

Interlace Grant Writing Mentorship Program (2024)

While there are certainly artists who build careers without ever writing a grant, grants can be a useful way to gather helpful resources and feedback for a variety of creative endeavors. Even when a grant is not awarded, the processes of articulating ideas, refining a proposal, and mapping out a timeline and budget can be useful for the development of project management skills that all artists at some point or another will need to utilize.

The Interlace Grant Writing Mentorship Program pairs an artist who has written successful grants in the past with an artist who is newer to grant writing. Mentors will help Emerging and Mid-Career Artists (“Mentees”) with the Interlace Project Grant application processes as well as provide general mentoring support.

Please note: Only visual artists eligible to apply to the Interlace Fund are eligible for this program. Read more about eligibility here: <https://www.interlacefund.org/project-grants>

Mentors do the following:

- Support mentee in applying to the Interlace Grant Fund (due September 15, 2024). Specifically, mentors will meet with mentee a minimum of three times:
 - **Once in June or July** to learn about mentee’s practice, goals, and project ideas (a studio visit could be great, or getting coffee and looking at their sketchbooks or web representations of their work, etc.) and to agree to an exact timeline for August and September meetings. Mentor and mentee will also review Interlace guidelines at this meeting.
 - **Once in July or August** to workshop a draft of the mentee’s Project Grant proposal, including giving feedback on narrative, budgets, work samples, bio/CV, etc.
 - **Once in August or early September** to finalize and submit the Project Grant proposal.
- Mentors will also be available through the fall of 2024 to provide as-needed (and as-available) support for mentees. For example, if a mentee is applying to other grant programs, fellowships or academic programs, or jobs, they might ask for support from their mentor. Past mentors have also helped mentees reflect on their studio practice more generally, on how to share work with an audience, and other such concerns.

Emerging and Mid-Career Artists (Mentees) do the following:

- Develop Interlace Project Grant application from ideation to full submission, with mentor’s support.

- Meet with mentors at least three times between July - September leading up to Interlace Grant Fund deadline as outlined above.
- Request support from mentor for applications to other grant programs as-needed through fall 2024.
- Provide informal feedback to Interlace staff about this program if desired (we would welcome the feedback in any form).

Interlace will do the following

- Hold a pre-mentorship skill share gathering for mentors, review tips for coaching/mentoring.
- Match mentors with mentees.
- Provide support along the way.
- Provide mentors with a \$250 stipend - mentors are encouraged to spend some of that (\$20-ish) on mentee - taking out for coffee to talk about projects, etc. Stipends will be mailed after mentors complete a brief reflection form.

Information about mentee identity will not be shared publicly, in an effort to make sure that Interlace Jurors are not biased by having insight into who the org has been supporting. Mentees are not guaranteed funding from Interlace or other grants to which they are applying.