The Andy Warhol Foundation Arts Writers Grant

2024 GRANT CALENDAR

Apr 10:	Application opens
May 15:	Application closes 11:59pm ET
Oct 1:	Finalists notified
Dec 2:	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 three categories—articles, books, and short-form writing—these grants support projects addressing both general and specialized art audiences, from short reviews for magazines and newspapers to in-depth scholarly studies. 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.

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, 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 another 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, writer, or curator writing an interpretive essay on their own practice;
- applying for a project that is primarily fiction, poetry (including ekphrasis), 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;
- applying for a Creative Capital Award for any project in the same grant year (including as a collaborator);
- applying with the same project for which they have received a Creative Capital Award (including as a collaborator);
- 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.

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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. Do I need a confirmed publisher to apply?

No. You do not need a confirmed publisher to apply. However, the application includes a question about "potential publishers." Use this space to address what publishers or publications you imagine for your project. You may also use this space to write about more experimental strategies for publication or distribution.

3. What do you mean by "Publication History/Bibliography"?

Your answer to this question should include information about the art publications that make you eligible for a grant in your chosen category. You may also use this field to highlight publications that are relevant to your proposal. We recommend including publication dates and word counts where applicable.

4. How much does the writing in my application matter?

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.

5. How should I select my writing samples?

Writing samples should demonstrate your strength as a writer and should connect, where possible, to your project proposal. Recent writing samples are encouraged. You may submit an unpublished chapter or an excerpt of your manuscript as a writing sample. We do not recommend submitting interviews. Writing samples do not need to be previously published.

6. What is the difference between the Short-Form Writing and Article categories?

The Short-Form Writing category supports the ongoing practice of writers who regularly produce short texts that respond to current exhibitions, events, or issues in contemporary visual art. The Article Category supports projects focused on a single long-format article (including but not limited to magazine features, academic and peer-reviewed articles, or catalog essays for non-commercial institutions). If you want to write a series of articles, please apply in the Short-Form Writing category.

7. Are blog, Substack, or podcast projects eligible for a grant?

You may apply with a Short-Form Writing project that incorporates a blog or Substack. You may also apply with a podcast element, but your proposal must clarify how the podcast relates to your writing. Interview projects will not be considered.

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

You may only apply with a collaborator in the Book category. Only one application per collaboration will be accepted; collaborators must select one member to be the primary applicant and 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.

9. How can the grant money be used?

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

10. How long is the grant period?

The grant period is one year, beginning in January. Short-Form Writing applicants are expected to publish regularly during this year. For Article and Book applicants, completion dates may extend beyond the grant year, and will vary depending on the project.

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WRITING SAMPLE INSTRUCTIONS

Applicants may submit up to three writing samples. The total of all three writing samples combined should not exceed: Book: 15,000 words; Article: 10,000 words; Short-Form Writing: 5,000 words.

All samples must be in English.

Each writing sample must be submitted as a separate PDF. The maximum accepted file size for PDF documents is 10 MB each.

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 15,000 words. If you have co-authored texts with your collaborator, 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;
- Travel (airfare, car rental, ground transportation, lodging, meals, per diem);
- Living expenses including child-care;
- Image permissions and fees; reproduction and copying costs;
- Costs related to editing, transcription, or translation.

Grantees must pay taxes on the grant money they receive. 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

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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. A confirmed publisher for a proposed article is not a prerequisite to apply. 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

The total of all three writing samples combined should not exceed 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. Articles written for exhibition catalogues published by commercial galleries are ineligible.

Can I apply to write a series of articles?

No. In this category, we do not accept applications for a series of articles. If you want to write a series of articles, please apply in the Short-Form Writing category.

BOOK

The Book 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

The total of all three writing samples combined should not exceed 15,000 words.

Book FAQs

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. 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. Writers working on experimental or non-traditional arts writing are also invited to apply.

Can I include an unpublished chapter from my book project as a writing sample?

Yes. You may submit an unpublished chapter or an excerpt from your manuscript as a writing sample.

Can I apply for a book project to support an edited collection, such as an anthology or a multi-authored catalog?

No. The book grant does not support edited collections. Anthologies, essay collections, and

edited volumes with texts by multiple authors will not be considered.

Can I apply for a book grant to support a project that collects previously written material?

No. The Arts Writers Grant is intended to support new writing, therefore project proposals to collect previously written materials are not eligible for funding.

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

No. The goal of the program is to support writing during the grant period, so books slated for completion in the grant period are ineligible.

Do I have to include a Table of Contents to apply for a book grant?

Yes. The Table of Contents field is helpful for the evaluators to get a better sense of your book proposal. We recommend outlining your book project with a chapter breakdown, or, if your book follows a more experimental or non-traditional form, use this field to articulate how the book will be structured.

What do you mean by "writing professionally"?

By "writing professionally," we mean that you are writing for publications including but not limited to newspapers, magazines, catalogues, or books, in print or online. Social media posts do not count as professional writing.

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 in print or online (magazines, newspapers, blogs, or other independent publishing platforms). 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 within the last five years.

Writing samples submissions

The total of all three writing samples combined should not exceed 5,000 words. If all of your writing samples are less than 500 words each and you would like to submit more than three writing samples, please email questions@artswriters.org.

Short-form writing FAQs

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

Your application must be framed as a project. If you are applying to continue your current practice, present your project in terms of your interests (whether aesthetic, regional, political, theoretical, or some combination thereof). You may also choose to write a project description with a focus on a particular topic, or about the kind of writing you would like to develop.

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

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

How should I answer the questions about contextualizing my project?

In the field that asks that you to "contextualize this project in relation to existing writing on the subject," you may write about how your short-form writing (i.e. criticism, reviews, 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 writing," 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 your writing contributes to the discourse of contemporary visual art.

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APPLICATION QUESTIONS

* Required Field

Please note: The Slideroom portal will display character counts (including spaces) as you populate each field in the application. Use the word counts provided below to estimate the maximum length for each of your responses.

Note that writing samples submissions have word count limits that vary depending on the category.

CONTACT

- Contact Information*
- Professional Name
- Date of Birth*
- Citizenship*
- Gender
- Preferred Pronouns
- Ethnicity
- Student Status

RESUME

- Author Biography* (300 words)
- Your Publication History/Bibliography* (500 words)
- Education* (200 words)
- Employment (200 words)
- Miscellaneous (Please include dissertation information here if applicable.) (200 words)

PROJECT

- Which project type are you applying for?*
- Project Title *
- Project Description (Short)* (50 words)
- Project Description (Detailed)* (250 words)
- Table of Contents with Brief Chapter Summaries (books only) (600 words)
- Contextualize this project in relation to existing writing on the subject.* (250 words)
- Contextualize this project in relation to your own writing.* (250 words)
- Who are the artists central to your project? Describe your reasons for selecting these particular artists.* (250 words)

- Please give us a sense of where your project stands now. What writing do you plan to complete during the grant year (2025)?* (250 words)
- Potential Publisher(s)* (100 words)

WRITING SAMPLES

Applicants may submit up to three writing sample PDFs. The total of all three writing samples combined should not exceed: Book: 15,000 words; Article: 10,000 words; Short-Form Writing: 5,000 words.

PDFs
- Title*, Description* (100 words), Date*, Publisher (if applicable), Word Count*

COLLABORATOR(S) (if applicable)

- Contact information*, Date of Birth*, Gender, Ethnicity, Citizenship*
- Explain the collaborator's role in the proposed project.* (300 words)
- Collaborator Biography* (300 words)

GRANT FUNDS

- Please confirm that you have reviewed the Grant Funds information on page 3 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.)