

Midwest Artist Project Services

Mock Grant Review Frequently Asked Questions

Is this a grant application?

The questions are similar to what you will find for many grant applications looking to fund arts projects. The deadline is real, and the panelist reviews are real, but instead of a grant for your project, we're awarding a prize for the best application—no strings attached.

I hate grantwriting! Why would anyone want to do this?

Most foundations or grant-making organizations receive too many applications to offer individual feedback on each one. This is a rare chance to see what happens after you hit send on your application, and learn how to improve future applications better based on our panelists' comments.

Once you've got an application ready to go, you can often use it for multiple opportunities. Creative Capital shares a bi-monthly list of Artist Opportunities with upcoming deadlines in their Journal and email newsletter: <https://creative-capital.org/journal/>. You can also filter and search for upcoming opportunities at <https://artdeadline.com/>.

Do I need to be present (virtually or in person) at the live Mock Panel Review to win?

No, but a point will be added or deducted from your final score based on attendance. If you cannot attend, you may designate a representative to take notes. You must let us know the name of your representative in advance in order to receive the point for attendance.

What should I expect during the Mock Panel?

At the mock panel, you will hear a critique of your application by panelists selected for their professional experience and diverse areas of expertise. Please be prepared to hear some things you might not have expected. Panelists are given the same criteria to review each application, but naturally will bring their own perspectives. We encourage all applicants to revise their application elements based on the mock panelists' comments and to apply for other opportunities to find funding for their project.

Panelists will have reviewed your application ahead of time and will be sharing their ratings of the different sections on a scale of 5 to 1 (with 5 being the highest score), as well as their comments about why they scored the way they did. (Some panelists may be more generous and some may be more critical - this is how all panels are!) In hearing the shared comments, some panelists may decide to revise their score before the final submission of scores, which will be tallied up into an average final score. Panelists may disagree with each other, and you will have a chance to hear their comments.

The purpose of this program is give applicants a chance to hear how panelists or reviewers are seeing your writing, work samples, and budgets through what is usually a closed-door process. The panelists are prepared to be fair, avoid personal biases, and provide a candid review. You should be prepared to hear and accept constructive criticism of your application.

Will the panel be recorded and shared later?

Due to privacy concerns, the panel will NOT be recorded.

Are students eligible to apply?

Yes. Any U.S. Citizen over 18 is eligible, including currently enrolled students.

Is there a fee to apply?

No.