



OKLAHOMA • VISUAL
ARTS • COALITION

Tips for a successful application

Visual Artists: OVAC is one of the only organizations in the state of Oklahoma to provide granting possibilities for visual artists. Because of this, OVAC grants are strictly meant to support the work and practice of visual artists and not artists practicing firmly in other disciplines like theatrical dance, theatre, music, and industry/film production. Be sure you qualify for OVAC funding before spending hours on an ineligible proposal.

READ IT ALL: All too often, applicants rush through the process and miss important details, for instance, eligibility requirements, upload requirements, the fine print for application questions, and even direct questions. All of this can be avoided if you thoroughly read through all the information provided to you about the grant. Read, write, and then read again to be sure you actually answered the question and made a good case for why you deserve funding.

Proof Read: Make sure to proofread your application materials before submitting them! Even if you have revisited your application multiple times, fresh eyes will see typos/errors that you may have missed! It's always a good idea to get second and third opinions.

Eligibility: Information regarding eligibility should be posted in various spots throughout your application process. It is smart to consider these requirements very carefully. If you rush to submit, you could potentially waste valuable time applying for a grant you are not permitted to receive or your proposal could appear unprofessional.

Mission Statements: Well-established organizations have well-defined core values and a refined mission statement. Be sure to do your research on the grant funder; aligning your proposal language with the grant funder's values will boost your chances of receiving funding. You must consider the purpose of the grant funding, most of the time, the organization has to meet specific requirements as well; if you help them achieve their overarching goals, you will be considered a priority to fund.

Research Costs/Logistics: Applications that show the applicant has done their research and has thought through the logistics of the project are more likely to be successful. Practice as if you were funded and began the research on the cost of your materials; this is what committee members typically look for. If your budget and timeline seem rushed or vague, this can definitely count against you.

Communicate Clearly: Explain your proposal clearly and concisely. Demonstrate how the grant will benefit your practice and support your vision. The language you use should be universal and easy for people from various backgrounds to understand. You cannot always guarantee that the committee members understand your world, you have to build it for people who most-likely don't know you.

Be Persistent: Even if you are not awarded a grant, don't give up! Ask for help in crafting a more effective application for the next session. OVAC is one of the few organizations that will give applicants insight into why they were not selected. This is a free resource that is only available if you utilize it and reach out to us.

Read Examples of Successful Grant Applications: You can find examples of simple grant application on our Grants for Artists resource page.

Stay Organized: Make a checklist of all the documents that need to be submitted, tasks that need to be completed, and due dates for completing each task. When submitting your documents, double-check that you have fulfilled all requirements of the application.

Relevant Work Samples: It is important that reviewers can clearly see a connection between your work samples and your proposed project. Spend some time selecting work that clearly connects with your proposal.

Write with the Reviewer in Mind: It is important to write your application with the reviewer in mind and make their job of understanding and scoring your application as easy as possible. Assume that the reviewer knows nothing about your community or organization, they need your address, what you do, or how you do it. Almost exclusively, the reviewer only uses the documents submitted in your application to evaluate your proposal. Therefore, if you want them to know something, you have to clearly write it out and explain it. Also, reduce and/or eliminate jargon in your writing. It is easy to fall into the habit of using terminology and acronyms that make sense in your world, but most grant reviewers do not live in your world, so explain unique terms and concepts and spell out all acronyms the first time they are used.

source: <https://www.nonprofitpro.com/article/be-a-standout-10-tips-for-writing-grant-proposals-that-get-funded/>