

ARTS WRITERS GRANT PROGRAM

CALENDAR

April 26, 2010

Grant application open for submission

June 7, 2010 (5:00 pm EST)

Deadline for completed grant applications
(Transmittal times will be recorded)

September 16, 2010

Notification of applications advancing to final review

December 1, 2010

Announcement of grants

Guidelines

The Creative Capital | Warhol Foundation Arts Writers Grant Program supports writers whose work addresses contemporary visual art through grants issued directly to individual authors. The first program of its kind, it was founded in recognition of both the financially precarious situation of arts writers and their indispensable contribution to a vital artistic culture.

The Arts Writers Grant Program issues awards for articles, blogs, books, new and alternative media, and short-form writing. It aims to support the broad spectrum of writing on contemporary visual art, from general-audience criticism to academic scholarship.

Through all its grants, regardless of topic or category type, the Arts Writers Grant Program

strives to honor and encourage writing about art

- that is rigorous, passionate, eloquent, and precise;
- in which a keen engagement with the present is infused with an appreciation of the historical;
- that is neither afraid to take a stand nor content to deliver authoritative pronouncements, but serves rather to pose questions and to generate new possibilities for thinking about, seeing, and making art;
- that is sensitive to both the importance and difficulty of situating aesthetic objects within their broader social and political contexts;
- that does not dilute or sidestep complex ideas but renders accessible their meaning and value;
- that creatively challenges the limits of existing conventions without valorizing novelty as an end in itself.

The Creative Capital | Warhol Foundation Arts Writers Grant is spearheaded by The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts as part of its broader Arts Writing Initiative and is administered by the Creative Capital Foundation.

What is The Andy Warhol Foundation Arts Writing Initiative?

The Andy Warhol Foundation Arts Writing Initiative supports independent, progressive, nonprofit arts publications and individual arts writers. The result of extensive research conducted by the Warhol Foundation into

the current needs and challenges facing arts writing, the initiative amplifies the foundation's longstanding support of critical writing about the arts by focusing attention on arts writing as an essential component of a thriving visual culture.

The Andy Warhol Foundation Arts Writing Initiative takes a two-pronged approach to this task: it seeks to improve the viability of a select group of invited independent arts publications through capacity-building grants administered directly by the Warhol Foundation and to sustain the work of individual arts writers through project-based grants awarded under the auspices of the Creative Capital | Warhol Foundation Arts Writers Grant Program.

What is the Creative Capital Foundation?

The Creative Capital Foundation is a national nonprofit organization that supports artists pursuing innovative approaches to form and content in the performing and visual arts, film/video, emerging fields, and innovative literature. Creative Capital is committed to working in partnership with the artists it funds, making a multi-year commitment and providing advisory services and professional development assistance along with financial support.

How does the Creative Capital | Warhol Foundation Arts Writers Grant Program find the work it supports?

Projects are solicited through an open call for inquiries.

2010 - Guidelines

ELIGIBILITY

Who is eligible to apply?

We have an open-submission application process; all writers who meet the eligibility requirements of the program are free to apply.

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

- an individual;
- an art historian, artist, critic, curator, journalist, or practitioner in an outside field who is strongly engaged with the contemporary visual arts;
- a U.S. citizen, permanent resident of the United States, or possessor of an O-1 visa;
- at least twenty-five years old;
- a published author (specific publication requirements vary depending on grant category; see the "project types" section of these guidelines). Please note that work published in college newspapers and undergraduate student-run publications will not be considered toward this requirement.

An arts writer is NOT eligible for this grant if he or she is

- applying on behalf of an organization;
- applying for a project in which his/her 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 his or her own work;
- an artist whose proposed project does NOT directly address contemporary visual art (in other words, a piece of writing by an artist does not automatically qualify as "arts writing" in this context);
- applying to write a series of articles;
- applying to conduct 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 current employee, consultant, board member, or funder of Creative Capital or the Warhol Foundation, or an immediate family member of such a person.

How many awards does the Arts Writers Grant Program make and in what amounts?

The program supports approximately twenty to twenty-five projects each year.

Grant amounts range from \$3,000 to \$50,000, depending on the scope and complexity of the project.

PROJECT TYPES

What types of projects does the Creative Capital | Warhol Foundation Arts Writers Grant Program support?

The program funds projects in the following five areas:

- Articles
- Blogs
- Books
- New and Alternative Media
- Short-Form Writing

All projects must be in English. Texts being submitted to academic institutions to fulfill degree requirements will not be accepted.

Projects involving collaboration between two writers or between a writer and a practitioner in another field are eligible for consideration (except in the short-form writing category, which does not accept collaborations). Only one application per collaboration will be accepted: collaborators must select one member to be the primary contact.

Articles - Articles may be published in print or online and may range from approximately ten to fifty manuscript pages. Eligible article types include essays, magazine features, and extended exhibition reviews. Catalogue essays will also be considered in this category as long as they are not for exhibitions held at commercial galleries. (However, please note that grant money may not be used for expenses typically borne by a museum, such as the design, production, printing, and distribution of catalogues.)

A confirmed publisher for a proposed article is not a prerequisite for application. Of particular interest in this category are texts that will meaningfully advance current aesthetic debates, that will afford in-depth consideration of a complex issue or body of work, and that will have a broad public impact, enabling a greater appreciation of contemporary art by non-specialists. Article grants typically range from \$7,000 to \$12,000,

depending on the scope and needs of the project.

Please note that there is no restriction against applying to write an article intended to lay the groundwork for a future book. If you receive funding for such an article, you will be eligible to apply in a subsequent round for a book grant that covers the same material in a more in-depth manner.

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

- one article of at least 2,000 words;
- two articles of at least 1,000 words each;
- seven exhibition reviews of at least 500 words each.

The length of the proposed article should be in keeping with the author's level of experience and demonstrated ability.

Blogs - The Arts Writers Grant Program supports the continuation of existing blogs and the creation of new blogs (including those proposed by first-time bloggers). The program distinguishes between blogs and new and alternative media projects. We understand a blog to be an open-ended, ongoing website that consists of regular entries of commentary, descriptions of events, and other material such as graphics or video, commonly displayed in reverse-chronological order. Typically, new and alternative media projects have a preset completion date and are not necessarily chronologically structured. They also may emphasize technological features not prevalent in blogs, such as live processing utilities, data visualizations, mobile and locative applications, or other advanced programming elements. Finally, new and alternative media projects need not utilize the Internet. (For example, an image/text CD project has been funded in this category.)

The program also distinguishes between blogs (websites operated and primarily written by individuals, working alone or in collaboration) and online magazines (websites operated by individuals or groups who function in an editorial capacity and who regularly commission texts by others). The latter are not eligible for program support. Blog grants are \$30,000 each.

Although we do not fund online magazines, writers may apply directly for texts to be published by online magazines under the article or short-form writing categories.

2010 - Guidelines

Eligibility Requirements: Blog applicants must either

- have been blogging on a regular basis for at least a six-month period; OR
- meet the requirements laid out for short-form writing applicants.

Books - The Arts Writers Grant Program supports books at all stages of their development, from preliminary writing/research on. To be funded, a book must promise to make a significant contribution to the field of contemporary art and to exemplify excellence in arts writing. Book grants typically range from \$20,000 to \$50,000, depending on the scope and needs of the project.

Applications will not be accepted for edited anthologies comprised of essays written by a number of different authors. In such cases, individual authors featured within a single volume may apply separately to the articles category.

Eligibility Requirements: Book grant applicants must

- have been writing professionally on the contemporary visual arts on a regular basis for at least three years; OR
- have previously published a book with a reputable publisher; OR
- have completed a PhD dissertation.

New and Alternative Media - This grant category is intended for projects that explore and/or make use of technology's ability to expand the definition and process of writing and reading texts on the contemporary visual arts. Of particular interest are projects that deploy the potential of new and alternative media in response to the increasingly complex and hybrid nature of current artistic practice, that target new or wider audiences, and that advance innovative approaches to conducting a public dialogue about art. The program distinguishes between new and alternative media projects and blogs. (For further clarification, see the blogs section of the guidelines.) New and alternative media grants typically range from \$10,000 to \$15,000, depending on the scope and needs of the project.

Please note that the intention to publish your project online does not automatically make it eligible for this category; we also accept applications for articles and short-form writing that will be posted on websites. As per above, new and alternative

media projects must in some way actively engage the properties and potential of their proposed medium.

Eligibility requirements: New and Alternative Media grant applicants must meet the requirements laid out for article applicants.

Short-Form Writing - This category is designed to support the ongoing practice of writers who regularly produce short texts of approximately 2,000 words or less that respond to current exhibitions, events, and issues in the visual arts (magazine and newspaper reviews, etc.). Because this grant supports an ongoing practice, the "project" for which writers apply is essentially the continuation of their work, as demonstrated in their writing samples. Short-form writing grants are \$30,000 each.

Eligibility Requirements: Short-form writing grant applicants must have published a minimum of ONE of the following:

- two pieces of arts writing of at least 1,000 words each;
- five pieces of arts writing of at least 500 words each;
- eight pieces of arts writing of at least 250 words each.

By when should a project be completed?

Ideally, projects should have a completion date of approximately six months to one year after the grant award date (longer if needed for book projects). By completion date, we are referring to the date the text is finished—not the date of publication.

Although completion dates will vary depending on the nature of the specific project, it is worth noting that various factors regarding timing may contribute to the success of an application. Projects slated for completion too soon after the announcement of awards (e.g., January 2011) do not allow for a high degree of engagement or assistance from the program, as funds cannot be retroactively applied to costs incurred prior to receiving the grant. Conversely, since the goal is to support the realization of new works of arts writing, projects slated for completion too long after the announcement of awards are also less appropriate for this program. Please note that the grant period for short-form writing and blog applicants is one year, beginning with the announcement of grants in December 2010.

REVIEW PROCESS

What is the application review process?

All proposals are evaluated based on

- their appropriateness for the Arts Writers Grant Program, given its mission and guidelines;
- the capabilities of the applicant to realize the project effectively;
- the feasibility of the project.

The review process has two steps:

Step One: Each application is reviewed by the program's director and one or more outside evaluators.

Step Two: Selected applications advance to a final panel round. (Panelists' recommendations receive final approval by the board of Creative Capital.)

Evaluators and panelists are chosen for their knowledge of and expertise in the fields of contemporary visual art and arts writing.