CALL FOR ENTRY
Rocket Relief – Emergency Fund for Artists Impacted by Coronavirus

The Rocket Relief program aims to provide emergency support to individual artists in the Kansas City regional bi-state (or Missouri/Kansas bi-state) region within 80 miles of Kansas City. This grant is intended to help artists whose income has been impacted by the Coronavirus Pandemic and who need assistance with basic expenses such as food, housing, medical costs, and child care. This fund is open to all self-identifying visual, multi-disciplinary, and performing artists within an 80-mile radius of Kansas City. Grant amounts are available as flat stipends of $1000. Rocket Relief utilizes a lottery method that is weighted to prioritize applications based on emergency needs. Eligible artists will be included in a distribution pool, from which ten artists per week will be chosen by lottery until all funds are exhausted. Once an artist has entered the pool and confirmed as eligible, they will remain in the pool and weekly selection process until funds are fully depleted. Funds are for individual artists specifically and nonprofit entities are not eligible for funding.

Rocket Relief has been made possible by the generosity of the Andy Warhol Foundation’s regional regranting program. The Warhol Foundation has authorized its re-granting partners to re-allocate the $100,000 grants typically used for administration and distribution of regranting funds (In our region, the Rocket Grant Program, usually administered by Charlotte Street Foundation and the Spencer Museum of Art), to create and support administration of Coronavirus emergency relief funds in their communities. As a result of this opportunity, the $60,000 annually allocated toward Rocket Grant awards will be distributed in emergency grants to artists in the Rocket Grants region. The Rocket Grant program will resume its intended project-based funding framework in 2021. Additionally, the generous funding and administrative support that has enabled this opportunity to be extended to all disciplines is being provided by ArtsKC and Theater League. At launch, $120,000 in total is available in grants to artists of all disciplines in the Rocket Grants region.

Applications are only accepted online through the Call for Entry (CAfE) system. (Link here) Emailed or hard copy submissions will not be accepted. The following eligibility requirements are addressed in the application:

**ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR ARTISTS**

Eligibility requirements:
- **Is a Visual/Multidisciplinary artist** (artists must create original work in painting, drawing, sculpture, book art, ceramics, fiber, printmaking, digital/media works, film, video, photography, performance art, sound art, social practice and/or hybrid or interdisciplinary practice of any/all of the above);
  OR
- **is a Theater Artist** (artists must work as actors, stage managers, puppeteers, stage directors, theater choreographers, designers, stage technicians, and or hybrid or interdisciplinary practice of any/all of the above);
  OR
- **or is a Dancer or Musician** (artists must work as dancers, choreographers, musicians, composers)
  OR
• **is a Performative Poet, Spoken Word Artist, or Storyteller** (artists must work as poets, spoken word, or storytelling artists in a way that involves public performance of work)

• Must be an artist whose primary residence is within an 80-mile radius of the Kansas City metro area. (See Map)

• All artists must be over 21 at the time of the application, and may not be full-time students

• Able to receive taxable income in the U.S. (e.g. citizen, green card holder, and/or permanent resident who can provide a W9 and Social Security Number (SSN) or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN).

• Artists may not be employed as full or part time staff (or be an immediate family member of a full or part time staff member), or be a member of the governing board of the Charlotte Street Foundation, ArtsKC, or Theatre League, or be a member of any Advisory Board for the Spencer Museum of Art

• Determine recently active (within the past two years) record as exhibiting or performing artist by submitting one of the following:
  - a CV or resume
  - link to artists website/online presence
  - link to public event that the artist recently participated in

• **Describe, in a short 300 word or less narrative (or 2 minute max video or voice narrative), loss of income due to Corona Virus Pandemic**
  This includes but is not limited to:
  - Cancellations of performances, exhibitions, fairs, public programming, readings, panels, loss of sales, commissions and speaking opportunities
  - Reimbursement for travel expenses related to creative work that you paid for yourself. This includes but is not limited to: Attending conferences, art fairs, and convenings that have been cancelled, Artist Residencies, Touring
  - Offsetting loss of income for teaching artist who could not teach during this time because of cancelled classes and school closures
  - Support for artists working full or part-time in the service or other non-arts related industry who have lost supplemental income used to support their creative practices
  - Loss of ability to work due to caretaking duties for a family member or member of household
  - Increased costs due to unexpected Coronavirus related health care for yourself or immediate family member

Eligibility is not impacted by prior or current engagements, awards, or programming affiliations with the Charlotte Street Foundation, Spencer Museum of Art, ArtsKC, Theatre League, or Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts.

There is no restriction on usage of funds. Once granted, artists may use the award however they see fit. There will be no final report required. Due to the potentially sensitive nature of circumstances regarding eligibility for this grant, grantees for this award will not be announced publicly. The information you provide in this application is confidential and will be used only to report demographics without identifying information.
In the Café system, artists will also be asked to upload 5 images that relate to your practice (which can include images of work or headshots), and/or 1 video or sound clip. This is a requirement for the system we are using, but will not be part of the jurying or selection process. Charlotte Street Foundation and Spencer Museum of Art may review images uploaded for other future programming opportunities. Note for Performing Artists applying for a grant: you may satisfy this requirement by posting one photo, including your head shot or photograph of you on stage or backstage. If the Café system requires more than one photo, you may post the same photo five times.

To ensure that information is entered by the first lottery drawing, artists should plan to complete the application by April 24th. The first notifications of grantees will occur May 1, and every subsequent week ten artists will be selected and notified until all funds are distributed. Applications may continue to be submitted and eligible applicants will be added to the pool until all funds are distributed.

If you or your organization would like to contribute additional funds to this Emergency grant program, please contact Charlotte Street Foundation’s Associate Director of Development at margaret@charlottesreet.org or ArtsKC’s Manager of Grants at hbeffa@artskc.org and indicate that you would like to contribute to the Rocket Relief.