

When is the application due?

The application is due on SlideRoom.com by Friday, February 15, 2019, 11:59 pm.

Will there be another Information Session?

Yes. It's on Wednesday, January 16, from 6:30 - 7:30pm at Build Coffee (6100 S Blackstone Ave, Chicago, IL 60637)

What if I'm unable to use the online platform to fill out the application?

This will be on a case-by-case basis. We strongly recommend that you contact us at least a week before the application deadline (Friday, February 15, 2019). Please contact Adia Sykes, SPARK Microgrants Manager, adia@chicagoartistscoalition.org

Does my art qualify for the microgrant program?

For the SPARK Microgrants Program, the visual arts qualify, including: painting, drawing, sculpture, mixed media, installation, printmaking, fiber arts, photography, works on paper, film/video, new media, web-based imagery, sound (less in the tradition of music), and performance (in the context of the visual arts, less in the tradition of dance composition/choreography)

Do I have to have been making art for a certain period of time in order to qualify?

There's no minimum length of time that you have had to be a practicing artist. However, your application should demonstrate that art is your primary vocation.

Can I apply if I live in a suburb of Chicago?

Unfortunately no. Only artists living in the City of Chicago may apply.

Do I need to prove my income or residence?

No. We won't be asking for your driver's license, state ID, or financial documents like tax returns.

Is there a minimum time that an applicant must live in Chicago?

No.

Why is gender non-conforming (GNC) not a category?

It is a category question for demographics but not for eligibility.

Can I apply if I'm still in school?

Yes, BUT you must be at least 21 years old and you must not be enrolled in a degree-granting program after June 2019.

Do I qualify as ALAANA?

Keeping in line with the definition used by Grantmakers in the Arts, ALAANA means people who identify as African, Latinx, Asian, Arab, Native American. Native American being native to the Americas and African encompassing the diaspora.

Do I qualify as “demonstrated need”? How do I prove that?

Keeping in line with the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, the definition of monetary need is: individual income less than \$44,450/year, or family income less than \$63,200/year (from HUD)

We don't ask for tax returns or bank statements.

Do I have to tell you my disability?

Absolutely not. On the application you will only self-identify as having a disability. This grant awards money to the full spectrum of individuals who fall under this category with both visible and invisible disabilities.

Do I qualify if I went to college/graduate school but did not study art? Do I qualify if I received a degree in Arts Administration/Art History/Arts Journalism/Theory but did not receive a studio arts degree?

We're handling this question on a case-by-case basis given these nuances. However, the spirit of this category is to provide resources to artists who have not had the opportunity to navigate the inroads that higher education provides. Again, these artists have an established art practice and its their primary vocation, a body or work already created, and are working on putting together other art projects.

I don't have a website. Is that all right?

Of course it's all right. Not having a website (or having one that's under construction) will not negatively affect your application.

Is a budget needed to apply?

No.

Do you prefer a rsumé or curriculum vitae (CV)?

We accept whatever document you feel best demonstrates the trajectory of your art career and your commitment to being an arts professional (exhibition/project list, education, teaching artist positions, previous awards or grants, art community involvement, etc.).

Can we show images from different projects in our work samples?

Yes, we encourage you to show at least two different projects. These can be realized or in progress but should illustrate the breadth of your art practice.

Do I need professional photos of my work to use as work samples?

No. We will need photos or work samples from your arts practice, but we also understand that the cost of professional documentation can present itself as a hurdle for some. Minimally, the applicant should have photos of their own work, which can convey to the jury your aesthetic or conceptual choices.

Which criterion is most important on the application?

We cannot say for sure at this time. The application, as a whole, should give the jury a comprehensive understanding of your need and art practice.

How do other grants earned affect being considered for a SPARK microgrant?

The application will still be considered. We want get an idea of other funding streams gained to realize your goals.

Are there any exhibition opportunities for SPARK recipients?

No, not at this time.

What can I use these funds for?

As an unrestricted grant we encourage the use of these funds for both practical and creative endeavors. This award should alleviate a financial burden in anyway that the artist deems necessary at the time.

Does that grant cover technical support?

The grant is unrestricted so the artist may use it for technical support, creative or practical purposes, or funding a studio space, etc.

What is the value of FIELD/WORK events?

SPARK recipients are eligible to register in advance for up to four FIELD/WORK events during the year of their microgrant, which is a total value of \$80.

What happens after receiving a SPARK microgrant?

There will be an award ceremony at the Chicago Artists Coalition. CAC will be in touch with awardees afterwards with an evaluation to help us assess and grow the program.