



**Material Needs Grants
Call for Proposals, 2025-2026
ArtsWorcester
44 Portland Street, Worcester MA**

Table of Contents

Grant Details	2
Eligibility	2
Expenses Covered	2
FAQ	3
Proposal Application	4
Helpful Tips	5

MNG application deadline: January 30, 2025, 11:59 PM

For any questions not answered in this packet, please email alice@artsworcester.org or call the gallery at (508) 755-5142.

Grant Details

Material Needs Grants, funded by an anonymous donor, support the expenses of supplies and materials for the creation of new art in Worcester County. With this gift, ArtsWorcester is able to distribute grants to local artists between \$500 and \$1,500. Artists who receive a Material Needs Grant in 2025 will exhibit their work in a group show at ArtsWorcester in 2026.

All eligible proposals are reviewed by a committee of three individuals with experience in the arts.

Proposals are considered for their novelty, innovation, potential impact (on the viewer, your career, and on other artists in the area), and feasibility (can you do it, and can you do it in one calendar year?).

Eligibility

Projects must have some element that can be shown inside ArtsWorcester's galleries in a fall 2026 group exhibition.

You must have been an artist member of ArtsWorcester for at least one calendar year prior to applying for a Material Needs Grant, and you must reside in Worcester County. We regret that members residing outside of Worcester County are not eligible.

If you have previously received a Material Needs Grant, you must wait three years from the previous application date before applying again.

If you are unsure of your eligibility, contact alice@artsworcester.org.

Expenses Covered

These grants are restricted to expenses for the supplies, materials, and equipment (purchased or rented) needed to make new art. Proposals for any and all kinds of visual art are welcome, including but not limited to painting, photography, fiber, ceramics, sculpture, video, and digital artwork.

Examples of expenses not covered would be studio rental, framing, publicity and promotional costs, insurance or transportation of artwork.

Artists who receive a Material Needs Grant are given a check with their awarded amount up front, and are responsible for saving and submitting receipts at the end of their cycle.

FAQ

What kind of artwork can I make with a Material Needs Grant?

Anything! We have funded projects ranging from paintings to mechanical sculptures to puppets. Any and all visual art are welcome, as long as some element can be shown at the gallery in the group exhibition.

Can organizations apply for a Material Needs Grant?

No, this is an opportunity for ArtsWorcester artist members and is not intended for organizations.

Can I apply for a collaborative project with another artist?

Yes, but you both must meet all eligibility requirements, including ArtsWorcester membership and residency in Worcester County.

Only one application should be submitted, and it should speak to what you both plan to contribute to the process. If your application is selected by the committee, the artist who submitted the application will receive the check. You will be responsible for splitting the funds and keeping receipts as necessary.

If I receive a grant, will I receive the full amount that I apply for?

Grant recipients are not guaranteed to receive the full amount requested. You should plan for how to adapt your project if it is partially funded.

Why can't I include framing in my budget?

This grant specifically funds the materials needed to create new artwork. While framing is part of how artwork is presented, it is beyond the intention and scope of these grants.

ArtsWorcester artist members receive discounts at CC Lowell on supplies and custom framing, and ArtsWorcester staff are available to talk about other framing options.

If I don't receive a grant, can I get feedback?

Yes! Feedback is available for every eligible submission. You must reach out to alice@artsworcester.org for your feedback after notifications have gone out.

Proposal Application

All proposals must be submitted by January 30, 2025 via this submission form:

<https://bit.ly/submitMNG2025>

The following questions will appear on the application. We encourage you to prepare your content in a separate document, and then copy and paste into Submittable when you are ready.

Proposal Title

Total funds requested

Proposal: Describe the materials and the work you plan to complete with them. The committee is interested in novelty (why is this unique, and what is it expanding on in your current practice), potential impact (on the viewer, on your career, and on other artists in the area), and the proposal's feasibility (can you do it in one year?). **Minimum 250 words, maximum 1,000 words.**

If the committee decides to partially fund this proposal, how do you plan to adapt or complete your project? No more than 150 words.

Exhibition needs: Think ahead to installation week. Will your project require the use of moveable walls, special tech set-up, etc.? **No more than 150 words.**

Budget: Upload a simple, estimated budget for your project. You may attach a .pdf, .docx, or .xls file.

Resume or artist CV: We are looking to learn more about your experience that is relevant to this proposal. If your name is part of this file, we will remove it if the committee requests to see this document.

Additional info: Is there anything else not covered by the above questions that the committee needs to know? **No more than 150 words**

Artwork images: upload 5 images of artwork that are related to the project you propose, along with titles, sizes, and medium.

Helpful Tips

- The top question committee members ask while evaluating proposals is “why?” Why should we fund this proposal? Why is this work important? Why should we choose this project over another? Ensure that your proposal clearly makes the case for your project.
- Your project should be an *expansion* of your current practice.
- Sketches are helpful to express your idea to the committee, but they also want to see finished artworks that speak to your ability to finish a project.
- Don't try to show the committee the full range of what you can do in different media or styles. Choose a focused group of works that relate as closely as possible to the project you are proposing.
- Spend time on your artwork images. Because this is such a competitive opportunity, poor lighting or blurry pictures can potentially be a deciding factor between two proposals. These things affect how well the committee can understand and experience your work.
- Work on your proposal well before the deadline. We cannot do anything about tech difficulties at 11:30 PM the night of.
- Have a friend look over your proposal for clarity. At the very least, spend a few days away from your writing before you submit.
- If you do not receive a Material Needs Grant, request feedback! Feedback is an artist's best friend and can help you develop your concepts for future opportunities.