



The Arts & Culture Alliance Ann and Steve Bailey Opportunity Grants FY 2026 GUIDELINES

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 is to create a more vital creative community in Knoxville by:

- Encouraging arts' contributions to the city's economy and quality of life
- Positioning Knoxville as a community that honors its arts community and supports their efforts to achieve excellence
- Raising the arts community's 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. www.knoxalliance.com

DESCRIPTION

Opportunity Grants are meant to help Knoxville's artists and small 501(C)(3)-designated art and culture organizations advance artistically and professionally.

For Individual Applicants: Successful applicants will be able to demonstrate a sustained commitment to artistic work regardless of their level of commercial success. Projects that facilitate applicant's ability to advance their work, acquire skills or equipment that will help them create or sell their work, or improve their business practices are encouraged. Grants will support applicants 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).

For Organizational Applicants: The organization's main mission must be directly concerned with arts or history. Opportunity grants are meant to spur continued artistic and administrative growth in innovative, entrepreneurial organizations at any stage in their development. The eligibility criteria and support structure is geared toward organizations that demonstrate they are solid and healthy and have clear goals that can be reached with financial and professional development support. Established as well as emerging organizations are eligible to apply. Projects that allow organizations to strengthen their business practices, broaden their reach, or deepen their impact are encouraged.

Individual and organizational applicants may apply for a maximum of \$15,000 in support, although most grants range in size from \$1,000 to \$4,500. Matching funds are not required.

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

Need is not a requirement for receiving support, however, if substantially more requests are received than can be funded, the issue of artists' need may be considered.

Collaborative applicant teams are eligible to apply with tax implications shared equally among team members. However, an individual or organization may be included in ONLY ONE application for funding per grant cycle.

The Arts & Culture Alliance is developing an accelerator program to help applicants in all areas of business growth and nonprofit management. If interested in participating in a Bailey Accelerator program, please contact Casey Fox at CF@knoxalliance.com.

TIMELINE

Tuesday, March 4 at 4:00 PM (EST) and/or Thursday, March 6 at 6:00 PM (EST), 2025: Available times for open Zoom meetings. Interested applicants are strongly encouraged to attend, so please email LZ@knoxalliance.com to request a phone or Zoom meeting if you are unable to join. For those who cannot schedule, a recorded video of helpful application tips is posted online.

Midnight (EST) on Sunday, March 23, 2025: Receipt deadline for Bailey Opportunity Grant applications. Electronic submissions are required to grants@knoxalliance.com.

Mid-May 2025: Awards will be announced.

Tuesday, July 1, 2025: First day funds are available for use. **Awardees should not make Bailey Opportunity Grant-supported purchases prior to this date.**

USE OF FUNDS

Grant funds may be spent ONLY between July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026. All grant expenditures are paid on a reimbursement basis.

Bailey Opportunity Grants for Individuals may be designated for (but not limited to) one category, such as:

- Professional and artistic development
- Mentor relationships
- The opportunity to have up to 20 pieces of existing work professionally photographed during a specified period of time and by a professional photographer of the Arts & Culture Alliance's choice
- The opportunity to have up to 10 pieces of existing work professionally framed by a professional framer of the Arts & Culture Alliance's choice, but with input from the applicant
- Arts-related travel (conferences, research, workshops, gatherings) - must be specifically related to the proposal and should be quantified by how they will further applicant's work or career
- Conference, training, and workshop fees directly related to applicant's work
- Equipment
- Digital marketing and publicity efforts

For Individuals, 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 applicant's professional artistic development
- Projects that focus exclusively on K-12 school children
- Personal pay / personal investments
- Production or exhibition expenses for specific projects

Bailey Opportunity Grants for Organizations may be designated for (but not limited to) one category, such as:

- Administrative or artistic development
- Mentor relationships
- Arts- or history-related travel (conferences, workshops, gatherings) - must be specifically related to the proposal and should be quantified by how they will further the organization's work or administrative capacity
- Conference, training, and workshop fees directly related to the organization's work
- Equipment
- Marketing and publicity efforts

- Website design or improvement
- Computer software or hardware
- Other resources for all artistic and historical disciplines

For Organizations, 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 the organization's administrative or artistic growth and institutional development
- Retiring debts from current or past performances or exhibitions
- Projects that focus exclusively on K-12 school children
- Production or exhibition expenses for specific projects

ELIGIBILITY

- Applicant must have lived (or be legally domiciled) within 50 miles of downtown Knoxville since at least January 1, 2024 and must remain so during the grant period (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026).
- **For Individuals:** Applicant must be at least 18 years old and may not be enrolled in a full-time degree-seeking program.
- **For Organizations:** Annual budget may not have exceeded \$100,000 in any of the past five years. Applicant organizations must have attained 501(c)(3) status or be non-profit in nature. *No applications from nonprofessional (pastime/hobby) organizations will be accepted at this time.*
- Applicant must have exhibited, performed, presented and/or published artistic work in a public context in Knox County within the last 36 months (2022-2025).
- **Applicant 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). Applications from those who are not members of the Arts & Culture Alliance at the time of the grant deadline will not be considered.
- Staff, board members, and relatives of staff or board members of the Arts & Culture Alliance are ineligible.
- Previous grantees are eligible to apply.
- Applicants are strongly encouraged to demonstrate need.
- Individual or organization may apply as part of only ONE application.

Any question of eligibility should be directed to Liza Zenni at LZ@knoxalliance.com before the application is made.

GRANTEE REQUIREMENTS

Selected applicants 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 applicants to be considered for future grant and program opportunities through the Alliance.

All awardees must submit a thank-you note to the donors in order to receive a grant contract, in care of the Arts & Culture Alliance at PO Box 2506, Knoxville, TN 37901-2506.

Grantees should acknowledge grant support on website(s), social media, and via press release (for organizations) during the grant period.

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

GRANT REVIEW PROCESS

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

- Artistic excellence, historical scholarliness, quality, or merit
- Creativity in concept, form and use of medium and/or use of available resources
- Potential for the grant to enhance an individual's career or business practices OR provide significant returns in relation to the organization's mission
- Commitment to deepening and expanding artistic work or output
- Clarity in the application about how the grant funds will further the applicant's artistic and career goals
- Professional or career achievements/history/activity
- Timeframe of project
- Need

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

1. Social Security Number (because grant funds are taxable) or EIN number
2. Proof of residency or Green Card evaluation

CRITERIA

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

The application for [Bailey Opportunity Grants for Individuals](#) includes four items:

1. Application (five questions)

2. Curriculum Vitae / Artist Resume

Please submit as a one-page PDF representing documentation of artistic accomplishments. This document should include a current listing of performance or exhibition record, grants, awards, residencies and other professional activities, including dates and locations. The document should be neatly organized and include information pertinent only to applicant's artistic career.

3. Portfolio

Give some thought to what kinds of materials support your application. Context for video samples is vital.

For Visual Art Applicants: 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 2021 – present. Include relevant information pertaining to each work, such as title, date completed, dimensions (if applicable) and media.

For Literary Applicants: Please submit a minimum of four samples of work from 2022 – present.

For Performing Applicants: Please submit a minimum of three samples of work in video form. Limit the length of videos to two minutes and be sure they are not password protected (if applicable). Videos may be up to 250MB each. You may also link to YouTube and Vimeo.

4. Budget

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

The application for Bailey Opportunity Grants for Organizations includes five items:

1. Application (eight questions)

2. Programmatic Activities

Please submit as a one-page PDF representing documentation of the organization's programs, activities, and accomplishments. This document should include a current listing of your organizational activities including dates and locations. The document should be neatly organized.

3. Support Materials

Include 3 – 5 support pieces. The purpose of these materials is to help the panel understand the kind of work you do. Please e-mail grants@knoxalliance.com if you would like to submit something that cannot be uploaded.

4. Budget

Outline expenses related to improving the quality of your organization's artistic or administrative output. 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.

5. Most Recent 990

Attach your organization's most recently completed 990 (or other required organizational tax return form) and one-page financial statements for FY2023 and FY2024.

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 if they have questions.

Individual and organizational applications appear below.

Please use designated space in text boxes for all answers. If necessary, additional information may be included with application and other required items.



The Arts & Culture Alliance
**Ann and Steve Bailey Opportunity Grants
FY 2026 INDIVIDUAL APPLICATION**

Name:

Address:

City and zip code:

Phone:

Email:

Website(s):

AMOUNT OF BAILEY OPPORTUNITY REQUEST:

Category of request (choose one):

Professional and artistic development

Mentor relationships

Photographing of work

Framing of work

Arts-related travel

Conference, training, and workshop fees

Equipment

Digital marketing and publicity efforts

Other (explain):

1. Have you received Bailey Opportunity grants in the past? If so, please list the year, project and amount. Briefly describe the project funded and 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)?

3. What was/is the annual budget of the organization for FY 2021, FY 2022, FY 2023, FY 2024, and FY 2025?

Annual Expenses for FY 2021:

Annual Expenses for FY 2022:

Annual Expenses for FY 2023:

Annual Expenses for FY 2024:

Projected Expenses for FY 2025:

4. What is the project, opportunity, or need for which you are requesting support? What are the obstacles to your organization's success? (Is it the professionalism of the staff or access to programmatic resources?)

5. What are the desired outcomes of the project, opportunity, or fulfillment of need?(i.e. Define success in terms of this grant: increased ticket sales; more visitation/audiences; more positive media coverage; more contributed support; more and better programs).

6. Provide details of your requested budget. Who will be paid? What will the funds buy? What is your time frame?

7. What will be the community benefits of this project or opportunity?

8. If offered, would you be interested in participating in a multi-day accelerator program for a small nonprofit leadership cohort? YES NO

9. If you were not awarded a Bailey Opportunity Grant, how would it impact your organization over the next year?

--END--

For organizational applicants, please include these five items as a single PDF:

<i>Application (this document)</i>	<i>Programmatic Activities</i>	<i>Support Materials</i>	<i>Budget</i>
<i>Most recent 990 or 990-N</i>			