

# IGNITE FUND

## Ignite Fund 2025 Application Questions

This is a PDF list of application questions for the Ignite Fund. To apply, please [click here](#).  
For a full list of important dates, eligibility requirements, criteria, and FAQs, please visit [ignitefund.org](https://ignitefund.org).

### Section I: Eligibility

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Before proceeding with the application, we need to determine if you are eligible. If you have any questions, contact us at [info@ignitefund.org](mailto:info@ignitefund.org).

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

If applying as an artist-led collective, your group can be either long-standing or formed specifically for this opportunity. Each collective must identify one individual as the Lead Applicant to serve as the primary contact.

All Lead Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Visual artists or artists with a history of presenting their work in visual art contexts. Performance, film, text, and sound artists are eligible if their proposed projects include a core element that centers the visual arts.
- Visual artists with an active artistic practice that can demonstrate recent work.
- Current residents of the Chicago metropolitan area (Cook, DuPage, Kane, McHenry, Lake, and Will counties).
- 18 years or older.
- Must legally be able to receive taxable income in the United States. Citizens, permanent residents, or anyone who can provide a W9 and a Social Security Number (SSN) or an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) are eligible.
- Not currently enrolled in a full-time degree-granting program.

### Section II: Contact Information

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

- **Lead Applicant Preferred Name\***
- **Lead Applicant Legal First Name\***
- **Lead Applicant Legal Last Name\***

- **Lead Applicant Pronouns\***[Examples include he, she, they, or prefer not to say]
- **Lead Applicant Email\***
- **Lead Applicant Phone Number\***
- **Lead Applicant Address\*** [Please provide your current address that you will use on your W9. Your W9 address and your provided address must match.]
  - **Country**
  - **Street Address 1**
  - **Street Address 2 (optional)**
  - **City**
  - **State, Province, or Region**
  - **Zip or Postal Code**
- **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?\***

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### Section III: About the Artist(s)

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Please tell us more about the lead applicant, collaborators, and/or collective.

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

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### Section IV: Project Overview

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Provide information about your project based on the Ignite Fund selection criteria. To learn more about the selection criteria and process, visit our [Apply page](#).

#### **Selection Criteria 1: Artistic Vision and Creative Strength**

Successful Ignite Fund applications demonstrate a compelling artistic vision and a creative approach to both process and presentation. The applicant describes with clarity how the project represents an experimental, imaginative, innovative, and/or unconventional shift in their work, and how it may advance their practice in meaningful ways.

- **Title of Project \***
- **Project Summary\* (100 word)** [Provide a brief summary of the project you hope to develop during this grant cycle (November 1, 2025-November 1, 2026)]
- **Project Description (500 words)\***

Applicants are **strongly encouraged** to answer the following prompts:

- Describe your project, including the specifics (what, when, where).
  - What are you hoping to achieve with this project?
  - How does the project represent an experimental, imaginative, innovative and/or unconventional shift in your work?
  - Why is it important for you to do this project now?
- **How is your project centered in the visual arts? (100 words)** You may consider referencing a visual arts movement, format, other past or current artists, collectives, projects, or visual arts histories in your response and describing what impact they have on your project. Projects can have interdisciplinary elements but must center the visual arts.

### **Selection Criteria 2: Collaboration**

Successful Ignite fund projects engage multiple artists, thinkers, or community members in the development and presentation processes. If the project references any necessary partners or external stakeholders, the applicant has also indicated how they will create or deepen relationships with those groups to ensure success.

- **Please describe what role collaboration plays in your project.\* (200 words)**

### **Selection Criteria 3: Community Engagement**

Successful Ignite Fund projects will be designed for audiences in the Chicago metro area. The applicant clearly describes with specificity the local audience or community for whom the project is intended and why/how the project may be relevant to that intended audience. The applicant considers the lasting impacts of the project on its intended communities.

- **Who is the intended audience or community for this project, and why? (200 words)\***
- **What impact do you hope your project will have on the intended audience or community? (200 words)**

### **Selection Criteria 4: Accessibility**

Successful Ignite Fund projects include at least one presentation open to the general public. The applicant has thoughtfully considered accessibility, including Deaf and/or disabled audience members, as well as any barriers that may prevent audiences from having access to their work. We encourage you to review our [Accessibility page](#), which includes examples, resources, and providers.

- **How do you plan to make your project accessible for all members of your intended audience or community? (200 words)\*** If you need help thinking through accessibility, review our [Accessibility page](#), which includes examples, resources, and service providers.

### **Selection Criteria 5: Feasibility**

Successful Ignite Fund applicants demonstrate that they have the readiness and experience needed to complete the proposed project within the one-year grant period. The budget and timeline are appropriate to the scope of work proposed.

- **What is the general timeline of your project? (Limit 150 words)\*** Please outline at least three major milestones from November 1, 2025 – November 1, 2026
- **Project Budget (attachment)\*** Applicants are **required** to use the Ignite Fund Budget Template. Download by [CLICKING HERE](#).

## **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
- An optional website link

For all samples:

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