

# ROCKET GRANTS

## APPLICATION GUIDE

Application forms available January 4<sup>th</sup> 2010

If applying as an artistic group, the group can be long-standing or created specifically for this project. Please identify one participant to serve as the lead contact for the project.

### 1. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Describe the project you would like to develop. This writing should be persuasive, relevant and concise. Please use the form supplied in the application packet, follow length limits, and include:

- Project title
- Project summary: Summarize your project in one sentence, or two hundred characters
- Description of your project (maximum 700 words) including:
  - Description of the form your project will take (exhibition, public art project, series of public programs, performance, publication, etc.)
  - Motivations for the work, concepts behind the project, and relationship to past work
  - Anticipated impact in the area community including:
    - Specific target communities you plan to engage
    - Support for/involvement with other local artists in or through the project
    - How the project might serve as model/inspiration for other projects
- A brief project timeline (one hundred word paragraph or a bullet point list)
- A description of how and where the project will be realized, including how it will be made accessible to the public (one hundred words)
- If your project requires a venue but one has not been secured, please explain (one sentence)
- If your project is a print or internet-based publication or project, please talk about your plans and timeline for distribution/dissemination (one hundred words)

### 2. VISUAL SUPPORT MATERIALS

Both the quality and the relevance of this material to your project will significantly impact the success of your application. Submit up to TWO forms of support material from the list below:

- Up to 10 digital images – formatted as JPEG files, maximum file size 1 MB each. Each image file should be labeled with the name of the artist or organizer and a number corresponding to an annotated image list (see below). Put all the images in a folder labeled with your project title, on a CD formatted for both Windows and Mac
- One DVD with up to 3 works or 3 excerpts of time-based works. The panel will review up to three (3) minutes of work total. No VHS tapes
- Print materials, including brochures, publications, books, etc.
- For websites you wish to be viewed as work samples, please submit a list of URLs

Please note that visual support materials will only be returned if a stamped, self-addressed envelope/mailed is included with your application. Although all other materials may be electronically submitted, work samples must be mailed or hand delivered. Please do not send any original materials unless they are disposable/multiples.

3. ANNOTATED LIST OF VISUAL SUPPORT MATERIALS

Please use the form supplied in the application packet. Indicate project title, artist name or organizer's name, title of the work, year it was made, media, dimensions (if relevant) and brief description of each work. If including a DVD or CD-ROM, please mark cue times. If including printed materials, please extract samples from longer texts.

4. BUDGET

Please use the form supplied in the application packet to outline a simple budget for your project. **Rocket Grants** will award up to \$4,000 to the selected artists or artist groups for a project. Ten percent of the award (up to \$400) will be withheld until the project is completed and final documentation has been submitted. Please include projected expenses, anticipated income (if any), and the total project budget. For anticipated income, indicate if you have applied for, secured, or anticipate additional funds for this project and list amounts and potential sources. If your project relies on additional sources of income not yet secured, please explain how the scope of project will change if that income is not secured. Your budget may include in-kind contributions. Please modify the budget form in any way necessary to meet your project's needs.

5. BIOGRAPHY

Please use the form supplied to submit a short biography (maximum 500 words) about yourself, your group, collective or organization. If you have additional key participants in your group please use the additional space to submit short biographies for all (maximum 100 words each participant).

Contact: Julia Cole,  
**Rocket Grants** Program Coordinator,  
[julia@charlottestreet.org](mailto:julia@charlottestreet.org)  
<http://charlottestreet.org>

**ROCKET GRANTS PARTNERS:**

Charlotte Street Foundation  
Spencer Museum of Art  
Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts

## **TIMELINE FOR *ROCKET GRANTS*:**

**January 4<sup>th</sup> 2010** - Application materials released online

**January 21<sup>st</sup> 2010** - Printed application materials available

First **launch and question** session in Kansas City, MO:

H & R Block Artspace (<http://www.kcai.edu/hr-block-artspace>), 6 PM

**January 23<sup>rd</sup> 2010** - First **launch and question** sessions in Lawrence, KS:

Spencer Museum of Art (<http://www.spencerart.ku.edu/>), 10 AM

Haskell Indian Nations University (<http://www.haskell.edu/>) 1 PM.

**January through March 2010** - Series of information sessions for artists held at diverse locations in Kansas City, Lawrence and surrounding regions. Additional dates, times and locations will be posted on the Charlotte Street and Spencer Museum websites and by email and poster announcements

**April 2 2010** - Applications due

**May 15, 2010** - Grant recipients notified

**June, 2010** - Distribution of funds, convening of grantees

**Early 2011** - *Call to artists for next cycle of grants distributed*

**June 30, 2011** - Cycle I Projects completed; final reports due; 10% final grant installments paid

## **PROCESS:**

A panel of artists and arts professionals will review applications and select projects for funding. Applicants may be contacted after proposal reviews for a brief personal interview.

## **Selection criteria:**

All proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Creative and conceptual strength of the proposed project
- Overall vision of the applicant(s)
- The capacity of the applicant(s) to realize the project
- The project's potential for meaningful impact in/on the community, regional art ecology, and other artists, which may include:
  - Relevance of the resulting project to the public
  - Engagement of others in the community in and with the project
  - The project's commitment to addressing a regional constituency
  - The project's demonstration of support from others in the community, including other artists
  - The use of venues that will encourage a different kind of audience

## **Funding Priorities:**

**Rocket Grants** will fund projects that exist outside of established institutions, occur outside of traditional forms of support, challenge traditional methods of production or presentation, add energy and diversity to the field of arts activity in our area, and provide opportunities for the creative growth of those involved. Elevating the presence of unconventional or under-recognized art forms is a strong priority for this grant program.

### **What kinds of projects are eligible for funding?:**

Applications will be accepted from artists, curators, collectives, collaboratives, partnerships, and artist-run spaces residing within an 80 mile radius of the Kansas City metropolitan area, including Lawrence, Kansas.

Although all projects funded must include a primary component that is visual in nature, supported projects may also include performance, film, video, new media, social practice and interdisciplinary projects. Performing artists are eligible to apply if their work includes a strong visual component or involves meaningful collaboration with a visual artist or artists.

Projects must have a public life – i.e., they must engage and be made accessible to the public via process, presentation, production, or publication. Manifestations may include

- exhibitions with a strong public component
- site-specific installations
- public art projects
- public programs
- events
- performances
- screenings
- online projects
- publications
- residencies
- programming of artist-run spaces, etc.

Support for curatorial and publication projects will be for original projects involving significant collaboration with artist(s) from the geographic region and substantially contributing to this region's contemporary art and cultural discourse.

Projects that will reach or connect artists and/or communities from different parts of the region (i.e. Kansas City and Lawrence) are encouraged.

### **What kinds of projects will NOT be funded?:**

- Projects proposed by a 501c3 non-profit organization
- Projects in which the lead artist/organizer or the majority of artists live outside the 80 mile radius zone, or are not resident in this area at the time of application
- Projects that do not have a public component, that are not accessible and presented to the public or that do not exemplify innovative practices
- Projects that request the use of venues run by partner institutions (Charlotte Street/Urban Culture Project and the Spencer Museum of Art)
- Projects or artists that receive funding for the first round of **Rocket Grants** will not be eligible for the second round
- Projects in which the lead artist/organizer or any of the key participants is under the age of 21 or enrolled in any undergraduate program at the time of application