



leeway foundation

2019 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.

2019 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

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.

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 2019 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 \$1,500 for immediate opportunities such as travel, performance, or exhibition. Applications are accepted on a monthly revolving basis.

CONTACT INFORMATION

PHONE: 215.545.4078
EMAIL: info@leeway.org
WEBSITE: www.leeway.org
TWITTER: [@leewayfound](https://twitter.com/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 respectfully 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
- 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 a woman and/or trans* person
- Are at least 18 years old
- 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

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. **Note: You must submit documentation of both age and residency.**

For proof of age, include a clear photocopy of 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, include a clear photocopy of one of the following: utility bill, rental agreement, mortgage agreement or payment coupon, house deed, tax return, or other verification of residency. Residency documentation should match the address you listed on page 1 of the application and prove that you have met the residency requirements for the past two years or more.

Note: If submitting online, you can upload a digital scan or photo (.pdf or .jpg) of your age and residency documentation or you can mail it in or drop it off.

Recipients of the Leeway Transformation Award must fill out a W-9 tax form and provide their legal name.

If you are unable to provide any of the above documents or have concerns about submitting them, call the Leeway staff at 215.545.4078.

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 work changed or you were not able to complete it. Electronic grant report forms can be found at leeway.org/grantreport.
2. You may apply for and receive both an Art and Change Grant, a Window of Opportunity Grant, a residency, and the Transformation Award in the same year.

AWARD PERIOD

The 2019 Leeway Transformation Award period is from January 2020 to December 2020.

AWARD PERIOD RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS

Applicants for the 2019 Transformation Award must have lived in Bucks, Camden, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, or Philadelphia counties continuously since at least April 2017. **Awardees must maintain residency in one of these six counties throughout the award period ending December 31, 2020.**

COLLABORATION: APPLYING WITH OTHER ARTISTS

You may apply collaboratively with other artists for the Transformation Award.

- Each co-applicant must meet Leeway's basic eligibility requirements (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 work 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).
- Each co-applicant must provide age and residency documentation.
- 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.
- All hard-copy application materials must be submitted in one envelope.
- If you are selected for an award, the award check will be issued to the collaboration's main contact.

Award Review Process

PEER REVIEW PANEL

An independent peer review panel 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

STAGE 1 FINALIST STATUS NOTIFICATION

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

Applicants may contact the Leeway staff for review panel 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

What is the culture being preserved? What are the threats to that culture? What is at stake if it is lost?

Decarceration

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

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?

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?

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.

CRAFTS AND TEXTILES

Book art
Costume design
Crocheting
Doll making
Fashion design
Furniture making
Knitting
Puppetry
Quilting
Scenic design
Sex toys
Weaving

FOLK ARTS

Capoeira
Culinary art
Hair braiding
Heritage gardening
Storytelling
Traditional dance
Traditional music

LITERARY ARTS

Creative nonfiction
Creative writing
Playwriting
Poetry
Prose
Short stories

MEDIA ARTS

Animation
Audio
Film
Interactive design
Multimedia
New media
Podcast
Video
Web-based work

MUSIC

Composition
Deejaying
Hip-hop
Instrumental performance
Jazz
Opera
Producing
Rapping
Singing
Songwriting
Vocal performance

PERFORMANCE

Acting
Dance
Movement
Musical theater
Oral history
Performance art
Spoken word
Theater

VISUAL ARTS

Cartoon/comic illustration
Digital art
Drawing
Graphic design
Illustration
Installation
Mixed media
Murals
Painting
Photography
Printmaking
Screenprinting
Sculpture

MULTIDISCIPLINARY

Please be advised that this category is for artists for whom multiple disciplines are integral and necessary for the execution of the work.

If you choose multidisciplinary, do not choose a secondary discipline.

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.

Instructions

ARTIST INFORMATION SECTION (APPLICATION PAGES 1-3)

- Provide your artist name or preferred name. This name will be used in all publicity or public materials should you receive an award.
- Provide your legal name associated with your Social Security number or bank account; your legal name will not be shared publicly or with the review panel and will be kept confidential among the Leeway staff.
- Choose a discipline that best represents the nature of your work. 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.**
- Identify **at least one but no more than three** social change categories that best represent the nature of your work. In a later part of the application you will have to explain how your artistic practice engages with and expresses the social change vision and intent categories you choose.

EXPERIENCE SECTION (APPLICATION PAGE 4)

- You must include a minimum of four and no more than 10 experiences and the dates for each experience (dates may be approximate).
- Include experiences that reflect a consistent art for social change practice of at least five years.
- Experiences can be artistic, personal, political, or professional in nature. The review panel values experiences that are often not included in traditional resumes and knows that these experiences can be defining moments for an artist.
- Your highlighted experience should be the most compelling in terms of its relationship to your practice.

DESCRIPTION OF YOUR ART FOR SOCIAL CHANGE WORK (APPLICATION PAGES 5-6)

The review panel will look at this section 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 or 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

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.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST (APPLICATION PAGE 7)

Use this checklist to ensure that your application is complete. The review panel will not consider incomplete applications.