

## Career Development Grant

### Panelist Scoring Framework & How-to-Score Guide

#### Total Score: 100 points

Career Development Grants support artists who are **building or advancing their careers through intentional, achievable activities**. Panelists evaluate applications based on **Artistic Merit** and **Artistic Excellence**, considering the artist's **career stage, readiness, and potential for growth**.

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#### CATEGORY 1: ARTISTIC MERIT — 50 points

##### (Purpose, Planning, and Career Advancement)

Artistic Merit focuses on **what the artist proposes to do and why it matters now**.

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#### 1. Artistic Purpose & Career Alignment — 20 points

##### What this measures

How clearly the artist understands their current career stage and identifies a meaningful next step.

##### Sources in Application

- Artist Bio
- Artist Statement
- Artist Career Development narrative
- Record of Work

##### Look for

- Clear artistic identity and goals
- A proposal that fits where the artist is now
- Strong connection between the artist's practice and proposed activities

##### How to Score

- **18–20 (Excellent):**  
The artist clearly articulates their career stage and a well-defined next step. The proposal strongly aligns with their artistic practice and feels timely and intentional.
- **14–17 (Strong):**  
Goals are mostly clear and appropriate, though connections could be more fully articulated.
- **10–13 (Adequate):**  
General goals are stated, but alignment between career stage and proposal is weak or vague.

- **0–9 (Weak):**

Artistic purpose or career alignment is unclear or disconnected from the proposal.

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## **2. Quality & Feasibility of the Plan — 15 points**

### **What this measures**

Whether the proposed activities are **specific, realistic, and achievable** within the grant period.

### **Sources in Application**

- Artist Career Development narrative
- Budget (for scope and reasonableness, not accounting accuracy)
- Record of Work

### **Look for**

- Clearly described goals or activities
- Evidence the artist can carry out the plan
- Scope appropriate to time, experience, and funding level

### **How to Score**

- **14–15 (Excellent):**  
The plan is clear, focused, and realistic. Activities are well matched to the artist’s experience.
  - **11–13 (Strong):**  
The plan is feasible, with minor gaps in clarity or detail.
  - **7–10 (Adequate):**  
The plan is loosely defined or overly ambitious; feasibility is uncertain.
  - **0–6 (Weak):**  
The proposal lacks clarity or appears unrealistic.
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## **3. Potential Impact on Artistic Growth — 15 points**

### **What this measures**

How effectively the grant will support **artistic development or career advancement**.

### **Sources in Application**

- Artist Career Development narrative
- Why Your Art Matters
- Artist Statement

### Look for

- Clear explanation of how the opportunity will advance the artist's work
- Connection between activities and growth (skills, visibility, creative depth)
- Thoughtful reflection on why this matters now

### How to Score

- **14–15 (Excellent):**  
The artist convincingly explains how the grant will lead to meaningful growth.
  - **11–13 (Strong):**  
Growth potential is evident, though not fully articulated.
  - **7–10 (Adequate):**  
Growth is mentioned but described in general or vague terms.
  - **0–6 (Weak):**  
Little evidence that the grant will meaningfully advance the artist.
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## CATEGORY 2: ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE — 50 points

### (Quality, Skill, and Creative Capacity)

Artistic Excellence focuses on **the quality of the artist's work and readiness to benefit from career development support.**

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### 4. Quality of Work & Artistic Skill — 25 points

#### What this measures

The strength of the artist's work samples relative to their career stage.

#### Sources in Application

- Work Samples ("Share My Work")
- Your Artistic Process and Skills
- Record of Work

### Look for

- Technical skill and craftsmanship
- Artistic voice or clarity of vision
- Strong presentation and selection of work samples

### How to Score

- **23–25 (Excellent):**  
Work samples demonstrate high quality, strong skill, and a compelling artistic voice.
  - **18–22 (Strong):**  
Work is consistently solid with clear strengths.
  - **13–17 (Adequate):**  
Competent work with uneven quality or limited distinction.
  - **0–12 (Weak):**  
Work samples show limited skill or coherence.
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## **5. Artistic Process & Creative Development — 15 points**

### **What this measures**

How thoughtfully the artist approaches their work and creative growth.

### **Sources in Application**

- Your Artistic Process and Skills
- Artist Statement
- Artist Career Development narrative

### **Look for**

- Clear description of artistic process
- Willingness to learn, experiment, or develop new skills
- Consistency between process description and work samples

### **How to Score**

- **14–15 (Excellent):**  
The artist clearly articulates their process and demonstrates intentional growth.
  - **11–13 (Strong):**  
Process is clear, with some evidence of development.
  - **7–10 (Adequate):**  
Process is described at a basic level with limited insight.
  - **0–6 (Weak):**  
Process is unclear or not addressed.
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## **6. Professional Record & Commitment — 10 points**

## What this measures

The artist's level of engagement and commitment to their practice.

## Sources in Application

- Record of Work
- Artist Bio
- Artist Career Development narrative

## Look for

- Record of exhibitions, performances, training, or related experience
- Evidence of sustained artistic activity
- Experience appropriate to the proposed activities

## How to Score

- **9–10 (Excellent):**  
Strong record demonstrating commitment and readiness for growth.
- **7–8 (Strong):**  
Solid engagement with a developing professional record.
- **4–6 (Adequate):**  
Limited or early-stage record.
- **0–3 (Weak):**  
Minimal evidence of artistic commitment.

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## Final Panelist Reminder

When reviewing Career Development applications, focus on:

### Clarity of intent, readiness to act, and realistic potential for growth.

- Score **relative to career stage**, not across disciplines.
- Strong writing does not substitute for feasibility or artistic quality.
- Work samples and narratives should reinforce each other.