

Artist Collaboration Grant

Panelist Scoring Framework & How-to-Score Guide

Total Score: 100 points

Artist Collaboration Grants support **two or more artists working together** to create new work, deepen artistic practice, or explore ideas that could not be realized alone. Panelists evaluate applications based on **Artistic Merit** and **Artistic Excellence**, with particular attention to **the quality of the collaboration and the artistic strength of the partners involved**.

CATEGORY 1: ARTISTIC MERIT — 50 points

(Collaboration Design, Planning, and Shared Impact)

Artistic Merit focuses on **how and why the artists are working together**, and whether the collaboration is intentional, well-conceived, and meaningful.

1. Strength of the Collaboration & Shared Purpose — 20 points

What this measures

How clearly the artists articulate **why they are collaborating** and what they aim to achieve together.

Sources in Application

- Artist Collaboration narrative
- Artist Statements (all collaborating artists)
- Artist Bios (all collaborating artists)

Look for

- Clear explanation of why these artists are collaborating now
- Shared or complementary artistic goals
- A collaboration that feels purposeful, not incidental

How to Score

- **18–20 (Excellent):**

The collaboration has a clear, compelling purpose. Roles and goals are well aligned, and the partnership feels intentional and mutually beneficial.

- **14–17 (Strong):**

The collaboration is clearly described, though the shared purpose could be more fully articulated.

- **10–13 (Adequate):**

Collaboration is described, but the rationale or shared vision is vague.

- **0–9 (Weak):**

The collaboration feels unclear, unnecessary, or poorly defined.

2. Quality & Feasibility of the Collaborative Plan — 15 points

What this measures

Whether the proposed collaborative activities are **clear, realistic, and achievable**.

Sources in Application

- Artist Collaboration narrative
- Budget (for scope and reasonableness, not accounting accuracy)
- Records of Work (all collaborating artists)

Look for

- Clear description of activities and roles
- Evidence that collaborators can work effectively together
- Scope appropriate to time, experience, and funding level

How to Score

- **14–15 (Excellent):**

The collaborative plan is clear, realistic, and well matched to the artists' experience.

- **11–13 (Strong):**

The plan is feasible, with minor gaps in clarity or coordination.

- **7–10 (Adequate):**

The plan lacks detail or appears overly ambitious; feasibility is uncertain.

- **0–6 (Weak):**

The plan is unclear or unrealistic.

3. Potential Impact of the Collaboration — 15 points

What this measures

The extent to which the collaboration will **strengthen individual or collective artistic practice** and contribute to the arts community.

Sources in Application

- Artist Collaboration narrative
- Why Your Art Matters

- Artist Statements

Look for

- Clear explanation of how the collaboration advances the artists' work
- Potential artistic, professional, or community impact
- Thoughtful reflection on what collaboration enables that solo work cannot

How to Score

- **14–15 (Excellent):**

The collaboration demonstrates strong potential for meaningful artistic or community impact.

- **11–13 (Strong):**

Impact is evident but not fully articulated.

- **7–10 (Adequate):**

Impact is mentioned but described in general terms.

- **0–6 (Weak):**

Limited evidence of meaningful impact.

CATEGORY 2: ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE — 50 points

(Quality, Skill, and Collective Creative Capacity)

Artistic Excellence focuses on **the quality of the artists' work and the strength of their combined creative abilities.**

4. Quality of Work & Artistic Skill (All Artists) — 25 points

What this measures

The strength of work samples submitted by all collaborating artists, relative to their career stages.

Sources in Application

- Work Samples (“Share My Work”)
- Your Artistic Process and Skills
- Records of Work (all artists)

Look for

- High-quality work samples across collaborators
- Artistic skill, craftsmanship, and creative voice
- Relevance of work samples to the proposed collaboration

How to Score

- **23–25 (Excellent):**

Work samples demonstrate strong artistic quality and complementary strengths.

- **18–22 (Strong):**

Work is consistently solid across collaborators.

- **13–17 (Adequate):**

Work quality is uneven or limited in distinction.

- **0–12 (Weak):**

Work samples show limited skill or coherence.

5. Artistic Process & Collaborative Practice — 15 points

What this measures

How thoughtfully the artists describe their **individual and shared creative processes**.

Sources in Application

- Your Artistic Process and Skills
- Artist Collaboration narrative
- Artist Statements

Look for

- Clear understanding of how the artists will work together
- Compatibility or complementarity of processes
- Evidence of openness to experimentation and shared learning

How to Score

- **14–15 (Excellent):**

Collaborative process is clearly articulated and supports strong creative outcomes.

- **11–13 (Strong):**

Processes are described, though integration could be clearer.

- **7–10 (Adequate):**

Processes are described generally with limited insight into collaboration.

- **0–6 (Weak):**

Collaborative process is unclear or not addressed.

6. Professional Record & Readiness to Collaborate — 10 points

What this measures

The artists' combined experience and readiness to engage in a successful collaboration.

Sources in Application

- Records of Work (all artists)
- Artist Bios (all artists)
- Artist Collaboration narrative

Look for

- Evidence of sustained artistic practice
- Prior collaboration experience (if applicable)
- Experience appropriate to the proposed scope of work

How to Score

- **9–10 (Excellent):**

Artists show strong experience and readiness to collaborate effectively.

- **7–8 (Strong):**

Artists demonstrate solid engagement and relevant experience.

- **4–6 (Adequate):**

Limited experience or uneven readiness among collaborators.

- **0–3 (Weak):**

Minimal evidence of readiness to collaborate.

Final Panelist Reminder

When reviewing Artist Collaboration applications, ask:

“Does this collaboration clearly articulate why these artists are working together, and does the partnership meaningfully strengthen the work?”

- Evaluate **the collaboration itself**, not just individual artists.
- Work samples should support the proposed collaborative direction.
- Strong collaborations often show **shared vision, clear roles, and complementary strengths**.