



Field Funds // Open Call Documentation & Archiving

*\$500 grants tending to practitioners' emerging ideas
and ongoing work*

Applications close September 30, 2026 at 11:59 PM ET

This is a preview of the application. [Apply here.](#)

Questions? Access needs? Write to programs@abladeofgrass.org or attend office hours (see below).

****Field Funds recipients are selected randomly by a random number generator. All eligible applications have the same chance of being funded.****

Selected applicants will be notified on October 7, 2026. Applicants who do not hear from us by 6:00 PM ET on October 7 have not been selected and are welcome to reapply in future cycles.

We believe all parts of the creative process are valuable—from seeding new ideas to sharing work with audiences and archiving fleeting experiences. So, we designed a process where all eligible applications have the same chance of being funded. For this reason, there is no need for applicants to make a case for why a project is deserving of support. Instead, we ask applicants to speak directly and concisely to how they will specifically use \$500.

All applications will be reviewed for eligibility. All eligible applications will be automatically assigned a number, and a number generator will make final selections randomly. 5–7 applications will be selected for funding each cycle. Our intention is to create a nimble process that can be responsive to feedback and the changing needs of practitioners.

Learn more about Field Funds and see Frequently Asked Questions [here](#).

Who can apply?

U.S.-based artists, creative practitioners, and culture bearers with a demonstrated history of creating socially engaged art can apply. Field Funds uses the terms *artist* and *socially engaged art*, but we understand that not all practitioners identify with the same language. Regardless of how they describe their work, eligible applicants will be able to show in their application that their practice:

- Applies creative strategies and interventions that make society more just, kind, safe, and free.
- Involves and builds relationships with communities and collaborators in ways that are meaningful to those they work with.
- Uses processes and skills beyond those used to create studio artwork or traditional performance—including advocacy, dialogue, facilitation, organizing, and research.

Please note that Field Funds does not accept applications from nonprofit organizations or commercial businesses.

What costs related to documentation & archiving does this fund support?

Creating a record is particularly important for socially engaged projects, which tend to center ephemeral events or exchanges. While this work is often meant to be experienced directly, documentation is useful to practitioners in pursuing opportunities for funding or partnership. This cycle of Field Funds is designed to support practitioners to document their practices and/or tend to the archives of their work. This is an opportunity to enhance the documentation of ongoing work or invest in the preservation of existing documentation. This is not an opportunity to create new work, exhibit, or publish documentation. This is not an opportunity to fund new projects, exhibitions, publications, or other presentations of documentation.

This cycle can support expenses for practitioners to:

Create documentation:

- Commission photo, video, or audio documentation of a project
- Commission written documentation or reflection on a project
- Commission image descriptions, audio description, captioning or other accessibility work for documentation

Tend to archiving:

- Create or contribute to an inventory system of files or materials

- Digitize analog media or documents
- Pay for web hosting, inventory management, database subscriptions, or storage
- Pay other administrative costs for accessing and maintaining archival materials

What kind of proposals are not eligible?

Proposals from nonprofit organizations or commercial businesses, proposals for events or projects that are not initiated and led by artists, proposals to support the creation of studio work or presentations, and proposals for activities that take place after more than six months after the application deadline are **not** eligible.

Could requested support go towards a larger project or event that is already planned?

Yes, proposals should describe how these funds would support documenting an existing or planned project and/or the organization and maintenance of existing archival materials.

Open Call: Documentation & Archiving Schedule

September 1, 2026 — Applications open

September 30, 2026 at 11:59 PM ET — Applications close

October 7, 2026 — Selected applicants notified. Applicants who do not hear from us by 6:00 PM ET on October 6 have not been selected. You are welcome to reapply in future cycles.

October 14, 2026 — Funds distributed to selected projects

October 14, 2026 – April 30, 2027 — Proposed documentation and archiving work takes place

May 15, 2027 — Follow up survey* due

*Selected applicants will agree to complete a brief follow up survey after completing their proposed activities. The survey asks for some documentation that the proposed activities took place (1–5 photos, screenshots, web pages, etc.), and 5 short answer questions asking: Did you complete your proposed activities? Did it go as planned? What did the \$500 support? Did anything surprising, exciting, or otherwise noteworthy come out of this experience? Is there anything else you would like to share with us about your experience?

Office Hours

Our team will host open hours on Zoom for folks to drop in with questions about their applications or the process. Feel free to join any of these calls. Please note, other applicants may be present.

Thursday, September 17, 2026 — 1–2 PM ET ([register here](#))

Monday, September 28, 2026 — 3–4 PM ET ([register here](#))

Please reach out to programs@abladeofgrass.org with any questions or access needs.

Documentation & Archiving Resources

[Archiving & Preservation: Artists' Legacy Toolkit](#), Dance/USA

[Career Documentation for the Visual Artist](#), Co-edited by Shervone Neckles-Ortiz and Kay Takeda (The Joan Mitchell Foundation)

[Workbook and Resource](#), Artists' Studio Archives

[Five Tips for Organizers, Protestors, and Anyone Documenting Movements](#), The Blacktivists (Sixty Inches From Center)

[Video Preservation Resources](#), XFR Collective

Application Outline

Section 1—Introduction

Section 2—Eligibility: These questions gauge your fit for this opportunity and provide space for you to share links to your creative work and past experiences.

Section 3—About You: This section collects your contact information and more information about your practice.

Section 4—Proposal: Here's where you describe what you're working on and how \$500 would support you.

Section 5—Our Curiosities (Optional): This page is optional and includes questions that would help us better understand who this program is reaching and gathers your feedback.

Questions? Access needs? Write to programs@abladeofgrass.org or attend office hours.

Application Form Content:

- Email*

Eligibility:

- Are you currently 18 years or older?*
- Do you currently reside within the United States or U.S. island jurisdictions?*
- If selected, would you be able to provide a SSN, ITIN, or other U.S. tax identification number?*
- If selected, do you agree to complete a brief survey about how your project went?*
- Do you identify as an artist, creative practitioner, or culture bearer?*

Eligible creative practices:

Field Funds uses the terms artist and socially engaged art, but we understand that not all practitioners identify with the same language. Regardless of how they describe their work, eligible applicants will be able to show in their application that their practice:

- Applies creative strategies and interventions that make society more just, kind, safe, and free.
- Involves and builds relationships with communities and collaborators in ways that are meaningful to those they work with.
- Uses processes and skills beyond those used to create studio artwork or traditional performance—including advocacy, dialogue, facilitation, organizing, and research.

Please provide:

- 1–3 links that would help us understand how your creative work enters the world. These could be: documentation of projects on your portfolio site, Google Docs, photos/videos of projects elsewhere online, listing pages for events or presentations of your work, reviews or media coverage of your work, social media posts documenting or describing your work. To gauge eligibility, we are looking for publicly available proof that your creative practice engages some audience.*

- A brief timeline or narrative of your artistic activities relating to socially engaged practice. This can be your resume, CV, bio, or another list or description of your artistic background and how your work has entered the world before. This can be your bio, CV, resume, or another list or description of your artistic background and how your work has entered the world before. Feel free to copy and paste in text you already have or a link to your bio or work history online.*

Section 3

About You:

- Name*
- City*
- State*
- Phone number*
- If selected, how do you prefer to be contacted?*
- Email
- Text
- Phone call
- How would you briefly describe your practice in 1–3 words? (for example: artist, creative practitioner, filmmaker & organizer, etc.)*

Briefly describe in 1–5 sentences (200 words max):

- What is your socially engaged art practice?*
- What community or public does your work engage?*

Section 4

Proposal:

What would you use \$500 to support? Please select the categories that best describe your proposed expenses.*

- Commission photo, video, or audio documentation of a project
- Commission written documentation or reflection on a project

- Commission image descriptions, audio description, captioning or other accessibility work for documentation
- Create or contribute to an inventory system of files or materials
- Digitize analog media or documents
- Pay for web hosting, inventory management, database subscriptions, or storage
- Pay other administrative costs for accessing and maintaining archival materials
- Other (Write-in)

Briefly describe in 1–5 sentences (200 words max):

- What are you working on? Please briefly describe what you would use the \$500 for and how it supports your eligible practice (see eligibility section above for more context about eligibility).*

Section 5

Our Curiosities (optional):

The following questions are optional and designed to help us understand who this program is reaching and how it could improve. Responses here are not considered when determining the eligibility of your application.

- How did you learn about this opportunity? (optional)
- Are there any artist-run projects, organizations, spaces, etc. that you feel are meeting the urgent political moment? (optional)
- Do you have any feedback for this process or anything else you would like to share with our team? (optional)

End