



2027 Craft-Based Education Grant Kit

Program Description:

The Craft-Based Education grants, available to all previous Teaching Artist Cohort awardees, will support the creation of lasting educational resources to document and carry forward craft practices and encourage the creation of more accessible and impactful teaching tools. Twelve previous Teaching Artist Cohort awardees will receive \$5,000 each to document, develop, or improve teaching tools and be matched with a mentor. Each grantee will also have the opportunity to cultivate community via a monthly virtual cohort convening. At the end of the six-month grant period, each awardee will share their created resource during a virtual public program hosted by the Center for Craft and also made available through the Center for Craft website.

The Teaching Artist Cohort award was initiated in 2023, for mid-career craft artists who teach. Each year a cohort of 30 teaching artists receive a \$10,000 grant and an opportunity to join a 6-month cohort experience to support their artistic and teaching career development with programs, mentorship, and peer-to-peer learning.

Grant Guiding Principles

Knowledge Preservation

Valuing the wisdom embedded in craft traditions and ensuring its continuation

Innovation

Adapting teaching methods for contemporary learning contexts

Cultural Stewardship

Honoring teaching artists as bearers of cultural heritage and wisdom

Accessibility

Creating resources that reach diverse audiences across barriers

Eligible Project Types

- **Video Documentation**
Filmed demonstrations or archives of craft processes and instruction techniques
- **Written Curricula**
Complete lesson plan series focused on targeted themes
- **Educational Toolkits**
Physical or digital resources for teaching artists to utilize

- **Inclusive Learning Materials**
Creation of multilingual or age-appropriate workbooks or curricula to expand reach
- **Other Educational Resources**
Development of other resources of an educational purpose aligned with the principles and goals of this grant

GRANT GOALS

- To provide mid-career teaching artists with mentorship, financial assistance, and peer-to-peer support to develop artist-designed craft curricula and documentation.
- To encourage innovation and resource sharing within the community of teaching artists.
- To catalyze craft communities through the creation and dissemination of tools and resources for teaching craft.

OVERVIEW

Award Amount: \$5,000

Grant Period: 6 months

TIMELINE

- October 9, 2026: Application Opens
- October 16, 2026 at 1 pm ET: Virtual Applicant Info Session
- **November 16, 2026 (11:59 pm ET): Application Deadline**
- January, 2027: All Applicants Notified of Application Status
- February, 2027: Center for Craft Award Announcement
- Grant Period Begins: January 2027
- Mentor Match: February, 2027
- Grant Period Ends: June, 2027
- Public Program: June, 2027

ELIGIBILITY

Proposals are welcome from 2023, 2024, 2025, and 2026 Teaching Artist Cohort grant recipients. This funding opportunity is dedicated to supporting artists who have already demonstrated their commitment to advancing craft education and practice through their participation in the Center for Craft's Teaching Artist Cohort program.

Applicants must be in good standing with the Center for Craft and the Teaching Artist Cohort program at the time of application and must apply as individuals; collaborative groups or organizations are not eligible. Awardees are expected to commit fully to the six-month expedited project timeline. Proposals should outline a project or initiative that connects directly to both the applicant's artistic and teaching practices in craft while demonstrating the potential for meaningful community impact.

By limiting eligibility to this group, the Craft-Based Education Grant acknowledges the dedication, innovation, and leadership of these mid-career craft artists who teach. This opportunity further invests in their ability to expand their impact, sustain their practices, and contribute meaningfully to the field of craft and education.

The Center defines a teaching artist as a practicing craft artist and/or maker who utilizes their skill sets and sensibilities to integrate their work and perspectives into a wide range of settings.

Artists working in tenured or tenure-track positions may not apply. Funding for the Craft-Based Education Grants is geared toward artists and/ or makers whose practice includes community engagement, experience as adjunct faculty, workshop facilitator/instructors, visiting artists, museum education, community college instructors, and/ or lecturers.

EXPECTATIONS AND DELIVERABLES

Over the six-month timeline, applicants are expected to complete their full project. At the conclusion of the grant period, recipients will provide a brief written report, participate in an interview with Center for Craft staff, and present the resource or tool created during a virtual public program hosted by the Center for Craft. To be considered, applicants must meet all of the following criteria:

- Be a previous Teaching Artist Cohort awardee.
- Be 21 years of age or older.
- Be eligible to receive taxable income in the United States.
- Have resided and worked in the U.S. for at least the past two years and for the full duration of the grant period.

- Have maintained a studio practice for a minimum of five years.
- Have worked as a teaching artist for a minimum of three years.
- Be in good standing with the Center for Craft and the Teaching Artist Cohort program at the time of application.
- Apply as individuals (collaborative groups or organizations are not eligible).
- Propose a project or initiative that connects directly to both their artistic and teaching practices in craft.
- Demonstrate the potential for meaningful community impact through their proposed project.
- Submit a proposal that is timely and demonstrates readiness to benefit from this opportunity.

Applicants cannot be:

- Tenured faculty at a college or university
- Tenure-track position at a college or university
- Collectives, groups, partnerships
- Disqualified persons, such as substantial contributors to the Center for Craft, as well as current employees, consultants, or board members of the Center for Craft, or immediate family members of such a person

The Center for Craft prohibits discrimination, harassment, and retaliation based on sex, sexual orientation, race, color, religion, national origin, disability or perceived disability, age, marital status, gender identity, veteran status, or any other protected category. The Center encourages applications from historically underrepresented populations. Applying does not constitute a promise or guarantee of being awarded a grant.

CRAFT-BASED EDUCATION GRANT

The Craft-Based Education grants, available to all previous Teaching Artist Cohort awardees, will support the creation of lasting educational resources to document and carry forward craft practices and encourage the creation of more accessible and impactful teaching tools. Twelve previous Teaching Artist Cohort awardees will receive \$5,000 each to document, develop, or improve teaching tools to support craft-based educators nationwide. Each grantee may utilize grant funding to work with mentors, archivists or

filmmakers to enhance the project. At the end of the six-month grant period, each awardee will share the resource created during a virtual public program hosted by the Center for Craft and made available through the Center For Craft website.

Grant Guiding Principles

Knowledge Preservation

Valuing the wisdom embedded in craft traditions and ensuring its continuation.

Innovation

Adapting traditional teaching methods for contemporary learning contexts

Cultural Stewardship

Honoring teaching artists as bearers of cultural heritage and wisdom

Accessibility

Creating resources that reach diverse audiences across barriers

Eligible Project Types

- **Video Documentation**
Filmed demonstrations or archives of craft processes and instruction techniques
- **Written Curricula**
Complete lesson plan series focused on targeted themes
- **Educational Toolkits**
Physical or digital resources for teaching artists to utilize
- **Inclusive Learning Materials**
Creation of multilingual or age-appropriate workbooks or curricula to expand reach

REQUIREMENTS OF CRAFT-BASED EDUCATION GRANT AWARDEES

- The initial 70% of funds will be awarded upon completion of the grant agreement and receipt of the awardee's W9.
- The final 30% of the grant will be awarded upon completion of the grant cycle and an evaluation interview.
- Grant permission for the Center for Craft to use the language and images from the recipient's application, including high-resolution images that the recipient may want to provide in press releases, social media, and/or reports of work by recipients of the Teaching Artist Cohort.
- Recipients must acknowledge support from the Center for Craft by:
 - including the tag: "Center for Craft Craft-Based Education Grant Awardee" in their email signature, website, and/or social media page for the duration of 6 months
 - any creation of work, projects, resources, and materials (etc.) resulting from the grant carries the Center for Craft's logo or credit line: *"This was supported by Center for Craft through the Craft-Based Education Grant"*

- Recipients agree to present their completed project during a virtual public program hosted by the Center for Craft.
- Recipients agree to conduct a follow-up interview and final report about their experience **before the end of the grant period.**

CRITERIA/REVIEW PROCESS

The adjudication process will take place virtually. Applications will be reviewed by the Center for Craft staff for completeness, then evaluated by a selection panel via the SlideRoom online application review portal. The panel will consist of 3-4 people recognized as craft-informed experts working across sectors, such as writers, educators, artists, curators, and creative catalysts, to provide valuable insight into the grant-making process. Panelists free of any conflict of interest will evaluate the applications based on the following criteria:

- **Project Relevance and Impact**
Does it clearly connect artistic practice with teaching practice in craft? Will it create meaningful educational or community impact?
- **Feasibility and Readiness**
Is the project realistic within the six-month timeline? Does the applicant demonstrate readiness, clarity of goals, and the ability to follow through with the proposed activities? Are the outcomes (report, interview, documentation) achievable and measurable utilizing the resources of this grant award of \$5,000?
- **Artistic and Educational Excellence**

Does the proposed project reflect strong artistic merit and innovation? Does the applicant reflect a clear plan for expounding and expanding the reach of their craft and teaching artist practice? Is there evidence that the project contributes to the advancement of craft-based education in the field?

Considerations in final selection:

The Center for Craft respects, values, and celebrates the unique attributes, characteristics, and perspectives that make each person who they are. We foster open communication among diverse perspectives and bring together a broad range of individuals to enrich and support programming. Ultimately, we will ask the Selection Panel

to compose a set of recipients that prioritizes diversity and represents a range of geographies, materials, practices, and types of artist-educators. Priority will be given to applicants who received a Center for Craft grant.

HOW TO APPLY

Applicants must apply using the online application program SlideRoom at <https://review.slideroom.com/#/program/86834/overview> no later than 11:59 ET on **November 16, 2026**.

Applicants will not be required to pay an application fee. Please review the sample application below before beginning your application. All applicants should create a login to partially complete the form and return later to finish it. Before submitting your application, you will be directed to a confirmation page where you can review your form and return to edit or delete your uploaded files as needed. Your application can not be accessed once submitted. Applicants will receive a confirmation email once the application form has been successfully submitted.

Notification

Notification of application status will be sent via email before the end of **January 2027**. The email address listed on the application form will be used to send out notifications. Please be sure it is a valid email address that you check regularly.

Sample Application

Cover Sheet:

1. Applicant name
2. Link to online portfolio or artist website
3. Are you able to receive income in the United States or U.S. territories taxable by the United States or U.S. territories for the duration of the grant period?
4. Have you lived and worked in the United States for the previous two years and for the duration of the grant period?
5. To be an eligible applicant for this grant, you must be an alumni of the Center for Craft's Teaching Artist Cohort program. What was your cohort year?
6. How long have you worked as a teaching artist?
7. If you currently work for a school, organization, or community space, what is your position (select all that apply):
8. Please identify your primary teaching method. If you currently teach in a variety of ways, please select all that apply or select "other" and list the types of teaching you engage with.

9. What craft medium/media does your project focus on?

10. Which of the following project types best aligns with your proposal? (Check all that apply.)

- Video Documentation
 - Filmed demonstrations or archives of craft processes and instruction techniques
- Written Curricula
 - Complete lesson plan series focused on targeted themes
- Educational Toolkits
 - Physical or digital resources for teaching artists to utilize
- Inclusive Learning Materials
 - Creation of multilingual or age-appropriate workbooks or curricula to expand reach
- Other Learning Materials

11. Center for Craft will match each awardee with a mentor unless the awardee has a specific mentor in mind. Please indicate here if you have a mentor in mind for this project. The Center for Craft will contact this individual and coordinate the details of the mentorship arrangement.

Application Questions:

1. Describe the project you plan to pursue with support from the Craft-Based Education Grant. (500 words maximum)

2. How does your project expand upon one or more of the following grant guiding principles (250 words maximum):

Knowledge Preservation: Valuing the wisdom embedded in craft traditions and ensuring its continuation.

Innovation: Adapting traditional teaching methods for contemporary learning contexts

Cultural Stewardship: Honoring teaching artists as bearers of cultural heritage and wisdom

Accessibility: Creating resources that reach diverse audiences across barriers

3. Who will benefit from your project and how? (250 words maximum)

4. What is your Project Budget?

Provide a maximum of 10 budget line-items to itemize your expenses and related costs.

5. What is your Project Timeline?

Provide a maximum of 10 project milestones that detail your most important activities and target dates.

6. OPTIONAL - Attach one document of supporting materials. This can be an image, a diagram, a letter of support from a mentor or other contributor. You may provide any single-page document you think will contribute to the quality and clarity of your application.

Allowed Media Types:

- Images (up to 5MB)
- Video (up to 250MB)
- Audio (up to 30MB)
- PDF (up to 10MB)
- 3D Models via Sketchfab

External media from YouTube, Vimeo, and SoundCloud

If you choose to include a video link, please note that during the review process only the first 2 minutes of the sample will be viewed. Please edit your materials accordingly.

Demographic Survey

Please note that the demographic survey data will only be used anonymously. Your participation in this survey helps us and our local and national funders understand who the Center for Craft is reaching so that we can continue to develop equitable and accessible programming. Completion of this survey will in no way affect your application. We require all applicants to complete this form; however, you may answer each question with the “I prefer not to answer” option.

FAQs

If I receive a grant, will I need to pay taxes on my award?

Yes, all cash funding is taxable income.

May I mail a hard copy of my application materials to the Center for Crafts office?

No, hard copy submissions will not be accepted. The application must be completed and submitted through SlideRoom.

Can I work on my application and return to complete it later?

Yes, creating a login account will enable you to complete the form in several online sessions.

I just submitted my application, but I want to go back and make an edit. Is this possible?

No, once your application is submitted, you will not be able to return to the form or change any submitted information.

I previously received a Center for Craft grant but did not complete the project, or I am still in the process of completing it—am I eligible to apply?

No

I received a 2023, 2024, 2025, or 2026 Teaching Artist Cohort Grant. Am I eligible to apply?

Yes

I did NOT receive a 2023, 2024, 2025, or 2026 Teaching Artist Cohort Grant. Am I eligible to apply?

No

I am a student. Am I eligible to apply?

Yes

Are art collectives eligible to apply?

No

Who can I contact with questions?

Craft Education Fellow Leia Lewis: llewis@centerforcraft.org.