment to artistic work and keen interest in advancing their artistic growth and careers regardless of their level of commercial success. Projects that allow artists to explore new avenues of creativity, wrestle with new ideas that can advance their work, acquire equipment that will help them create or sell their work, improve their business practices, and strengthen their existing talents are encouraged.

Opportunity Grants will support artists working in media such as: literary arts, craft arts, folk and traditional arts, 2-D and 3-D work of all media, installation art, public art, film/video arts, design arts, culinary arts, and performing arts (including music, dance, theater, puppetry, performance art).

Applicants may apply for a maximum of \$30,000 in support, although most grants range in size from \$1,000 to \$7,500. The entire Bailey Opportunity Grants budget for FY2025 for both Individuals and Organizations combined is \$100,000.

Matching funds are not required.

Awards may include a combination of cash support, in-kind services, mentoring, workshops/seminars, exhibition, and sales opportunities.

Collaborative artist teams are eligible to apply with tax implications shared equally among team members. However, an artist may be included in only one application for funding per grant cycle. Artist may not apply as part of a collaboration and also apply individually.

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### APPLICATION DEADLINE

Applicants are strongly encouraged to speak with Liza Zenni, Executive Director of the Arts & Culture Alliance, prior to applying. Interested applicants may attend open Zoom meetings during **Monday-Friday, February 5-9** (schedule posted at [www.knoxalliance.com/bailey](http://www.knoxalliance.com/bailey)). For those who cannot attend a Zoom meeting, a recorded video of helpful application tips is available online, or a phone meeting may be requested by contacting [LZ@knoxalliance.com](mailto:LZ@knoxalliance.com).

**Applications must be received by midnight (EST) on Sunday, March 17, 2024.** Electronic submissions to [grants@knoxalliance.com](mailto:grants@knoxalliance.com) are required.

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## USE OF FUNDS

Grant funds may be spent **ONLY** between July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025. All grant expenditures are paid on a reimbursement basis.

Bailey Opportunity Grants for Individuals may be designated for (but not limited to):

- Professional and artistic development
- Mentor relationships
- Arts-related travel (conferences, research, workshops, gatherings) - must be specifically related to the proposal and should be quantified by how they will further Artist's work or career
- Conference, training, and workshop fees directly related to Artist's work
- Equipment
- Marketing and publicity efforts
- Other resources for all artistic disciplines

Funds may not be used for such things as:

- Tuition expenses toward a degree
- General travel; personal or staff vacations
- Items not directly related to Artist's professional artistic development
- Projects that focus exclusively on K-12 school children
- Personal pay / personal investments
- Production or exhibition expenses for specific projects

Grant requests for the creation of a specific piece(s) of work and/or requests for support that will generate primarily short-term benefit to the artist are discouraged.

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## ELIGIBILITY

1. Artist must have lived within approximately 50 miles of downtown Knoxville for at least the past six months and must remain a resident during the grant period (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025).
2. Artist must be at least 18 years old.
3. Artist must have exhibited, performed, presented and/or published artistic work in a public context in Knox County within the last 36 months (2021-2024).
4. Artist must not be enrolled in a full-time degree-seeking program.
5. **Artist must be a member of the Arts & Culture Alliance at the time of the application** and throughout grant period (see [www.knoxalliance.com/join-renew](http://www.knoxalliance.com/join-renew)). Applications from non-members will not be considered.
6. Staff, board members, and relatives of staff or board members of the Arts & Culture Alliance are ineligible.
7. Previous grantees are eligible to apply.

Any question of eligibility should be directed to Liza Zenni, [LZ@knoxalliance.com](mailto:LZ@knoxalliance.com), before the application is made.

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## GRANTEE REQUIREMENTS

Selected artists may be asked to make biannual reports to the Arts & Culture Alliance which may be written or conducted via meetings with Alliance staff.

Final reports, which may include an exhibition or performance of work completed during the grant period, may be required for artists to be considered for future grant and program opportunities through the Alliance.

All grantees must submit a thank you note to the donors in care of the Arts & Culture Alliance in order to receive payment.

Grantees should acknowledge grant support on website(s) and social media during the grant period.

Artist may be invited to participate in Alliance-sponsored exhibitions, performances, or collector events. Selected artists may also be invited to perform/present public or educational activities benefiting the Greater Knoxville community.

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## GRANT REVIEW PROCESS

Grants will be reviewed by a three-person panel. Panel members use an evaluation criterion, examining:

- Artistic excellence, quality or merit
- Creativity in concept, form and use of medium
- Potential for the grant to enhance Artist's career or business practices
- Commitment to deepening and expanding artistic work
- Clarity in the application about how the grant funds will further the Artist's artistic and career goals
- Professional or career achievements/history/activity
- Timeframe of project

The panel will refer a list of finalists to the Arts & Culture Alliance board. If approved as a finalist, Artist will need to provide to the Arts & Culture Alliance:

1. Social Security Number (Grant funds are taxable)
2. Proof of residency or Green Card

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## EVALUATION CRITERIA

The application for Bailey Opportunity Grants for Individuals includes four items:

I. **Application**

II. **Curriculum Vitae / Artist Resume**

Please submit as a one-page PDF representing documentation of your artistic accomplishments. This document should include a current listing of your exhibition record, grants, awards, residencies and other professional activities, including dates and locations. If you do not have an exhibition history, describe how other areas of your life (i.e. personal accomplishments or professional experience) have contributed to where you are now as an artist. The document should be neatly organized and include information pertinent only to your artistic career.

III. **Portfolio**

For Visual Artists: Please submit a minimum of ten images in PDF or JPG formats (recommended at 1600 pixels on the longest side or 1-2 MB per image) created between 2020 – present.

Include relevant information pertaining to each work, such as Title, Date Completed, Dimensions (if applicable) and Medium. Artists may also include a two-sentence artist statement for each image.

For Literary Artists: Please submit a minimum of four samples of your work from 2021 – present.

For Performing Artists: Please submit a minimum of three samples of your work in video form. Limit the length

of your videos to two minutes and be sure they are not password protected (if applicable). Videos should be up to 250MB each. You may also link to YouTube and Vimeo.

Give some thought to what kinds of materials actually support your application. Context for video samples is vital. Tell why you have selected a particular video: is it representative of the kind of work you do or is it a break from it? How is it related to your proposed project?

#### **IV. Budget**

The budget may be as simple as a list of expenses. Total expenses should equal the amount of your request and should meet the eligibility criteria.

**REMEMBER: Write clearly. Be concise. Be creative in your thinking. Demonstrate that the grant will allow you to push the boundaries of your practice in a significant way. Follow directions.**

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#### **TIMELINE**

**Monday-Friday, February 5-9, various:** Available times for phone and Zoom meetings – schedule with Liza Zenni at [lz@knoxalliance.com](mailto:lz@knoxalliance.com)

**Sunday, March 17, 2024, at midnight: Bailey Opportunity Grants for Individuals Application Receipt Deadline** (electronic submissions are required to [grants@knoxalliance.com](mailto:grants@knoxalliance.com))

**Mid-May 2024: Awards Announced**

**Monday, July 1, 2024** – Funds available for use

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#### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

The Arts & Culture Alliance is a service organization: we exist to help artists and arts and culture organizations. All interested artists are encouraged to contact Liza Zenni at 865-523-7543 or [LZ@knoxalliance.com](mailto:LZ@knoxalliance.com) if they have questions.



**Ann and Steve Bailey Opportunity Grants  
for Individuals, FY 2025 Application  
Receipt deadline Sunday, March 17, 2024**

**Name:**

**Address:**

**City:**

**State:**

**Zipcode:**

**Home Phone:**

**Mobile Phone:**

**Email:**

**Website:**

**Amount of Bailey Opportunity request:**

**1. Have you received Bailey Opportunity grants in the past? If so, please list the year, project and amount. Please describe the impact on your work/development.**

**2. When did you start creating art? What were some of the milestones in your development as an artist (school, training, exhibitions)? What materials and methods do you use in your current work?**

**3. What are your next artistic goals? In other words, what do you want to be able to do that you cannot do now?**

**4. What is the training, experience, equipment or opportunity that will get you from where you are NOW to where you WANT TO BE? Artists must articulate how this specific opportunity will take you toward the next step of your work or career. Provide detailed information about the specific class or workshop, experience, or equipment for which you want to use grant funds. Include dates, locations, and teacher/presenter. For instance, describe why this teacher or piece of equipment is the right one for you.**

**5. Describe how you see this opportunity improving the quality of your work. How will grant funds further your career goals? If you are requesting equipment, be sure to describe how you know that this equipment will fit your needs.**

The application for Bailey Opportunity Grants for Individuals includes four items:

- Application (this document)
- Curriculum Vitae / Artist Resume
- Portfolio
- Budget

*Please send items as a single PDF file (with the exception of the portfolio, which may feature various media).*

The Arts & Culture Alliance should receive these five items by midnight (EST) on Sunday, March 17, 2024. **Electronic submissions to [grants@knoxalliance.com](mailto:grants@knoxalliance.com) are required.**