



Creative Communities are Thriving Communities

Thriving Communities Project Grants

We believe that creative communities are thriving communities.

We believe that teaching artists can play an essential catalytic role
in the greater success of their communities.

We envision a Vermont where teaching artists thrive as central contributors
to the health and sustainability of all of our communities.

Thriving Communities Project Grants support teaching artists to bring people together to create a public artwork that strengthens awareness of a pressing social challenge and opportunity.

Who May Apply

We are seeking teaching artists of all disciplines who want to have a leadership role in developing more equitable, healthy and sustainable communities.

Essential Question

For the 2019 grants, all projects will explore the *essential question*:

The Earth is speaking—how do we respond?

Grants will be awarded to teaching artists who present a compelling plan to bring a diverse, cross-sector group of community members together to use the creative process, resulting in an artwork that strengthens awareness of a challenge and opportunity in their community, as it relates to the essential question.

The artworks will have two public presentations:

1. Each project team will present their artwork in their local community in the winter/spring of 2020, at a time and location determined by their project plan.
2. All project teams will present their artworks at the Festival of Arts and Imagination in Montpelier on July 24-25, 2020.



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What We Support

Each Thriving Communities Project grant will range from \$7,000-\$10,000, and include the following:

- \$4,000-\$7,000 for teaching artist fees (based on \$250/day for planning and \$450/day for implementation)
- \$2,500 full scholarship to attend the Teaching Artist Academy (Sep. 13-15 & Oct 11-13, 2019). Includes tuition, lodging and meals.
- \$500 in marketing support to help advertise and promote project

We will award 5 to 8 grants.

What We Don't Support

We expect that each project will require additional funding to cover the following expenses, which will be the responsibility of the teaching artist/community team:

- Project supplies
- Artwork installation
- Travel expenses
- Social event costs connected to community building efforts

About the Teaching Artist Academy

All grantees will be required to attend both sessions of the Teaching Artist Academy, at Galusha Hill Farm in Topsham, September 13-15 and October 11-13, 2019.

The Academy provides a unique opportunity to work with the top leaders in teaching artistry, including Eric Booth, who is widely described as the father of the teaching artist profession, and Judith Bose, who was the first full-time teaching artist hired by Lincoln Center.

Participants will refine their project plans and expand their skills and boldness in project design and implementation, partnership building, and fundraising.

Grant & Project Timeline

2019

- February 15: Letter of Interest due
- April 1: Selected artists full applications due
- Mid-April: Grants awarded
- September 13-15: Teaching Artist Academy – Session 1
- October 11-13: Teaching Artist Academy – Session 2
- October 13: 1st grant payment of 10% for project planning
- December 1: Final project plans and timeline submitted

2020

- February–June : second payment of 50% at the beginning of project implementation; third payment of 20% at time of the local culminating event
- July 25: Final payment of 20% following presentation at the Festival of Arts & Imagination in Montpelier.



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Funding priority will be given to projects that present a compelling plan to accomplish one or more of the following:

- Inspire a diverse, cross-sector group of community members to come together to create an artwork that connects to the *essential question: The Earth is speaking—how do we respond?*
- Develop strengthened awareness of a local *essential question*-related community challenge or opportunity.
- Activate existing community assets to work together.
- Build a partner team that is likely to continue working together on the community challenge and opportunity after the project concludes.
- Leverage additional funding to help amplify the project's impact.

Funding priority will be given to teaching artists that demonstrate one or more of the following:

- Experience in leading collaborative projects
- Experience in creative placemaking
- Experience in working with diverse communities
- A commitment to strengthening project development and leadership skills

Application Process and Deadlines

There is a two-step application process:

1. Submit an online Letter of Interest (LOI) by 11:59pm on February 15, 2019.
2. Following a review of the LOI submissions, a select number of applicants will be invited to submit a full application, which will be due April 1.

Grants will be awarded by mid-April.

Before submitting an LOI, we encourage you to contact Paul Gambill, CEL Executive Director, to discuss your project idea: paul@celvt.org, (802) 595-0087.

Resources

How do we define “teaching artist?”: A New Framework for Understanding the Field of Teaching Artistry <http://ericbooth.net/857-2/>

National Endowment for the Arts: How To Do Creative Placemaking

https://www.arts.gov/sites/default/files/How-to-do-Creative-Placemaking_Jan2017.pdf

ArtPlace America <https://www.artplaceamerica.org/>

Americans for the Arts <https://www.americansforthearts.org/by-topic/public-art>



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LOI Questions

LOI must be submitted online.

1. Name/info
2. Your primary arts discipline
3. THE COMMUNITY, OR COMMUNITIES, YOUR PROJECT WILL SERVE
Where will it take place? (200 character limit)
If your project serves multiple communities, indicate the community where the project activities will be centralized.
4. THE PARTNERS IN YOUR PROJECT
Who will be involved? (300 character limit)
List key individuals and/or organizations that will partner on your project, their role, and whether their participation is confirmed or proposed at this time.
5. THE PROJECT DESIGN AND IMPACT
What will you and your community partners create, and how will that creative process and resulting public artwork strengthen awareness of a community challenge and opportunity related to the essential question? (4,000 character limit)
6. THE EXISTING COMMUNITY ASSETS YOUR PROJECT WILL SUPPORT
How will you involve others who share the goals of your project? (2,000 character limit)

Attach: Resume and bio combined into a single PDF

Attach: Work samples

You may submit up to three work samples. For example: one website link, one news clipping, one photo portfolio.

Only submit work samples that are relevant to your proposed project.

Photo portfolios should not exceed 3 pages (PDF file).

Do not submit PowerPoint or Word documents. Do not upload video files.

All video and website work samples should be submitted as links on a single PDF file. Links should be fully typed out, not embedded in text. Each link counts as one work sample.



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For videos, indicate the preferred 3 minutes of viewing, and the start time if it is not the beginning.

Each work sample should include:

1. Description of the work or activity
2. Date of the work or activity
3. Relevance of the work sample to your proposed project