

2026 Night Bloom: Grants for Artists

Application Guidelines

[Apply here](#)

About this grant

Night Bloom: Grants for Artists supports the arts ecosystem in the greater Tucson area through funding collaboratively-focused visual arts projects by individual artists and artist groups within Tucson and the broader Sonoran Desert region. Grants ranging from \$3,500 – \$7,500 support efforts to create experimental and community-embedded opportunities for artistic exchange that engage with the region’s unique contexts and possibilities.

Night Bloom: Grants for Artists is organized by MOCA Tucson in partnership with the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts.

Grant Award Amounts: \$3,500 - \$7,500

Important dates:

- Application opens: April 10, 2026
- Arts Grant Writing Workshop: April 29, 5:30pm
- Application deadline: May 8, 2026
- Notification of grant award by: July 1, 2026
- Grant funds disbursed: July - August 2026
- Grant funded activities: July 2026 - June 2027

Who is eligible to apply?

Any Pima County-based:

- Individual artist
- Artist collective or group

Who is not eligible to apply?

- Individual artists or groups based outside of Pima County
- Non-profit 501(c)(3) organizations
- Universities or schools (private, public, or charter)
- Religious or parochial institutions
- Incorporated entities (LLC’s, B Corporations, 501(c)(4) organizations)
- For-profit organizations
- Applicants under the age of 18 years

Note: Applicants may partner with nonprofit organizations and/or schools, but the project must be artist-led and distinct from an organization’s regular programming.

What types of projects are eligible?

Eligible Projects:

- Projects that are based in Pima County.

- Projects that include a strong visual arts focus to engage, activate, and share with their audience(s).
- Projects that are free and accessible to the public.

Ineligible Projects:

- Projects that received Night Bloom Funds in 2025.
- Projects that do not include a strong visual arts focus or artists.
- Projects that are not based in Pima County.
- Projects initiated or led by students currently enrolled in high school, college, and/or university.
- Projects that seek to retroactively fund a past project.
- Projects that are not feasible within a close range of the grant award amount. Funds cannot be used as a small part of fundraising for a significantly larger project.
- Projects that seek to support an individual artist's studio practice.
- Projects that are not open to the public and require a ticket for entry.

***Projects funded before 2025 are eligible to apply. Projects may not receive funding for two consecutive years. For example: if you received an award in 2025, you are ineligible to re-apply in 2026, but eligible in 2027.**

Project Examples

Night Bloom projects may take, but are not limited to, the following formats:

- Public art projects such as murals, outdoor sculptures, or installations with a temporary or permanent physical presence.
- Artist-led projects that prioritize engagement or collaboration with other cultural practitioners, community members, and organizations.
- Socially-responsive artist-led projects such as artist gardens, alternative arts education projects, mutual aid arts initiatives, community storytelling, mobile galleries and performances, grassroots archives, and more.
- Curatorial projects by visual artists.
- Independent and alternative artist-driven education projects such as lecture series, workshops, film screenings, and public programming.
- The founding of a new arts venue or collective.

How are recipients selected?

Evaluation and scoring panel:

A panel of three arts and culture professionals independent from MOCA evaluates eligible Night Bloom: Grants for Artists applications. MOCA Tucson builds panels to reflect a diversity of expertise, experience, and geographic location(s): local, regional, and national. All panelists are independently selected and screened for potential conflicts of interest.

Application Criteria

Eligible applications will be evaluated by panelists for the following criteria:

- a. Collaboration: Clear actions to foster connections amongst artists, community members, and culture bearers in the region.

- b. **Experimental Approaches:** Unconventional and alternative methods to making, presenting, or facilitating public-facing work that falls outside the reach of conventional arts funding opportunities.
- c. **Planning for Access:** Focused, equity-centered actions that seek to increase access to opportunities for artistic exchange.
- d. **Regional Specificity:** Timely, relevant efforts to engage with and be responsive to the unique contexts and possibilities of Tucson and the broader Sonoran Desert region.
- e. **Community Benefit:** Clearly articulated goals for how this project will benefit your intended audience(s).

Application Requirements

- **Project Narrative:** Applicants are required to respond to a brief narrative question as part of their application.
- **Project Budget:** Applicants must outline a budget of their proposed project expenses.
- **Work Samples:** Applicants must include at least (1) work sample as part of their application. Work samples may be directly related to the proposed project or representative of previous works. Applicants may upload a maximum of (5) image-based work samples and (2) links to video-based work samples.

How to apply:

Online application

Applicants to the 2025 Night Bloom: Grant for Artists opportunity must submit their application through the online grant platform, Submittable. MOCA Tucson will accept applications in Submittable starting **April 10, 2026**, through **May 8, 2026**, at 11:59 pm MST.

[Apply here](#)

General grant policies:

- **Payments:** MOCA Tucson will send grant funds to award recipients via a check or direct deposit. All grant payments will be addressed to the lead applicant, who is responsible for applicable taxes associated with their award. Recipients will be required to complete and sign a grant award contract and a Form W-9.
- **Final reports.** Grant recipients must submit a final report to MOCA Tucson by July 2026.

Feedback

Due to the volume of applications received, we unfortunately are not able to provide feedback on applications at this time.

Transparency

Applicants must disclose if they or key collaborators involved with the proposed project also have an affiliation with MOCA Tucson. This includes staff, board members, regular contractors, etc., or immediate family members of any of the former, who are affiliated with your project.

This is for transparency only, conflicts of interest do not prevent applications from being considered for funding.

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Frequently asked questions:

Q: Can I apply for a Night Bloom grant this year if I received or applied for a Night Bloom Emergency Grant?

A: Yes! However, you may not apply for the same project or with a collective that previously received Night Bloom grant funds.

Q: Can I submit multiple projects?

A: No. You may only serve as a lead applicant on one project, however, you may participate as a collaborator on other projects serving different constituents that are submitted by a different lead applicant.

Q: What do you mean by visual art project?

A: While we take an expansive view toward the visual arts, the project must have visual arts as a strong component. We welcome film, performance, dance, music, and education as part of that expansive definition, but a project's relationship to the visual arts or a project's visual impact must be explained.

Q: How do we as a group of collaborators navigate the application process?

A: We encourage projects led by collectives or those that involve a group working together. If this is how your project is organized, please choose one person to serve as the lead organizer. The lead organizer must play a key role in the creation and execution of the project. This will be the main contact person responsible for receiving grant funds and who is financially responsible for associated taxes, communicating with MOCA Tucson, and submitting a final report.

Q: Can I work with other collaborators based outside of Pima County?

A: Yes. The lead applicant must be based in Pima County, and the funded project must be realized in Pima County, but you may work with collaborators based elsewhere.

Q: At what stage of development is a project eligible for an award?

A: We accept projects that are in the early stages of development, or currently in progress. Late-stage or already finished projects that are seeking reimbursement are not eligible.

Q: Can I submit my application in Spanish?

A: Yes! Si!

Q: Can my submitted project be presented at MOCA Tucson?

A: No. Night Bloom funded projects may not be realized at MOCA Tucson. However, if your project is funded, we can provide support through advertising and other organizational resources.

Q: Is there an application fee?

A: No, there is no application fee to apply.

Q: Do I have to be a U.S. citizen to apply?

No, but the lead organizer must have a social security number in order to receive payment of the award. Additional collaborators and/or participants do not need to be U.S. citizens or have social security numbers.

Have more questions?

Contact us: nightbloom@moca-tucson.org

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About MOCA Tucson:

Established by artists in 1997, MOCA is Tucson’s only museum devoted exclusively to contemporary art from around the globe. Housed in a repurposed firehouse in Downtown Tucson, MOCA Tucson applies creative solutions to the problems of today and tomorrow through the vehicle of contemporary art. We create programming that is ambitious, innovative, and that is responsive to the wants and needs of our community. A pioneering museum of its kind in the community, MOCA Tucson currently hosts rotating exhibitions by locally, nationally, and internationally renowned contemporary artists—critical exhibitions that spur dialogue and that foster empathy between artists and audiences. Our bold programming is highly engaging for diverse audiences and creates a welcoming, inviting space for visitors to learn more about the changing world we live in. MOCA Tucson is an important incubator and connector for contemporary art across the Southwest region and beyond.

About The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts’ Regional Regranting Program

The Regional Regranting Program was established in 2007 to recognize and support the movement of independently organized, public-facing, artist-centered activity that animates local and regional art scenes but that lies beyond the reach of traditional funding sources. The program is administered by non-profit visual art centers across the United States that work in partnership with the Foundation to fund artists’ experimental projects and collaborative undertakings.

The 36 regranting programs provide grants for the creation and presentation of new work. Programs are developed and facilitated by organizations in Alabama, Albuquerque, Atlanta, Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, Denver, Detroit, Houston, Indianapolis, Kansas City, Los Angeles, Miami, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Knoxville, New Orleans, Newark, Oklahoma, Omaha, Philadelphia, Tucson (AZ), Portland (OR), Portland (ME), Providence, Raleigh & Greensboro (NC), Saint Louis, San Francisco, San Juan, PR, Seattle, and Washington D.C.