



*Aligning University of Minnesota resources to accelerate community-driven change.*

# Artist Neighborhood Partnership Initiative Small Grant Program Request for Proposals

## Submit your proposal to [anpi@umn.edu](mailto:anpi@umn.edu)

CURA's Artist Neighborhood Partnership Initiative (ANPI) provides small grants to artists of color and Native artists working in neighborhoods in Minneapolis, St. Paul and the surrounding suburbs. ANPI grants recognize the valuable role that artists and the arts play in the work of fostering neighborhood wellbeing, and are intended to support the leadership of artists in these efforts. This grant program is particularly focused on directly funding individual artists or groups of artists working to build a more equitable Twin Cities.

**We are now accepting proposals for one-year support of artist driven projects.**

The deadline to apply is **Sunday, Feb 13, 2022**.

Information sessions will be held on zoom on **Tuesday, Jan 18 from 5-6 pm** and **Friday, Jan 21 from 1-2 pm** and **5-6 pm** (more details on the following page).

[www.curau.mn.edu](http://www.curau.mn.edu)



Center for Urban and  
Regional Affairs | **cura**  
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

*CURA connects the resources of  
the University of Minnesota with  
the interests and needs of urban  
communities and the region  
for the benefit of all.*

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#### **Program Goals**

The goals of the program are to identify and support compelling projects that support neighborhood wellbeing that artists have developed in response to their community's specific challenges and opportunities.

Projects must demonstrate a clear commitment to a neighborhood or place, as shown by the relationship between that place's community and the project's development process and focus. These are some of the strategies that projects might use to achieve the program goal:

- **Public-facing, narrative-shaping work** that tells a more just story about the people who live in a place and an issue they are facing
- **Problem-solving work**, including developing new models or solutions that build neighborhood wellbeing
- **Strengthening a community's identity, voice and/or connection to each other and their history**, focused in a place where that community lives or has strong ties

We also intend ANPI grant funding to create opportunities for artists of color and Native artists to **develop their own voice, craft, body of work, and relationships**, and encourage applying artists to also think about their projects in this frame.

#### **Program Requirements & Additional Information**

- The request for proposals is open to individual artists of color and Native artists, or artist teams led by an artist of color or Native artist.
- The project is rooted in a specific geographic area, and there is a strong relationship between the place, the people who have connections there, and the art-making. We recognize that colonialism and white supremacy have disconnected people from place and that cultural communities may be dispersed, and we invite artists to draw the connections between the issue or opportunity, the community, the particular place where the project will happen, and the project itself.
- There is a partnership component to realizing the project. This could be between an artist and an organization or business, or two or more artists working together, or some combination. Organizations may not apply, although they may partner with an artist or artist team who is leading the project.
- We have a total of \$30,000 in grant dollars for 2022, with maximum grant awards of \$15,000/project.
- These funds are designated for one-time project support, and must be spent within one year. We estimate that selected projects will receive funds by early June 2022.

#### **Selection Criteria**

We select grantees for the ANPI Program based on the following criteria:

- Project is located in communities of color, Native communities and/or low-income communities in Minneapolis, St. Paul or the surrounding suburbs.
- Projects are led by an artist of color or a Native artist, and there is a partnership component to the project.
- The artist or artist team has connection and accountability to a clearly defined community and the project is strongly connected to a geographic place.
- Art and art-making are at the center of the project.

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- Projects address the program goal and have a clear plan and partnerships identified to accomplish the project.
- Majority of funding must go directly to the artist(s), to support the artmaking (their time, equipment and/or materials needed for the project, etc.).
- Note: Projects with a focus on youth arts education and/or where the artist is primarily in the role of arts educator are funded only very rarely. We encourage you to look at other funding sources for projects of this type. In addition, while ANPI projects might include an artist's participation in an event or the artist team hosting a gathering/event/etc for the project, ANPI does not provide general funding for large events.

#### **Deadlines**

1. Applications are accepted until 11:59 pm on **Sunday, Feb 13, 2022**.
2. Final decisions will be made by the end of April 2022.

#### **Questions and Info Sessions**

For any questions please contact CURA staff:

- C Terrence Anderson at [canders@umn.edu](mailto:canders@umn.edu) or 612-624-8988
- Kristen Murray at [kmurray@umn.edu](mailto:kmurray@umn.edu) or 612-625-7560

Information sessions will be held on Zoom on **Tuesday, Jan 18, 5-6 pm** and **Friday, Jan 21, 1-2 pm** and **5-6 pm**.

Meeting ID: 527 770 1103

Link: <https://umn.zoom.us/j/5277701103>

One tap mobile: +16513728299,,5277701103#

Each info session is identical and will include a short, informal presentation with an overview of ANPI goals and guidelines, and then offer time for ask questions.

#### **To Apply**

The application questions and components are available on the following pages, and as a Word doc that you can download from the [art.curा.umn.edu](http://art.curा.umn.edu) and edit.

**To apply, save your proposal (cover sheet information, narrative and additional items) as a pdf and email or share it with [anpi@umn.edu](mailto:anpi@umn.edu).**

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#### **Frequently Asked Questions**

##### **What is CURA?**

The Center for Urban and Regional Affairs is a center at the University of Minnesota. It was established by the University of Minnesota Board of Regents in 1968 in response to the social and political upheaval of that time, and today is an interdisciplinary center that matches University resources to develop solutions to some of the state's most pressing community-identified issues.

CURA's Community Programs, of which ANPI is a part, supports community-driven work with research support, small grants, mapping and data visualization assistance, and training and support in neighborhood leadership development and community organizing. More info about CURA is at [cura.umn.edu](http://cura.umn.edu)

##### **What forms of art-making do you fund?**

We don't have a set list of media or art forms that are eligible for ANPI support: you as the artist can define your medium and craft. There must be a strong link between the issue, the place and community, and the proposed art-making, and the art-making should be led by the artist.

Often in ANPI projects, lead artists play dual role as art-maker and convener/project coordinator. This is absolutely fine. **Note:** only very rarely do we fund projects where the artist is in the role of arts educator and/or projects where the primary activities are youth arts education. We encourage artists with arts education-focused proposals to explore other funding sources.

##### **How does CURA define a geographic area?**

A specific geography, neighborhood, collection of neighborhoods, commercial corridor, etc. within the Twin Cities region. Projects should have a geographic area of focus that is more specific than the Twin Cities as a whole

##### **Where can I find examples of projects?**

Projects from the last several years are posted on the ANPI section of the CURA website:

<https://www.cura.umn.edu/programs/community/grantmaking/artist-neighborhood-partnership-initiative>

Note that we have updated the guidelines over the years, so refer to this year's guidelines and application to determine if your project is a fit.

##### **When can projects start and when do they need to be completed by? How is the funding disbursed?**

Artists whose projects are funded receive 80% of the grant award at the beginning of their project (estimated this year by early June), and receive the remaining 20% of the award when their project is completed and they submit a final report. 2022 grantees will have until approximately the end of June 2023 to complete their projects.

##### **Can I use a fiscal agent?**

Yes, you can use a fiscal agent (but do not need to) and should work out the terms of that relationship however works best for you and that organization. You, the artist, do not need to have 501(c)(3) status set up to receive the grant funds.

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#### ***Can artists get funding two years in a row?***

Previous grantees are welcome to apply again, whether for a new or related project. However, previously funded grantees won't be funded for the same project again.

#### ***Are there additional supports or resources that CURA offers ANPI grantees?***

By request from past grantees, we typically host a gathering for ANPI grantees during the funding period. These are very informal: a way for artists to get to know one another, share resources and ideas, and learn about each others' projects. CURA also offers assistance and training in data visualization, analysis and mapping, community-based research, and community organizing, and ANPI artists and others can learn about any of these resources by talking with CURA staff. Finally, we can make connections to other people, departments and resources at UMN, if you have interest.

## **Application Questions & Components of the Application**

*Below are the components of the application to help you prepare in advance of submission. Save your ANPI application as a pdf and email it, along with your budget, work samples and partner letters, to [anpi@umn.edu](mailto:anpi@umn.edu). If files are too large, you can also share them with this email address via a file sharing site like Dropbox or Google Drive. We will reply to confirm receipt of your application materials.*

*If you have any questions, or to request this material or submit the application in a different format, please contact Kristen Murray, Center for Urban and Regional Affairs ([kmurray@umn.edu](mailto:kmurray@umn.edu) or 612-625-7560).*

### **COVER SHEET**

Lead Artist First Name:

Lead Artist Last Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Race/Ethnicity of Lead Artist:

If there are any other artists working on the project, please list their names and race/ethnicities here:

Key partners (individuals or organizations) involved in your project:

Funding Amount Requested:

Are you using a fiscal agent?

If yes, fiscal agent contact information:

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#### **PROJECT NARRATIVE (max 5 pages)**

**Title of project:**

**Purpose of project:** Please describe the project in one or two brief sentences.

**Place, community and context:** Please summarize the historic or current challenge, opportunity, or issue (political, social, economic, etc.) that the project is addressing. Describe where, geographically, in the Twin Cities region will your project happen, and why must it happen here. Who is the community that benefits from the project, and how are you accountable to them? If relevant, add details or statistics that explain why this project is needed now. This could include relevant historic and/or current conditions of the community.

**Detailed project description:** Describe the proposed project and its **genesis**, the specific **activities**, and the **timeline** of when these activities will happen. Describe the **roles** of the lead artist and partner(s). How will members of the community know about, participate in or gain access to your project?

**Artistic practice:** Describe your own or your team's artistic practice, history, and experience working in partnership with communities. Include specifics about the aesthetic aspects of this project.

**Impact (external):** Describe your intended artistic and community goals, however modest or ambitious, based on your own criteria. How will the work create a change in neighborhood wellbeing? What will you see, hear or feel that will indicate progress toward your goals? What will happen with the momentum you and your partners build?

**Impact (internal):** What impact would this grant have on you and/or your team, and how is this project important to you at this stage of your career?

#### **ADDITIONAL ITEMS (include on additional pages)**

**Budget:** Create a project budget that outlines how grant funding will be spent and the allocation of funds. Note that funding requests may not exceed one year. Categories may include payment to the artist(s) and other individuals, materials, printing, communications and promotion, equipment, travel, space rental, etc.

You can use whatever budget format you prefer; if you'd like a sample to work from, one is available in the application Word doc at [www.cura.umn.edu/news/artist-neighborhood-partnership-initiative-small-grant-program-request-proposals](http://www.cura.umn.edu/news/artist-neighborhood-partnership-initiative-small-grant-program-request-proposals).

Note: If your total project budget exceeds \$15,000, please indicate other sources of funding, and whether these sources are pending or confirmed. For projects with multiple sources of funding, please indicate the specific activities or elements that CURA funding would support.

**Work samples:** Please submit two representative work samples, along with a short explanation (one paragraph each) of how the work relates to the proposed project. Work samples can be submitted as individual files or as links to online media. If you are working with a team, you may include an additional work sample for each person on your team.

**Community partner letters:** Please submit up to three letters of support from community partners (up to one page each): either individuals or representatives of organizations you plan to work with on this project (supporting the project and confirming their partnership), or who you have worked with in the past and who can speak to your ability to produce this project (letters of reference/support for your work).