

Connecticut Arts Foundation

2026 Grant Application Rules

Discipline: Painting
Award Amount: \$75,000
Grant Period: June 1, 2026 – June 1, 2027
Application Deadline: May 1, 2026

About the Award

The Connecticut Arts Foundation (CAF) provides monetary support to Connecticut-based artists to advance their artistic practice and professional development.

The award recognizes artistic excellence, artistic merit, and feasibility, and is intended to support artists at various career stages. Funds are unrestricted and are intended to provide support for up to one year; inclusive of arts materials and studio space.

Eligibility Requirements

Applicants must:

1. Be 18 years of age or older as of January 1, 2026.
2. Be a full-time Connecticut resident for two (2) years prior to application
3. Be an individual artist (not applying on behalf of a collaboration or an organization)
4. Not be enrolled full-time in a degree-granting program during the grant period (if applicable)
5. Meet all additional eligibility requirements listed in the guidelines

We do not collect your W9 or Proof of Residency documentation at the time of application, but if you are a Finalist and recommended for a grant award, then we will collect these documents before we proceed with a grant contract. Applicants recommended for a grant will be required to submit Proof of Connecticut Residency for the previous 24 months, and must be able to fill out a W9 with your social security number and your CT address. Please be aware that grants are considered taxable income. Proof of Connecticut Residency documents include a CT issued driver's license or tax returns with a CT address. Additional residency documents may be accepted.

Artists

1.1 The competition is open to all artists from Connecticut. Artists must be aged 18 years or over as of 1 January 2026. Artists must be able to provide proof of Connecticut full-time residency for the past two years (tax returns, government i.d., etc.).

1.2 All submissions and payment of non-refundable entry fees must be completed by 10:00 pm on May 1, 2026.

1.3 The artist warrants that they are fully authorized and entitled to enter into the agreements contained in these rules, in respect of all rights in the work including ownership, copyright, moral rights, the rights of the people, names, trademarks, designs or works of art depicted in the works, and that no further permissions or conditions are required to deliver these agreements.

1.4 On receipt of the registration and entry fee, a confirmation email will be sent to the artist.

1.5 All correspondence with artists will be via email.

1.6 All entrants will be notified if their work has been selected for the second round of judging by May 15, 2026. If the artist is selected, they will be required to send additional biographical and residency proofs to the CAF by May 30, 2026.

1.7 There will be an exhibition of the works created by the artist, at the end of the grant period. The Foundation, in collaboration with the artist, will determine the venue(s) for the exhibit. The artist will be notified by March 1, 2027 as to the venue for the exhibition.

The winning artist will prepare for the exhibition of the works after the end of the grant period (approximately 1 year). The artist, as a condition of the grant, will be present at the opening reception of the exhibition(s). Works selected for exhibition cannot be removed before the

end of the exhibition. All exhibited works will be available for collection at the venue at the end of the exhibition.

1.8 The copyright for all works exhibited will remain the property of the artist, but it is a condition of entry that the artist or their representatives agree unconditionally that the CAF may reproduce any exhibited works, free of charge, for the purposes of marketing, promotion, merchandise, discussion and education in direct connection with the Award exhibition and tour, in all media worldwide including the exhibition catalogue and subsequent publications, posters, prints, postcards, the internet and within television documentaries, and may license these specific, limited rights to others only for the same purposes. The CAF also reserves the right to reproduce selected images free of charge for core noncommercial purposes. The processes of the competition may be filmed, and entering the competition constitutes agreement for a painting to be included in such filming, whether broadcast or not.

1.9 It is also a condition on entering the competition that the artist agrees that visitors to the Exhibition are permitted to take photographs without flash of their work for personal, non-commercial use during the run of the exhibition. The venue will install notices indicating that photography without flash is permitted provided it is for personal, non-commercial use but will not be liable if any images of the work, taken by visitors, are exploited commercially.

1.10 The responsibility for damage or loss (from point of delivery to the final collection of the work), however caused, is the responsibility of the artist. The sponsor, the carriers, the judging venue, the touring venues, any other subcontractor or the CAF shall not be liable for any loss or damage, whether or not caused by their negligence.

1.11 The CAF is committed to protecting your privacy. For information on how your personal data will be processed, please refer to the CAF's Privacy Notice.

1.12 Those not eligible for entry are: CAF Board members and staff, or their immediate relatives, the sponsor(s), or their agents.

1.13 The decision of the judges is final and no correspondence can be entered into. Artists should be aware that all works are judged on an equal and anonymous basis.

1.14 The CAF reserves the right to disqualify any piece of work if the artist has not adhered to the rules, even if the work has been selected for exhibition.

Paintings

2.1 The work entered must be predominantly painted in oil, tempera or acrylic and must be on a canvas stretcher or board. Multimedia is allowed as long as the work is primarily painting. No watercolors, pastels, or works on paper will be considered.

2.2 Multi part works (up to three parts) will be accepted and regarded as one work.

Digital Images of Work

3.1 Entrants will be required to register for a secure artist account on the CAF's entry platform Callforentry.org. Through this account, entrants will be able to submit their digital images, pay the application fee, and upload supporting materials.

3.2 Please note that all the judging is completed digitally. It is therefore important that the photographs uploaded by the artist are of a high quality. Each image must be saved as a JPG or JPEG and be between 3 - 10 MB each.

The Grant

4.1 \$75,000 is payable in monthly installments starting on or about June 1, 2026.

4.2 The artist will be required to report periodically to a member or staff of the Foundation as to progress, and to request assistance if needed.