2021 Transformation Award Guidelines (Stage 1)

The Leeway Transformation Award celebrates women and trans* artists and cultural producers living in Greater Philadelphia who create art for social change and have done so for the past five years or more, demonstrating a commitment to art for social change work. The Transformation Award is a $15,000 unrestricted award (it is not project-based) open to women and trans* people working in any art form.

2021 APPLICATION DEADLINES

The Leeway Transformation Award is a two-stage process; Stage 1 is open to all eligible applicants. A national peer review panel will evaluate applications and select applicants to invite to Stage 2.

• Stage 1: May 15       • Stage 2: By invitation only

This is not a postmark deadline; applications (electronic or hard-copy) must be received by the deadline. If the deadline falls on a weekend or holiday, the application must be received by 10:00am the following business day.

We do not accept applications sent by email or fax.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION

Hard-copy Applications

Drop off or mail applications to:

Leeway Foundation
The Philadelphia Building
1315 Walnut Street, Suite 832
Philadelphia, PA 19107

In response to public health recommendations to limit physical contact to reduce the spread of COVID-19, Leeway Foundation’s physical office is closed. Leeway staff are working remotely and are available. The fastest way to reach us is via email at info@leeway.org. We’re happy to schedule a phone or video call. Thanks for understanding.

Electronic Applications

Applications may be submitted online at leeway.org/LTA. If you do not receive an email confirmation within five minutes of sending your electronic application, it has not been successfully submitted.

LANGUAGE/ACCESS NEEDS

If you have language translation or access needs that make our application process inaccessible to you, please contact staff to talk about alternative ways to submit your application. Contact information is below.

LEEWAY’S OTHER GRANTMAKING PROGRAMS

In addition to the Transformation Award, Leeway offers the Art and Change Grant two times per year. These project-based grants of up to $2,500 are awarded to women and trans* artists in Greater Philadelphia. The 2021 Art and Change Grant deadlines are March 1 and August 1. The Window of Opportunity grant is open to past grantees only and offers up to $1,000 for immediate opportunities such as travel, performance, or exhibition. Applications are accepted on a monthly revolving basis.

CONTACT INFORMATION

PHONE: 215.545.4078       WEBSITE: leeway.org       TWITTER: @leewayfound
EMAIL: info@leeway.org       INSTAGRAM: @leewayfound       FACEBOOK: facebook.com/leewayfound

*Leeway is a trans-affirming organization committed to gender self-determination, and we use the term “trans” in its most inclusive sense, as an umbrella term encompassing transsexual, transgender, genderqueer, Two-Spirit people, and anyone whose gender identity or gender expression is nonconforming and/or different from their gender assigned at birth.
Art for Social Change: What We Mean

**ART FOR SOCIAL CHANGE**

Leeway supports artists and cultural producers involved in art for social change that positively affects and engages communities and audiences. Creating social change must be integral to the ideas, beliefs, and goals that are woven throughout your art and your process of creating and sharing your art.

**IMPACT OF ART WITH VISION**

Art for social change is art with a vision and an intentional analysis. It is an artistic or creative cultural practice that may operate in traditional or nontraditional mediums, modes, or disciplines. Art with a vision impacts people in many ways. It can:

- Raise consciousness
- Alter how we think about ourselves, our society, or our culture
- Create a vision of a more just world
- Be a tool or strategy for organizing and movement building
- Preserve or reclaim traditional cultural practices using your artistic practice as a form of resistance or empowerment
- Create space for expression and build a sense of community
- Challenge racism, classism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, misogyny, ageism, ableism, or other oppressions
- Question mainstream culture and beliefs
- Shift or transform the perception of power and/or privilege and the dynamics associated with justice, equality, and/or accountability
- Value healing justice practices focused on strengthening communities, not just individuals
- Engage and utilize a reciprocal process — where there is teaching and learning simultaneously and the consent for engagement is mutual, as is the benefit for yourself as an artist and the community you are engaging

**How to Apply**

The Transformation Award is open to individual artists and cultural producers creating art for social change in any medium, including traditional and nontraditional as well as multimedia and experimental forms.

**ELIGIBILITY**

- Art and Change Grant applicants may apply for the Leeway Transformation Award and/or the Window of Opportunity Grant in the same year.
- If you receive a Transformation Award, you may not apply for the Art and Change Grant for the next two years, and you may not apply for the Window of Opportunity grant or a residency during your award year.

You are eligible to apply if you:

- Have lived for the past two years or more in Bucks, Camden, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, or Philadelphia County
- Are at least 18 years old
- Identify as a woman and/or trans* person
- Have been creating art for social change for the past five years or more

You may not apply if you:

- Are a full-time student in an arts degree program
- Have previously received a Transformation Award
- Have not turned in all reports due from previous Leeway grants and residencies
AGE AND RESIDENCY DOCUMENTATION

All applicants must verify that they:

- Live in Bucks, Camden, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, or Philadelphia County
- Are at least 18 years old

Should you move forward to Stage 2 of this application process, you will be asked to provide proof of both your age and current residency. This documentation is confidential and will not be shared with anyone other than Leeway staff. You may mask any financial or sensitive information in these documents.

For proof of age, you will need to provide one of the following:

- Driver’s license, passport, birth certificate, non-driver’s identification card, voter registration card, or immigration registration card or papers

For proof of current residency, you will need to provide one of the following (which should match the address on your application):

- Utility bill, rental agreement, mortgage agreement or payment coupon, house deed, tax return, or other verification of residency (must be cleared by Leeway staff)

If you are unable to provide any of the above documents, call 215.545.4078 or email info@leeway.org to discuss the matter with Leeway staff.

IF YOU HAVE BEEN SUPPORTED BY LEEWAY IN THE PAST, PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

1. To be eligible you must turn in any outstanding reports for past grants, awards, or residencies. Your report should outline what you were able to accomplish with the grant, even if the project changed or you were not able to complete it. Electronic project report forms can be found at leeway.org/grantreport.

2. You may apply for and receive an Art and Change Grant and the Transformation Award in the same year.

COLLABORATION: APPLYING WITH OTHER ARTISTS

You may apply collaboratively with other artists for the Transformation Award. We understand that most projects are done in collaboration with others, so you are only required to submit an application with a collaborator if you are both playing the same roles as artistic directors or partners for the project. Applicants may only apply once per cycle, whether submitting as part of a collaborative or as an individual.

- Each co-applicant must meet Leeway’s basic eligibility requirements (see guidelines page 2).
- You must have worked with each other for the past five years or more creating art for social change.
- Indicate in the Artist Information section (application page 1) that your application is a collaboration and whether you are the main contact person.
- Each co-applicant must submit separate Artist Information and Experience sections (make sure to detail any collaborative experience you have together).
- Co-applicants must jointly submit one Description of Your Art for Social Change Work section. Make sure to describe the experience and work of the collaboration, not your individual practices.
- If submitting a hard-copy application, materials must be submitted in one envelope.
- If submitting an online application, collaborators (who are not the main contact person) should complete a co-applicant form.
- If you are selected for an award:
  - Each co-applicant must provide both age and residency documentation.
  - The award check will be issued to the collaboration’s main contact.
  - Please be aware that the main contact will hold tax liability for the award and must fill out a W-9 tax form, providing their legal name so that Leeway can send you a 1099 form for tax purposes (which Leeway is required to do by the IRS).
Award Review Process

PEER REVIEW PANEL

An independent peer review panel will evaluate applications. Keep in mind that members of the review panel may not be familiar with your particular artistic practice or cultural context, so describe them clearly.

Peer review panelists will evaluate applications based on the following criteria:

- Breadth and depth of your experience creating art for social change for five years or more
- Whether or not social change is an intentional part of your artistic practice
- Your relationship to the communities you work with
- Audience and/or community engagement

The review panel will look at the “Description of Your Art for Social Change Work” section (application pages 5-6) to get a sense of the following:

- Why you are doing this work
- Whether a clear vision and social change intent is an integral part of your practice
- How who you are and how you identify play a role as it relates to the audiences/communities you work with
- What role audience or community has in your work
- What the trajectory of your art for social change work has been over time
- What impact your work has on the greater Philadelphia region

AWARD PERIOD

The 2021 Leeway Transformation Award period is from January 2022 to December 2022.

AWARD PERIOD RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS

Applicants for the 2021 Transformation Award must have lived in Bucks, Camden, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, or Philadelphia County continuously since at least April 2019. Awardees must maintain residency in one of these six counties throughout the award period ending December 31, 2022.

STAGE 1 FINALIST STATUS NOTIFICATION

If you are selected as a Stage 1 finalist, a notification letter will be sent to you 8-10 weeks after the application deadline.

To keep our process transparent, every applicant receives feedback, based on the panel’s deliberations. This offers a view into the process and gives information applicants can use as they think about their work and future applications to Leeway or other funders. Applicants may opt out of receiving feedback.
Social Change Intent/Vision

We ask you to identify at least one but no more than three social change categories that best describe the intent or vision behind your practice. With each of these there are questions to consider as you prepare your application as part of that social change intent. There is no correct or incorrect way to choose; you should pick one that resonates with you as the core intent or vision of your work. You will have an opportunity to define further what that vision is for you in question 3 of the application.

Cultural preservation / restoration
What is the culture being preserved? What are the threats to that culture? What is at stake if it is lost? How might we conserve or reclaim traditional cultural practices by using an artistic practice as a form of resistance or empowerment?

Decarceration
What are the roots of mass incarceration? How do we imagine a world in which more prisons are not the first “solution”? How might we redefine justice?

Demilitarization
How can we reimagine “security” to not mean more guns and bigger tanks for police forces and armies? If war is not the answer, what is?

Disability justice
What would it look like to live in a world where all bodies are able to participate fully in the world? What does accessibility look like, not just in terms of technological aides but ways in which we are in community together?

Economic justice
What would an equal distribution of wealth look like? What are the historic and systemic roots of denying certain communities access to resources? How could economies exist outside of a framework focused on profit?

Environmental justice
What are the historic and systemic roots that have resulted in certain communities being most adversely affected by pollution and climate change? What would it look like to live in a world where all people, particularly those most affected, were involved in the development and implementation of environmental practices?

Feminism
What are the ways that systems marginalize people based on their gender? And what is the vision for how this could change through an artistic practice – not just your personal identity as an artist?

Immigrant justice
What are the root causes of migration? What does it mean to support immigrants and protect immigrants’ safety, promise of opportunity, and dignity?

Indigenous sovereignty
How do indigenous people survive and thrive in the context of genocide and displacement? How do communities build together to (re)claim land, cultural practices, power, and resources?

Land sovereignty / housing security
How do people survive and thrive in the midst of displacement from their homes from forces like gentrification, war, or violence? How do communities create ways to ensure housing security and connection to land amid these displacing forces?

LGBQA social movements
What are the historic and systemic roots of denying people access to resources based on their sexuality? How do LGBQA people survive and thrive?

Racial justice
How do we undo the results of a legacy of slavery, genocide, and segregation? How might we create equitable power and access?

Transgender justice / gender self-determination
How do we dismantle the concept of gender as a binary? How do trans* and gender-nonconforming people survive and thrive?
Artistic Disciplines

We ask you to choose the primary category, as well as a secondary category if needed, that best represents your artistic practice. This will allow us to group applicants by discipline for the purpose of evaluating our programs. The application provides an opportunity for you to talk more about the multidisciplinary or hybrid nature of your work, should you feel constrained by these categories.

Below is a list of categories and examples of disciplines. If your disciplines are not listed or you have questions about which category to choose, call the Leeway staff at 215.545.4078 or email info@leeway.org.

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<tr>
<th>CRAFTS AND TEXTILES</th>
<th>MEDIA ARTS</th>
<th>PERFORMANCE</th>
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<tr>
<td>Book art</td>
<td>Animation</td>
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<td>Costume design</td>
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<td>Crocheting</td>
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<td>Doll making</td>
<td>Interactive design</td>
<td>Musical theater</td>
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<td>Fashion design</td>
<td>Multimedia</td>
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<td>Furniture making</td>
<td>New media</td>
<td>Performance art</td>
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<td>Knitting</td>
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<td>Puppetry</td>
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<td>Theater</td>
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<td>Quilting</td>
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<td>Sex toys</td>
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<td>Weaving</td>
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<th>FOLK ARTS</th>
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<th>VISUAL ARTS</th>
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<td>Capoeira</td>
<td>Composition</td>
<td>Cartoon/comic illustration</td>
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<td>Culinary art</td>
<td>Deejaying</td>
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<td>Hair braiding</td>
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<td>Heritage gardening</td>
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<td>Traditional dance</td>
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<th>LITERARY ARTS</th>
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Examples of Previous Transformation Awardees

Refer to our website for examples of previous Leeway Transformation Award recipients. If you have trouble accessing the website, contact Leeway to request a list of examples of past awardees.
2021 Transformation Award Application (Stage 1)

Before you begin, review the Transformation Award Guidelines.

INSTRUCTIONS. Type or print neatly in blue or black ink. Do not write in cursive or all capital letters. Do not staple any page. All sections must be completed in order for this application to be considered for an award.

Artist Information

Artist name or preferred name (to be shared publicly if you receive an award)

Legal name (If different from your artist/preferred name)

This is the name associated with your Social Security number and/or bank account. It will not be shared or associated publicly with your artist/preferred name and will be kept confidential among Leeway staff.

To which name should correspondence be addressed? ☐ Artist/preferred name ☐ Legal name

CO-APPLICANT(S). List the names of any other artists with whom you are applying. Note that each applicant needs to complete their own Artist Information and Experience sections (pages 1-4).

Are you the main contact for this collaboration? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Email address

Twitter/Instagram handle

Age

Phone number(s)

Street address

City

State

Zip code

County (choose one):

☐ Bucks

☐ Delaware

☐ Camden

☐ Montgomery

☐ Chester

☐ Philadelphia

Neighborhood

How long have you lived at this address?

MONTH/YEAR to

MONTH/YEAR

List your previous residence if you have lived at your current address for less than two years.

Previous street address

City

State

Zip code

Previous neighborhood

County (choose one):

☐ Bucks

☐ Delaware

☐ Camden

☐ Montgomery

☐ Chester

☐ Philadelphia

How long did you live at this address?

MONTH/YEAR to

MONTH/YEAR
As a trans-affirming organization, we ask applicants to indicate their pronouns. Providing this information is optional. If you do not provide your pronouns, you will be referred to by your name in all Leeway materials.

I wish to be addressed as:

☐ She/her
☐ He/him
☐ They/them
☐

How did you hear about this award? (Check the appropriate box below and fill in a name for an organization if applicable.)

☐ Email
☐ Facebook
☐ Mailer/postcard
☐ Instagram
☐ Website
☐ Twitter
☐ Word of mouth
☐ Organization:
☐ Past recipient
☐ Other:
☐ Staff

AGE AND RESIDENCY DOCUMENTATION

Should you move forward to Stage 2 of this application process, you will be asked to provide proof of both your age and current residency by submitting one item from each of the following two checklists:

**Age**

☐ Driver’s license
☐ Passport
☐ Birth certificate
☐ Non-driver’s identification card
☐ Voter registration card
☐ Immigration registration card or papers

**Residency**

☐ Utility bill
☐ Rental agreement
☐ Mortgage agreement or payment coupon
☐ House deed
☐ Tax return
☐ Other verification of residency (must be cleared with Leeway staff)

If selected, will you be able to provide proof of both age and current residency?  

☐ Yes  ☐ No

Have you ever received funding from Leeway?  

☐ Yes  ☐ No

If yes, list all grants/awards/residencies and years:

If yes, have you turned in your final report(s)?  

☐ Yes  ☐ No

Have you attended an information or application support session this year?  

☐ Yes  ☐ No

If yes, where?

Do you want to receive feedback from panel deliberations with your notification letter? (Refer to guidelines page 4)

☐ Yes  ☐ No
Name: .................................................................

ARTISTIC DISCIPLINE OF YOUR WORK

Choose a discipline from the choices below that best represents the nature of your artistic practice. You may also select a secondary discipline if needed. The multidisciplinary category should only be used if multiple disciplines are integral to the work. If you select multidisciplinary, do not choose a secondary discipline. For more information and examples, refer to guidelines page 6.

Primary artistic discipline of your work:

☐ Crafts & textiles  ☐ Folk arts  ☐ Literary arts  ☐ Media arts  ☐ Music  ☐ Performance  ☐ Visual arts  ☐ Multidisciplinary

Secondary artistic discipline of your work (optional):

☐ Crafts & textiles  ☐ Folk arts  ☐ Literary arts  ☐ Media arts  ☐ Music  ☐ Performance  ☐ Visual arts

SOCIAL CHANGE INTENT/VISION OF YOUR WORK

Identify at least one but no more than three social change categories that best represent the nature of your work. Later in the application, you will explain how your artistic practice engages with and expresses the social change intent/vision categories you choose. For more information and questions for consideration, refer to guidelines page 5.

☐ Cultural preservation / restoration
☐ Decarceration
☐ Demilitarization
☐ Disability justice
☐ Economic justice
☐ Environmental justice
☐ Feminism
☐ Immigrant justice
☐ Indigenous sovereignty
☐ Land sovereignty/housing security
☐ LGBQA social movements
☐ Racial justice
☐ Transgender justice/gender self-determination

SHORT ARTIST BIO. Provide a brief bio highlighting your art for social change practice, 3-5 sentences maximum.

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Experience

Provide a brief description (1-2 sentences) and date(s) of 4-10 artistic, personal, political, professional, or social change-based experiences relevant to your art for social change work. Include experiences that reflect five or more years of an art for social change practice. This is not meant to read as a traditional resume and should reflect defining moments for you as an artist or cultural producer. The review panel values experiences that are often not included in traditional resumes and knows that these experiences can be defining moments for artists. These experiences are shared with the review panel but will never be shared publicly.

Use this side only or share your project-related experiences and highlighted experience on one side of a separate sheet of paper (8.5” x 11”, minimum .75” margins, 11-point font or larger). If using a separate sheet of paper, please make sure your name is on it.

Description of experience

1.

2.

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10.

Date(s) of experience

HIGHLIGHTED EXPERIENCE. Describe in more detail one of the experiences listed above. We recommend that your highlighted experience is the most compelling in terms of its relationship to your practice.

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Description of Your Art for Social Change Work

To answer the following six questions, you may use either this application form or two separate sheets of paper (8.5" x 11", minimum .75" margins, 11-point font or larger). Do not exceed two pages of typed text for the six questions. If using a separate sheet of paper, pages cannot be double-sided. Please make sure your name is on every page and that you number the questions. Answer all six questions thoroughly. **Do not include links to external websites in your answers.** Review the Transformation Award guidelines, particularly page 4, for more context on this section.

1. Describe your art for social change practice, giving a sense of what your artistic practice, discipline, or cultural content has been for at least the past five years. How has it evolved over time?

   *Remember: The review panel may not be familiar with your artistic practice or cultural context, so be sure to describe them clearly.*

2. Describe your art for social change work. Provide **specific examples** of work you have done in the past five years and prior to that, if applicable.

3. As part of this process you were asked to identify the social change intent of your artistic or cultural practice. Explain how your practice engages with and expresses this social change vision. How are this vision and intent expressed in your practice? Is it in the process of creating the work, in the finished product, or in how you share it, etc.? Provide at least one example.

   *Consider: How the art creates action – not just for a few individuals, but for communities and movements for systemic change.*
4. Define your community or communities. What factors (ability, education, geography, gender, race, religion, etc.) have led you to identify with or become a part of this community? How do these factors and this identity influence your work?

Consider: Who you are and how it affects your work.

5. Define the communities your art for social change practice engages. In what ways is the community involved in your work?

Consider: Who your work serves and how.

6. Describe the social change impact of your work — on the audiences who experience it and/or on the communities who engage with it. Describe its impact in Greater Philadelphia. How is this impact being measured (if applicable)?

Consider: How the community – and the region – are affected by your work.
Application Checklist

Please review the application and guidelines to make sure your application is complete. The review panel will not consider incomplete applications.

YOU ARE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY IF YOU:

- Have lived for the past two years or more in Bucks, Camden, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, or Philadelphia County
- Are at least 18 years old
- Identify as a woman and/or trans* person
- Have been creating art for social change for the past five years or more

ALL APPLICATIONS MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

- Pages 1-3: Artist Information
  - This includes verification that if progressing to Stage 2 of this application process, all applicants (including any co-applicants) can provide proof of both their age and current residency. For more information, refer to page 3 of the guidelines.
- Page 4: Experience
- Pages 5-6: Description of Your Art for Social Change Work
- Page 7: Application Checklist

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

- Incomplete applications will not be considered for funding.
- Do not staple your application.
- All pages must be one-sided.
- All application pages must include your preferred name at the top of the page.
- We recommend that you keep a copy of your application for your records.

CONFIRM AND SIGN. I certify that I have lived continuously in New Jersey’s Camden County or Pennsylvania’s Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, or Philadelphia County from April 2019 to the present. I am applying for the award with the intention that I will continue to be a resident of Greater Philadelphia throughout the award year, ending December 31, 2022. I have reviewed the application guidelines and checklist carefully to ensure that I and any co-applicants meet all eligibility criteria and that I have provided all information necessary for this application to be considered for funding. I authorize Leeway to use my preferred name and submitted materials for publicity purposes.

Signature  (legal name) Date

Name: ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………..