

Arts Writers Grant Program

2019 GRANT CALENDAR

Apr 17:	Grant application opens
May 20:	Grant application closes
Oct 1:	Finalists notified
Dec 4:	Grantees announced

ABOUT THE GRANT

The Arts Writers grant supports both emerging and established writers who are writing about contemporary visual art. Ranging from \$15,000 to \$50,000 in four categories—articles, blogs, books and short-form writing—these grants support projects addressing both general and specialized art audiences, from scholarly studies to self-published blogs. We also support art writing that engages criticism through interdisciplinary methods or experiments with literary styles. As long as a writer meets the eligibility and publishing requirements, they can apply.

By “contemporary visual art,” we mean visual art made since World War II. Projects on post-WWII work in adjacent fields—architecture, dance, film, media, music, performance, sound, etc.—will only be considered if they directly and significantly engage the discourses and concerns of contemporary visual art. Projects with a pre-WWII component will only be considered if the main focus is contemporary.

APPLICATION

We recommend that you read through the Application Guide before filling out the online application. Eligibility requirements and writing sample submission word counts vary for each project type.

You may only apply for one project per grant cycle. You must choose one project type: Article, Blog, Book, or Short-Form Writing. The application questions are listed on page 6.

The eloquence and coherence of your answers to the application questions are important. Although these answers are not technically writing samples, they will be considered in the evaluation process, and jurors read them carefully.

To access the application form, go to:
artswritersgrant.slideroom.com

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for this grant, an arts writer must be

- an individual;
- applying for a project about contemporary visual art;
- an art historian, artist, critic, curator, journalist, or a writer in an outside field who is strongly engaged with the contemporary visual arts;
- a US citizen, permanent resident of the United States, or a holder of an O-1 visa (if your application advances to the final round, you will need to submit current documentation);
- at least twenty-five years old;
- a published author (specific publication requirements vary for each project type).

An arts writer is NOT eligible for this grant if they are

- applying on behalf of an organization;
- applying for a project in which their primary involvement will be as an editor;
- a full-time student in a degree-granting program (with the exception of those students who are simultaneously maintaining professional careers as arts writers);
- an artist writing an interpretive essay on their own work;
- an artist whose proposed project does not directly address contemporary visual art (a piece of writing by an artist does not automatically qualify as “arts writing” in this context);
- applying for a project that is primarily poetry (including ekphrasis), fiction, or memoir;
- applying for a project based on a PhD dissertation or MA thesis;
- applying to publish a Q&A interview (or series of Q&A interviews);
- applying to assemble an archive or database;
- applying for a project on Andy Warhol;
- applying for a project that will be published by a commercial gallery;
- a grantee of the Art Writers Grant Program;
- a current employee, consultant, board member, or funder of Creative Capital or the Andy Warhol Foundation, or an immediate family member of such a person.

FAQs

1. What is the application review process?

All proposals are evaluated on the strength of the writing and the project proposal, as well as the capacity of the applicant to realize the project based on the samples provided and the writer's publication history.

The review process has two steps. First, each application is reviewed by two outside evaluators. Second, applications with the highest scores advance to a final round in which a panel of outside jurors selects the grantees.

2. How can the grant money be used?

Grant money can only be used to cover expenses incurred after you have been awarded the grant. In addition to project expenses, we suggest you pay yourself a "writer's fee" for the period you will be working on your project. Please review the Grant Funds information on page 3 before applying.

3. How long is the grant period?

The grant period is one year, beginning in January. Short-Form Writing and Blog applicants are expected to publish regularly during this year. For Article and Book applicants, completion dates will vary depending on the specific project. The goal of the program is to support new writing. Books slated for completion early in the grant period do not allow for sufficient assistance from the program.

4. Do I need a confirmed publisher to apply?

You do not need a confirmed publisher to apply.

5. How should I select my writing samples?

Writing samples may be selected with multiple considerations in mind. They should demonstrate your strength as a writer and should connect, where possible, to your project proposal. Recent writing samples are encouraged. Writing samples do not need to be previously published.

6. Are podcast projects eligible for a grant?

You may apply with a blog project that incorporates a podcast element. However, as this is a grant for writers, your proposal must clarify how the podcast will be used in relation to your writing.

Interview and conversation podcasts will not be considered.

7. Can I apply with a collaborator(s)?

Projects involving collaboration between writers or between a writer and a practitioner in another field are eligible to apply, except in the Short-Form category. Only one application per collaboration will be accepted: collaborators must select one member to be the primary contact. Collaborators must meet the requirements for age and student status. However, only the primary applicant must meet the citizenship requirement. If you have further questions in regard to collaborative projects, please email us at questions@artswriters.org.

WRITING SAMPLES

Applicants may submit up to three writing samples with word counts totaling no more than:
Book: 15,000 words; Article: 10,000 words; Blog & Short-Form Writing: 5,000 words

All samples must be in English.

Each writing sample must be submitted as a separate PDF.

We do not accept links to online writing samples.

PDF Formatting

We prefer writing samples that are created in a writing software program and saved as a PDF. If you must use a scan from a magazine, the text must be legible and clear when viewed at 100%. If your scanned PDF is not legible, evaluators are not required to read it.

Writing Sample Information

You will need to provide the following information regarding your writing samples:
Title, Description, Date, Publisher, Word Count

Writing Sample Instructions for Collaborative Projects

Total word count for collaborative projects should not exceed the maximum word count for the project type you are applying for.

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A visual artist collaborator can submit one PDF with up to ten images. To submit other media please email tech@artswriters.org.

If you have co-authored texts with your collaborator in the past, please include at least one such text as a writing sample.

GRANT FUNDS

The Arts Writers grant is intended to cover costs associated with research and writing, not design and production.

We ask that you review the information below with regards to how the grant money can be used.

Expenses related to the realization of your project can include:

- Writer's fee;
- Research;
- Image permissions and fees; reproduction and copying costs;
- Travel (airfare, car rental, ground transportation, lodging, meals, per diem);
- Living expenses, however you define them;
- Childcare expenses.

Grantees must pay taxes on the money they receive from us. The IRS considers income from grants to be taxable.

Please note that grant funds can only be issued directly to the individual grantee. Funds cannot be disbursed to institutions such as universities.

OTHER QUESTIONS

Please note that we only respond to questions via email.

For general questions about the application, and questions regarding eligibility, please email: questions@artswriters.org

For technical questions about the SlideRoom application you can email SlideRoom directly at: support@slideroom.com

For all other technical questions email: tech@artswriters.org

PROJECT TYPE GUIDELINES

ARTICLE

The Article category supports essays, magazine features, and extended exhibition reviews. Catalogue essays will be considered, except for exhibitions held at commercial galleries. Articles may be published in print or online and may range from approximately ten to fifty manuscript pages. A confirmed publisher for a proposed article is not a prerequisite for application. Article grants are \$15,000 each.

Eligibility requirements

Article grant applicants must have published a minimum of ONE of the following:

- two articles about contemporary visual art of at least 2,000 words each;
- seven exhibition reviews of at least 500 words each.

Writing sample submissions

Article applicants may submit up to three writing samples totaling no more than 10,000 words.

Article FAQs

Can I apply for an Article grant if I want to write an exhibition catalogue essay?

Articles written for catalogues published by a museum or nonprofit institutions are eligible. However, articles written for exhibition catalogues published by commercial galleries are ineligible.

Can I apply to write a series of articles?

No. We do not accept applications for article series. If you want to write a series of articles, you should apply in the Short-Form Writing category.

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BLOG

The Blog category supports the continuation of existing blogs and the creation of new blogs about contemporary visual art. We understand a blog to be an open-ended, ongoing website where most posts are written by a single writer (or, if it is a collaborative blog, by the same few writers). The program distinguishes between blogs and online magazines (websites operated by individuals or groups who function in an editorial capacity). The latter are not eligible for program support. However, writers may apply for texts to be published by online magazines in the Article or Short-Form Writing categories. Blog grants are \$30,000 each.

Eligibility requirements

Blog grant applicants must either

- have been blogging about contemporary visual art on a regular basis for at least a year; OR
- have published at least eight pieces of writing related to contemporary visual art of at least 250 words each.

Writing sample submissions

Blog applicants may submit up to three writing samples totaling no more than 5,000 words.

If you are applying for funds to support an existing blog, please include the URL in the first writing sample description field. Excerpts from existing blogs may be submitted as writing samples in PDF format.

Blog FAQs

How often must I post on the blog?

We expect all blogs to feature new posts regularly. Depending on the nature of the blog, this should be several posts each month. If you are starting a new blog, it should be live within six months of receiving the grant funds, with regular postings for at least 12 months thereafter.

BOOK

The Book category supports books at all stages of their development from research through the completion of writing. The category funds a broad spectrum of books on contemporary visual art, from general-audience criticism to academic scholarship. Book grants are \$50,000.

Eligibility requirements

Book grant applicants must

- have been writing professionally about contemporary visual art on a regular basis for at least three years; OR
- Have previously published a book on contemporary visual art or a related subject; OR
- have completed a PhD dissertation on contemporary visual art or a related subject (Note: book project applications based on your PhD dissertation are not eligible).

Writing sample submissions

Book applicants may submit up to three writing samples totaling no more than 15,000 words. If you have a draft of a chapter or an essay on the topic of your proposed book, please include it as one of your writing samples.

Book FAQs

Can I apply to edit a collection?

No. Applications will not be accepted for edited anthologies consisting of essays written by a number of different authors, or for previously published material by a single author.

What kind of books are funded?

The Book category supports a broad range of books on contemporary visual art, from general-audience criticism to academic scholarship. Writers working on experimental or non-traditional arts writing are also invited to apply. Projects on work in adjacent fields—architecture, dance, film, media, music, performance, sound, etc.—will only be considered if they directly and significantly engage the discourses and concerns of contemporary visual art.

Can I apply for a book that I have already written and want to get published?

The goal of the program is to support new writing during the grant period, so books slated for completion early in the grant period do not allow for sufficient assistance from the program and are ineligible.

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SHORT-FORM WRITING

The Short-Form Writing category supports the ongoing practice of writers who regularly produce short texts that respond to current exhibitions, events, and issues in contemporary visual art. By “short” we mean texts in the range of 250-1,500 words. By “writers who regularly produce” we mean writers who, on average, publish at least one text per month (and who intend to publish at least that amount if awarded a grant). Short-Form Writing grants are \$30,000 each.

Eligibility requirements

Short-Form Writing grant applicants must have published at least eight pieces of writing related to contemporary visual art of at least 250 words each.

Writing samples submissions

Short-Form Writing applicants may submit up to three writing samples totaling no more than 5,000 words. (If your writing samples are less than 250 words each you may submit up to five writing samples. Please email questions@artswriters.org for detailed instructions.)

Short-form writing FAQs

If I am applying as a short-form writer, how should I answer the project questions?

The project can be a continuation of your published writing, or a proposal to focus on a particular topic, or an experiment with writing that you would like to develop. Either way, you must frame your proposal as a project. If you are applying to continue your current practice, present it in terms of your interests (whether aesthetic, regional, political, theoretical, or some combination thereof).

How should I answer the questions about contextualizing the project?

In the field that asks you to “contextualize this project in relation to existing writing on the subject,” write about how your short-form writing (whether reviewing, reporting, or feature-writing) relates to, or is different from, other arts writing. In the field that asks you to “contextualize this project in relation to your own work,” write about what you hope to do during the grant period that you were not previously able to do; or, if you are applying to continue your current writing practice, write about how it contributes to the discourse of contemporary visual art.

Is the category designed primarily to support a specific sub-group of short-form writers?

The Short-Form Writing category is designed to support short-form writers writing on all areas of contemporary visual art and at all phases of their careers.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

CONTACT

- Slideroom contact information is current*
- Contact information*
- Professional Name
- Date of Birth*
- Citizenship*
- Gender
- Ethnicity

RESUME

- Author Biography* (2000 character count)
- Publications* (3000)
- Education* (1000)
- Employment (1000)
- Miscellaneous (Please include dissertation information here if applicable.) (1000)

PROJECT

- Which project type are you applying for?*
- Project Title * (100)
- Project Description (Short)* (250)
- Project Description (Detailed)* (3000)
- Table of Contents and Chapter Summary (books only) (5000)
- Contextualize this project in relation to existing writing on the subject.* (2000)
- Contextualize this project in relation to your own work.* (2000)
- Which ideas in contemporary visual art do you presently engage with in your writing? (2000)
- If your project focuses on one or more artist(s), please describe your reasons for selecting these particular artist(s). (2000)
- Project Timeline* (1000) (Work Completed / Work Pending / Estimated Completion Date)
- Confirmed or Potential Publisher(s) (1000)

WRITING SAMPLES

Applicants may submit up to three writing samples with word counts totaling no more than: Book: 15,000 words; Article: 10,000 words; Blog & Short-Form Writing: 5,000 words.

PDFs

- Title*, Description* (1000), Date*, Publisher (if applicable), Word Count*

Blog URLs

- If you are applying to fund an existing blog, please list the URL in the first writing sample description field.

COLLABORATOR(S) (if applicable)

- Contact information*, Date of Birth*, Gender, Ethnicity, Citizenship*
- Explain the collaborator's role in the proposed project.* (2000)
- Collaborator Biography* (2000)

GRANT FUNDS

- Please confirm that you have reviewed FAQ #2 detailing how the grant money can be used.* (We do not need an itemized budget however we need confirmation that you have read and understood how grant funds may be used.)

* *Required Field*

Note: character counts include spaces.

NOTE TO PREVIOUS APPLICANTS

The changes made to the 2019 application questions from previous application cycles are:

While we do ask that you have read our budget guidelines, we no longer ask for budget information to be submitted.

Podcasts can now be part of a blog proposal. Specific guidelines for podcast proposals are outlined on our FAQ page (Question 6).