



# 2026 Art and Change Grant Guidelines

The Art and Change Grant provides \$5,000 grants to fund art for social change projects by women, trans\*, and/or gender nonconforming artists and cultural producers living in Greater Philadelphia.

## 2026 Application Deadline

Leeway does not fund retroactively, which means we do not fund any projects that begin prior to October 26, 2026, or the approximate date applicants will be notified of their grant status.

- August 3 at 11:59pm EST

## Application Submission

### HARDCOPY APPLICATIONS

Hardcopy applications should be **received by the deadline date**. We do not accept applications sent by email or fax. Drop off or mail applications to:

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

### ELECTRONIC APPLICATIONS

Beginning in 2026, all online applications will be collected through Submittable, which requires applicants to register with a free account. The application portal can be accessed at [leeway.org/ACG](https://leeway.org/ACG).

### LANGUAGE/ACCESS NEEDS

If you have language translation or access needs that make our application inaccessible to you, please contact staff. All applications received in a language other than English will be translated by into English for panel review by a human translator. We will never use AI to translate applications.

### APPLICANT SUPPORT

Throughout the year, Leeway staff will host several information and 1-on-1 applicant support sessions. For a list of upcoming sessions and to RSVP, visit: [luma.com/leewayfoundation](https://luma.com/leewayfoundation) or contact us.

## Leeway's Other Grantmaking Programs

In addition to the Art and Change Grant, Leeway offers other streams of funding. To find out more, visit: [leeway.org/grants](https://leeway.org/grants).

### CONTACT INFORMATION

PHONE: 215.649.4739  
EMAIL: [info@leeway.org](mailto:info@leeway.org)  
WEBSITE: [leeway.org](https://leeway.org)  
INSTAGRAM: [@leewayfound](https://www.instagram.com/leewayfound)  
FACEBOOK: [facebook.com/leewayfoundphl](https://www.facebook.com/leewayfoundphl)

*\*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

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, 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

## Social Change Intent/Vision

We ask that you identify **at least one but no more than three** social change categories that best describe the intent or vision behind your project. 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
- Decarceration
- Demilitarization
- Disability justice
- Economic justice
- Environmental justice
- Feminism
- Housing justice
- Immigrant justice
- Indigenous sovereignty
- LGBQA social movements
- Racial justice
- Transgender justice/gender self-determination

## How to Apply

The Art and Change Grant is open to individual artists and cultural producers working in any medium, including traditional and nontraditional as well as multimedia and experimental forms – and can be used for any project-related expenses (e.g., documentation, artist stipends, or the purchase of equipment or materials). The Art and Change Grant is intended to support an individual’s or collective’s artistic practice. In your application, it should be clear what your art and social change practice is and how this project engages that practice.

### ELIGIBILITY

- Applicants are only allowed to submit one application per grant cycle.
- The Art and Change Grant is not for organizations, corporations, or fundraising activities.
- The Art and Change Grant cannot be used for activities completed prior October 26, 2026.
- The Art and Change Grant is not intended to support the creation of residencies, apprenticeships, and/or retreats *unless* it is clear how it will (1) move the applicant’s own artistic practice forward and (2) engage the community-at-large with a socially engaged project.
- Art and Change Grants are not intended to fund the same project for which you received a prior Leeway Grant. However, you may apply for different phases of a previously funded project.
- You may apply for and receive an Art and Change Grant and either the Transformation Award or the Media Artist + Activist Residency in the same year.

You are eligible to apply if you:

- Live in Bucks, Camden, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, or Philadelphia County
- Are at least 18 years old
- Identify as a woman, trans, and/or gender nonconforming person

You may *not* apply if you:

- Are a *full-time* student in an arts degree program
- Have an active Art and Change Grant project
- Have received a 2025 Leeway Transformation Award
- Have received a 2025 Media Artist + Activist Residency
- Have outstanding reports due from previous Leeway grants and awards

### OPTIONAL LETTER OF SUPPORT

Leeway believes most art for social change work happens through relationships — working with others collaboratively, often in community. Starting in 2026, we are no longer requiring a Change Partner form, but we welcome applicants to include an optional Letter of Support if it feels relevant to your project.

A Letter of Support can come from a community member or leader, a previous collaborator, a project partner, or anyone who has a meaningful relationship with your art and social change practice. Supporters do not need to be in the Greater Philadelphia area.

You do not need to include a Letter of Support to be considered for this grant. Most applicants will not need one. Some examples of when one might be useful include:

- Your project engages a community you are not personally part of
- This project represents a new direction in your practice
- A community organization or individual wants to express their investment in supporting your project

You are welcome to use our template for supporters (at the end of the application) and/or upload a letter in your own format.

## 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 be awarded a grant, you will be asked to provide proof of both your age and current residency before receiving any funds.** 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, immigration registration 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 (cleared by Leeway staff)

If you are unable to provide any of the above documents, call 215.545.4078 or email [grants@leeway.org](mailto:grants@leeway.org) to discuss.

## COLLABORATION: APPLYING WITH OTHER ARTISTS

You may apply collaboratively with other artists for the Art and Change Grant. 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 playing similar leadership roles 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).
- Indicate in the Artist Information section if your project is a collaboration and whether you are the main contact.
- Each co-applicant must submit separate Artist Information and Experience sections (make sure to detail any collaborative experience you have together).
- Co-applicants must submit one joint form for: Project Description and Project Budget.
- If submitting a hardcopy, materials must be submitted together in one envelope.
- If submitting online, collaborators (who are not the main applicant) should complete a [Co-Applicant Form](#).
- If you are selected for a grant, each co-applicant must provide both age and residency documentation. Grant funds are usually awarded to the main applicant, who will submit a W-9 and hold tax liability for the grant.

## GRANT STATUS NOTIFICATION

Grant notification letters are mailed approximately 10 to 12 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. Applicants may opt out of receiving feedback — and can always request it at a later date. We offer feedback with the understanding that grantmaking is a reductive process, where there is never as much money as qualified applicants, so please consider if you are prepared to receive this feedback.

If you are awarded a grant, you must fill out a W-9 tax form and provide your legal name so that Leeway can send you a 1099 form for tax purposes. Leeway is required by the IRS to issue 1099 forms to grantees. Contact Leeway staff if this presents difficulties for you.

## GRANT REPORTING

- Please notify Leeway immediately of any major changes to your project.
- Within 60 days of completing your project, you must submit a final report that includes a brief description of your project's impact on you as an artist as well as on the community and/or audience.
- Report forms are linked via email and are available to be completed through your Submittable portal.

# Panel Review Criteria

## 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. They will consider:

### **Creative Vision & Social Impact of the Project**

- Is the proposed project clear, compelling, and relevant to the applicant's art for social change practice?
- How well does the applicant articulate/align the goals of the project with the social change intent that they selected?
- Did the applicant give a clear and compelling description of how they will impact a specific community or communities?
- Generally speaking, does this project embody Leeway's art for social change vision?

### **Community, Care, & Accountability**

- Did you get a clear sense of the applicant's relationship to the communities that they want to work with? And how those communities, or individual members of the communities, will be engaged and involved in this project?
- Is there a practice of collective/community care or accountability built into the project?

### **Feasibility & Urgency**

- Does the application build understanding around the feasibility of the work?
- Does the budget/scale of the project proposal seem realistic?
- Is the project urgent/relevant? (If the project isn't funded, what would be missed?)

## Artistic Disciplines

We ask you to choose a primary category, as well as a secondary category if needed, that best represents your project. 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 if you have questions about which category to choose, call the Leeway staff at 215.831.4886 or email [grants@leeway.org](mailto:grants@leeway.org).

### CRAFTS & 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 Art and Change Grantees

Refer to our website, [leeway.org/grantees](http://leeway.org/grantees), for examples of previous Leeway Art and Change grantees. If you have trouble accessing the website, contact Leeway to request a list of examples of past grantees.



# 2026 Art and Change Grant Application

Before you begin, please review the Art and Change Grant 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 a grant.

## Artist Information

Artist name or preferred name (to be shared publicly if you receive a grant)

Legal 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).

Street address

City

State

Zip code

Neighborhood

County (choose one)

Email address

Philadelphia

Bucks

Camden

Chester

Delaware

Montgomery

Phone number

Age

I wish to be addressed as:  She/her  He/him  They/them  \_\_\_\_\_

*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.*

How did you hear about this grant?

Email  Mailer/postcard  Website  Word of mouth  Friend  Past recipient  Staff  Social Media

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## AGE AND RESIDENCY DOCUMENTATION

If awarded a grant, all applicants (including any co-applicants) will be asked to provide proof of both age and current residency by submitting one item from each of the following two checklists:

- | <b>Age</b>   | <b>Residency</b>   |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Driver's license</li><li>• Passport</li><li>• Birth certificate</li><li>• Non-driver's identification card</li><li>• Voter registration card</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Utility bill</li><li>• Rental agreement</li><li>• Mortgage agreement or payment coupon</li><li>• House deed</li><li>• Tax return</li><li>• Other verification of residency (cleared by Leeway staff)</li></ul> |

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 any grants/awards/residencies & years: \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, have you turned in your final reports?  Yes  No

Have you attended an information or applicant support session this year?  Yes  No

If yes, where? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you want to receive feedback from panel deliberations with your notification letter?  Yes  No

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Project Information

Project start date (mm/dd/yyyy)

Project end date (mm/dd/yyyy)

Location(s) of project

*Note: you must provide tentative start and end dates for your project. Leeway does not fund retroactively which means your project start date should be after October 26, 2026.*

ARTISTIC DISCIPLINE OF THIS PROJECT. Choose a discipline from the choices below that best represents the nature of your project. You may also select a secondary discipline if needed. The ,ultidisciplinary category should only be used if multiple disciplines are integral to the work. **If you select multidisciplinary, do not choose a secondary discipline.**

Primary artistic discipline of this project:

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

Secondary artistic discipline of this project (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.

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural preservation/restoration | <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental justice  | <input type="checkbox"/> LGBTQA social movements                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Decarceration                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Feminism               | <input type="checkbox"/> Racial justice                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Demilitarization                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Housing justice        | <input type="checkbox"/> Transgender justice/gender self-determination |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disability justice                | <input type="checkbox"/> Immigrant justice      |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Economic justice                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous sovereignty |  |

SHORT DESCRIPTION OF YOUR PROJECT. Provide a brief description of your art for social change project. Make sure it provides a clear, concise summary of what you are proposing.

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Experience

Provide a brief description (1-2 sentences or 325 characters max) and dates of 4-10 artistic, personal, political, professional, or social change-based experiences relevant to this project. 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 not typically included on traditional resumes and knows that they 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 use 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

Year(s) of experience

1. _____ _____	_____
2. _____ _____	_____
3. _____ _____	_____
4. _____ _____	_____
5. _____ _____	_____
6. _____ _____	_____
7. _____ _____	_____
8. _____ _____	_____
9. _____ _____	_____
10. _____ _____	_____

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 the project you are proposing in the application.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_











Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Project Budget

Provide information about your project expenses below or detail this information on one side of a separate sheet of paper. Any element necessary to make your project happen (e.g. equipment, supplies, stipends, transportation) is considered a project expense. Make sure that everything listed in the budget is clearly connected to what you describe in the Project Description section.

Under project expenses, you may group expense items together (e.g. "painting supplies" as opposed to listing paint, brushes, easel, canvas, etc. as separate items).

Project expenses	Cost
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
	Total \$ _____

### Financial Need / Access to Financial Resources

If your total project expenses exceed \$5,000, what will this grant specifically fund – and what other funds or resources do you have to do this project? Please list the amounts and sources.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

If you are awarded this grant, would it be the first grant, fellowship, or award you have ever received?  Yes  No

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Optional Letter of Support

You may opt to provide a 1-page maximum Letter of Support from a community member/leader, previous collaborator, project partner, and/or someone who is familiar with your socially engaged art practice and can speak to why you are well-suited to lead this project.

Supporter Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to You/This Project: \_\_\_\_\_

## 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:

- Live in Bucks, Camden, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, or Philadelphia County
- Are at least 18 years old
- Identify as a woman, trans, and/or gender nonconforming person

### ALL APPLICATIONS MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

- Pages 1-3: Artist/Project Information
- Page 4: Experience
- Page 5-9: Project Description
- Page 10: Project Budget
- Page 11: Application Checklist and Verification

### PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

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

**CONFIRM AND SIGN.** I have reviewed the application guidelines and checklist carefully to ensure that I and any collaborators meet all eligibility criteria and that I have provided all information necessary for this application to be considered for funding. To the best of my knowledge, this application and the attached supporting materials are complete and accurate. I authorize Leeway to use my artist name and submitted materials for publicity purposes.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature (legal name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



# 2026 Letter of Support Form

This form is for supporters of an Art and Change Grant applicant. This template is provided for ease, however, if you'd prefer to write a letter in your own format, that is always welcome.

INSTRUCTIONS. Type or print neatly in blue or black ink. Do not write in cursive or all capital letters. Do not staple or write on the back of any page.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Art and Change Grant applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Your name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of organization or institution you are affiliated with (if applicable)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street address City State Zip code

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email address Phone number

1. What is your relationship to the project and the applicant?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Why do you believe this applicant is well-suited to do this project (i.e. based on relationships, skills, experience, etc.)?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Date