

Grants Panelist Job Summary

Grant Cycle 2026-2027

Serving as a Panelist

Each year, Arts Fort Worth enlists the aid of individuals from the local community to serve as grant reviewers. Panelists play a crucial role in the grant making process by ensuring that grants are distributed to programs and organizations that are most worthy, impactful, and relevant to our community. Individuals can either apply, be nominated, or be invited directly by Arts Fort Worth staff to serve as a panelist.

The Grants Panelist role is a serious yet fulfilling commitment that has far-reaching effects. Funding for the grants comes from the City of Fort Worth. As such, Grants Panelists' primary job is to be good stewards of these funds and see that they are used wisely. In doing so, Grants Panelists advance Arts Fort Worth's mission to create an environment that promotes, nurtures, and supports the arts in our community. Please note that we like to laud our panelists in publicity, but you can remain anonymous if you choose to.

Panel Composition

Arts Fort Worth supports the artistic community by providing essential operating and outreach support. Applications for support are reviewed by 6 individual panels consisting of 5-7 grant reviewers of various arts related backgrounds from the local community. Individuals with professional experience in arts administration, performing arts, and those with legal, marketing or financial backgrounds are also encouraged to apply. All panelists must be able to evaluate applications with a critical, objective eye and can commit to the workload involved. A passion for the arts is critical.

Each panel will review applications from organizations with similar annual budget sizes. Panel placement is decided based on expertise, diversity, panelist availability, and conflicts of interest within each panel. Panel assignments are finalized upon receipt of all grant applications in July. If you have a preexisting relationship with one of the applicants, please submit a conflict-of-interest form to Arts Fort Worth staff.

Commitment

Panelists can expect to spend between 20-30 hours fulfilling their duties as a grant reviewer, over the course of 2 months. Total time spent fulfilling program duties is variable, based on the items listed below:

- Panelists must attend the grantee Orientation, either:
 - May 11, 2026, live session (9 am to 12 noon); or
 - May 12, 2026, virtual session (6-8pm)
- Panelists must also attend the panelist orientation in the summer
- Online Application Review
- Grants Panel Review Session

Grant panelists are Arts Fort Worth volunteers, and we value your time. If you would like to request a stipend, please communicate that when you confirm your assignment.

Review Session

Panelists will receive their assigned applications to review once all applications are reviewed by the Arts Fort Worth team for eligibility. Panelists will be given a deadline to review and score their applications and submit them back to Arts Fort Worth before the in-person reviews.

Grant panelists will be assigned to 1 of 6 review sessions.

Applications will have average scores, and the panel will review the applications for that session together to discuss any potential issues and agree on the final score for each applicant.

The Arts Fort Worth team presents recommendations to the Arts Fort Worth Board of Directors in the Fall.

Link to Apply

Find the link to self or peer nominate [here](#).

Disclaimer: Submission of an application does not guarantee placement.

Thank you for your interest in supporting our artistic community through your service!