

IGNITE FUND

Ignite Fund 2023 Application Questions

This is a PDF list of application questions for the Ignite Fund. For a full list of important dates, eligibility requirements, criteria, and FAQs, please visit ignitefund.org.

Section I: Eligibility

Individual artists and artist-led collectives (up to 6 people) are eligible to apply for Ignite Fund grants. Individual artists and the main contact for an artist-led collective are referred to as the “Lead Applicant.”

Eligible applicants are:

- Visual artists or artists with a history of presenting their work in visual art contexts/venues. (Performance, film, text, and sound artists are eligible if their proposed projects center the visual arts.)
- Current residents of the Chicago metropolitan area (Cook, DuPage, Kane, McHenry, Lake, and Will counties).
- 18 years or older.
- Legally be able to receive income in the United States: e.g. citizen, permanent resident, and/or any other person who can provide a W9 and a social security number (SSN) or an individual taxpayer identification number (ITIN).
- Not currently enrolled in a full-time degree-granting program (high school, college, or university).
- Have an active artistic practice and be able to demonstrate recent work.

Section II: Contact Information & Artist Information

If you are applying as a collective, enter the information of the Lead Applicant/point person of the project.

- **Lead Applicant Legal First Name***
- **Lead Applicant Legal Last Name***
- **Preferred Name** [Please provide if different from legal name]
- **Pronouns***[Examples include he, she, they, prefer not to say]
- **Email***
- **Phone Number***

- **Street Address 1***[Please provide your current address that you will use on your W9. Your W9 address and your provided address must match.]
- **Street Address 2 (optional)**
- **City***
- **State***
- **Zip***
- **Are you applying as a part of a collective?***
 - **IF YES:**
 - **What is the name of your collective? (Optional)**
 - **Please list the names of your collective members.***
 - **How long have you been collaborating?***

Section III: About the Artist(s)

- **Lead Applicant Biography (300 words)*** [Please share a biography for the lead applicant.]
- **Lead Applicant Artist Resume/CV (Upload)***
- **Provide a link to your website (optional)**
- **Collaborator Bios (Optional)** [Please share biographies of collaborators. (800-word limit; 200-word maximum per biography)]
- **If applying as a Collective** [Please tell us about the formation of the collective, how you work together, and your collective artistic practice.]

Section III: Project Overview

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT GRANT

- **Project Summary*(250 word)**[Provide a summary of the project you hope to develop during this grant cycle (September 1, 2023-September 1, 2024)]
- **Statement of Inquiry* (500 words)**

Some questions to consider:

- What question is your research seeking to answer?
- What do you hope to accomplish during the grant cycle?
- How might this inquiry represent an experimental, imaginative, innovative, and/or unconventional shift in your work?
- **Why is it important for you to do this research now?***
- **How will you conduct the research? With whom do you need to connect in order to do this research and what is your plan for making those connections?***[Examples: knowledge partners, other artists, etc.]
- **Budget (attachment)***[Ignite Fund Research & Development grants are \$1,500. How will these funds be allocated?]
- **Support Materials*** [Noted on page 4]
- **Support Materials Description*** [Noted on page 4]

PROJECT GRANTS

- **Title of Project ***
- **Project Narrative (750 words)***

Applicants are strongly encouraged to include answers to the following prompts when completing their project narrative:

- Describe your project, including the specifics (what, when, where) as well as your creative vision and behind it.
 - How does the project represent an experimental, imaginative, innovative and/or unconventional shift in your work?
 - What in your career prepares you for this project and why is it important for you to do this project now?
 - Who will be directly involved in the project?
 - How will the project be implemented? What will happen?
 - What do you hope the impact of this project will be?
- **How is your project grounded in the visual arts?* (75 words)**[Projects can have interdisciplinary elements but must center the visual arts.]
 - **Who is the intended audience or community for this project, and how is this project meaningful to them?** [Include an explanation if you have existing connections to this audience/community or your plans to strengthen those connections for this project. ? **(300 words)***
 - **How do you plan to make your project publicly accessible and how will the public interact with the project?** (300 words)*

Ignite Fund encourages applicants to take a broad view of accessibility. This means reflecting on accessibility for Deaf and/or disabled audience members, as well as any barriers that may prevent audiences from having access to your work (transportation, language, etc).

If you need help thinking through this, review our [Accessibility page](#), which includes examples, resources, and service providers.

- **Anticipated Start Date of Project***[Grantees will be notified in August 2023, and funds will be disbursed the first week of September. Projects should begin on or after September 1, 2023.]
- **Anticipated End Date of Project***[Projects must be completed by September 1, 2023.]
- **What is the general timeline of your project? (Please outline at least three major milestones)***
- **Amount Requested from Ignite Fund***[Ignite Fund Project Grants are \$3,000 or \$6,000.]
- **Budget (attachment)***[Applicants are required to use the Ignite Fund budget template. The requested Ignite Fund grant amount should be \$3,000 or \$6,000.]
- **Support Materials*** [Noted on page 4]
- **Support Materials Description*** [Noted on page 4]

SUPPORT MATERIALS | PROJECT & RESEARCH GRANTS

Support Materials*

Please provide examples of past work by the lead applicant and/or proposed contributors and/or mock-ups that inform the planned project. Visual support materials should help the jurors understand the project and your ability to execute it with success. Please choose representative images/media that are aligned in form, content, or scale to the proposed project.

In the next section, provide samples of work you have made in the past FIVE years.

You can choose to provide:

- All still images: upload up to 10 images, OR
- All video material: provide video (or video clips), for a combined length of 5 minutes max, OR
- A combination: upload up to 5 still images, and up to 2.5 minutes of video material

For all samples:

- You may upload files and/or provide website links to view material online.
- If you only have access to a long audio/video sample or are unable to edit to a shorter clip, you should provide cue points for the section you want the judges to review. If you do not indicate cue points on long material, the judges will watch the first 2 minutes.
- No other materials or additional media will be accepted.

Support Material Description*

In the field below, upload a document containing a short description for each of your work samples. The order of the descriptions should match the order in which the work samples are uploaded. Each description should not be longer than a few sentences (like a short paragraph max).

Examples of descriptive information:

- Title, media, dimensions, date, etc.
- Indicate whether it's a full image, detail view, installation view (location, date), etc.
- 1-3 sentences of contextual information you want the judges to know when viewing this material