



Making it as a creative has never been easy and many of us depend on freelance work to make ends meet. But what happens when disaster strikes and we can no longer sustain our livelihoods by doing what we do best?

The impact of the COVID-19 crisis on our creative community has been devastating - we've watched gig after gig - and paycheck after paycheck - get canceled in a matter of days for reasons beyond our control. Many of us have been left wondering - how will I care for myself and my family without income? Sound familiar? You're not alone.

While we can't predict how long our current crisis will last, we can come together to support each other in our time of need. Thanks to a coalition of passionate partners old and new, and inspired by the generosity of artist-led relief efforts in Baltimore and across the country, we have pooled together our resources to offer emergency grants of \$500 to Baltimore City creatives who are experiencing financial strife as a result of the COVID-19 crisis. While we know the grants are small and the needs are great, we hope they will offer you the leg up you need to tackle another day and get back to creating.

About the Baltimore Artist Emergency Relief Fund: The Baltimore Artist Emergency Relief Fund is a coalition-led initiative designed to provide direct assistance to Baltimore-based artists and creative entrepreneurs who have lost income due to the COVID-19 crisis. This fund was created through a partnership between 20 artists and arts organizers committed to working together for the collective good of the Baltimore creative community, and is made possible by administrative and funding support from T. Rowe Price Foundation, The Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts, Maryland State Arts Council, Robert W. Deutsch Foundation, The Grit Fund, and Baltimore Creatives Acceleration Network. FAQs: Am I eligible to apply? If you are An active artist of any discipline or a creative entrepreneur, Over the age of 18 or Living in Baltimore City You are eligible to apply.

What is the selection criteria? How will you decide who will get grants?

All grant applications will be reviewed by a selection committee made up of artists who care deeply about the well-being of fellow artists. If you are an artist who meets the eligibility requirements, your grant application will be reviewed on a rolling basis and decisions about whether or not you receive a grant will be based on the following selection

criteria:



Demonstrated active artistic and creative practice (for example: recent work samples, website, portfolio - this will not be assessed based on quality of work samples)

Demonstrated lost income as a result of the pandemic and need for funds (for example: canceled show dates and contracts) Although applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis, funds are limited and grants will be made based on the availability of funding. So we encourage you not to wait to apply.

My financial situation is personal to me and I don't like asking for help. Will my information be kept private?

We get it. Talking about money can be uncomfortable. Especially when it comes to feelings of shame when we don't have it. We have designed the application process with this in mind. We commit to keeping all applicant information confidential to staff and the review committee. We will not share your personal information with anyone without your explicit permission. Because we're all committed to creating longer-term safety nets and supports for Baltimore

creatives - we will ask some general questions that we will report out on in aggregate (for example: "60% of applicants said they needed additional support with filing taxes" or "30% of our applicants are in the film industry").

What are eligible expenses for the grant funds? What can I spend the money on?

Funds can be used to cover expenses related to: Your personal well being (food, shelter, medical expenses); your creative practice, as it relates to generating income for yourself (supplies, materials, insurance, studio costs, business expenses, collaborator fees, etc). to recover losses for expenses incurred for canceled gigs (eg. travel, venue deposits, etc). Grant funds are solely intended for use by the applicant and can't be transferred or re-granted.

How much grant funding is available? The grant award is \$500.00 per grantee. Because funds are limited, grants are limited to one per person.

If awarded a grant, how long do I have to wait to receive the funds? Awards will be processed in batches on a weekly basis - about twelve to fourteen days after you've submitted your application. Once an application is received it's reviewed by an advisory committee. Once applications are approved grantees will be notified and sent award letters. In order to receive funds, you will be required to Complete a W9 form, which will require you provide

a social security or tax id number.



# BALTIMORE *Artist* EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND

Grants are great - but I need a lot more than \$500 to get by. Where can I find other resources to support me right now? If you're looking for additional relief funding, food access, health care resources, and more - we've put together a resource page just for [TO VIEW THE RESOURCE PAGE](#)

What if I don't have access to the internet or a computer - is there a way for me to apply?

The Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts is currently closed however mail in applications can be sent to The Cloisters located at 10440 Falls Rd., Lutherville, MD 21093.

If you need technical assistance, we can walk you through an application over the phone during business hours (Monday - Friday, 9:00am - 5:00pm). For technical support please contact

Lou Joseph at 443-956-2033 or email: [ljoseph@promotionandarts.org](mailto:ljoseph@promotionandarts.org).

[TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE ART GRANT](#)