



**RUBYS**  
ARTIST GRANTS

# FAQ

Hello artists!

The deadline to apply for a 2024 Rubys Artist Grant is **Tuesday, March 26, 2024 at 11:59pm**. To help speed along your application process, here are answers to some of the most frequently asked questions:

## 1. What artistic categories are open in this grant cycle?

In 2024, we reorganized the Rubys program schedule and this year ALL ARTISTIC CATEGORIES are represented in the grant cycle – Literary Arts, Media Arts, Performing Arts, and Visual Arts. Moving forward, there will be only one grant cycle per year, so this is the time to apply for a Ruby (there will not be another grant cycle in 2024)! Applicants may submit **just one** application across all categories, so apply in the appropriate category with the project you feel strongest about. If you are submitting an application with a collaborator, that is **THE ONLY** application you may submit.

\*\*\* This year, there is also an ALUMNI GRANT APPLICATION - if you've previously received a Rubys Grant as an individual you may only apply for the alumni grant. If you received one as part of a collaboration, you can apply as an individual in the regular Rubys grant application, but if you are applying as the same collaborative group, please apply to the alumni grant.

## 2. What is the grant timeline?

Approximately July 2024 through June 2025

## 3. Why is the application process different this year?

This past year, we undertook a program audit and redevelopment. As part of our reboot, we adopted the new application that is adapted from the Creative Capital Letter of Interest. After reaching out to granting and residency organizations at the national level, we have seen a trend toward brevity and concise program narratives. Our new, two-round application asks artists to focus on the language of their projects, how the project is innovative for their practice, their audience, and why it is the right moment for their project. This will ultimately provide the outline for the larger project statement, timeline and budget for those artists that move on to the second round.

\*\*\*Additionally, alumni of the Rubys Artist Grants cannot apply in the regular Rubys application. They can instead apply only for the Rubys Alumni Award - only one will be awarded annually, and the funding amount is \$25,000. **Alumni awardees will be asked to serve as mentors in some capacity to the Rubys awardees in their same artistic discipline, via studio visits, critique conversations and an artist talk.**

## 8. How does the review process work?

Review of all applications happens in three phases.

Phase one: The jury panel reviews and individually scores all applications from round 1.

Phase two: The top **20%** scoring applications from phase one move on to phase two, and will be invited to submit the full application with budget, timeline, public components and work samples.

Phase three: The jury panel will discuss the top eight projects per category when they meet in person as a group to make final selections.

Note that the jury is required only to review what is presented in your application. Don't assume that they will click through to external websites or links. Focus on presenting your best self within the parameters of the application materials.

**4. For the public component requirement, do I have to have a venue/event space booked at the time of application?**

Absolutely not. We ask that you simply provide some ideas of what your public component would be should you get the grant (i.e. What venues would you contact to host your event? What would your ideal type of space be?).

**5. Will I have a stronger application if my project (a) includes an art education component (b) is related to social justice or (c) is directly connected to Baltimore?**

No. If any of these items are inherent and authentic to your art practice – great! However, the Rubys supports artistic projects of any content, background, or theme. Being authentic to your art practice makes for the strongest application.

That said, it is beneficial to include a sentence or two to define your place as an artist in the region. We have found that strong applications are those that talk about what role will their project have in the greater community (or in your artistic field) and those that demonstrate the quality of the connection between the artist and the topic/subject matter.

**6. Will the program manager read my application draft prior to submitting?**

No. However, you are welcome to phone or email the program manager and art program coordinator to discuss your ideas and questions during the application period. Then, after all applicants are notified, you may set up a feedback appointment with the program manager and/or art program coordinator to discuss your application.

**7. Where can I find examples of a budget, timeline, and work sample inventory list?**

Examples may be downloaded from the Apply to Rubys page of the Robert W. Deutsch Foundation webpage <https://www.rwdfoundation.org/apply-for-the-rubys> under "Round 2 Resources"

**8. Where can I find who has received a grant in past?**

Go to <http://rwdfoundation.org/past-rubys-grantees> to research who has received a grant in past years. Also listed are the names of previous jury panels.

**9. On what criteria is the jury panel basing their scores?**

Projects are assessed on:

- Creative vision and artistic integrity
- Artistic capacity and feasibility of the project, including likelihood that the project can be realized, based on the project budget and the proposed timeline
- Artistic merit of the work represented in the work samples

To a lesser degree, other factors that influence a jury's score include:

- A project that is stretching the applicant in artistic process, subject matter, or approach
- A project that is early in its lifespan and/or has significant creative work left to be done.
- A project that does not appear to be an unchanged continuation of the artist's current practice
- The artist's understanding of their place in the local art community, and/or understanding of how their project will be relevant to the local art community

**10. When will I know if I got a grant?**

All applicants will be notified of their status via email by April 30, 2024 for phase 1, and by June 15, 2024 for phase 2.

**12. When is the next grant cycle?**

The next grant cycle after this will open in February 2025.

**13. What if I have a question not answered here?**

Please attend a grant workshop, which goes over all application details and where you can talk to the program manager and arts program coordinator in person. Workshops are free and open to all. You may RSVP for a 2024 workshop at <https://www.rwdfoundation.org/rubys> when we list them!

If you are unable to attend a grant workshop, feel free to email or phone the foundation to discuss.

Alex Ebstein, Senior Program Manager  
Barbara Eucebio, Arts Program Coordinator  
rubys@rwdfoundation.org / Tel. 443-275-1144

GOOD LUCK!

**ROBERT W.**  
**DEUTSCH**  
**FOUNDATION** 2519 North Charles Street  
Baltimore, MD 21218  
<https://www.rwdfoundation.org/>