

Anonymous Was A Woman Environmental Art Grants 2026 Guidelines

Application Deadline: Tuesday, April 7, 2026 at 5:00 PM ET

NYFA accepts applications submitted online at apply.nyfa.org/submit

The Anonymous Was A Woman Environmental Art Grants (AWAW EAG) provides grants of up to \$20,000 to environmental art projects led by woman, transgender, and gender-nonconforming artists in the United States and U.S. Territories.

Questions? Check out the [AWAW EAG homepage](#) for more information!

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PROGRAM OVERVIEW	2
GRANT TIMELINE	2
WHO CAN APPLY	2
PROJECT ELIGIBILITY	3
APPLICATION GUIDELINES	4
What to Submit	4
REVIEW PROCESS	5
Evaluation Criteria	5
Review Timeline	6
HOW TO APPLY	6
Info Sessions	7
CONTACT	7

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The AWAW EAG supports environmental art projects that inspire thought, action, and ethical engagement. Projects should not only point at problems, but aim to engage an environmental issue at some scale. Proposals should illustrate thorough consideration of a project's ecological and social ethics. Projects that explore interdependence, relationships, and systems through Indigenous and ancestral practices are encouraged to apply.

Supporting artists who have been impacted by gender inequity is one of AWAW's core values. The award is open to women, transgender, and gender-nonconforming artists.

The AWAW EAG program is funded by [Anonymous Was A Woman](#) with additional funding provided by individual donors. If you would like to contribute to this initiative, please email awaw@nyfa.org.

GRANT TIMELINE

Applications Open: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 at 10:00 AM ET

Applications Close: Tuesday, April 7, 2026 at 5:00 PM ET*

Applicant Notifications: August 2026

****Please note that the application form on Submittable will automatically close & stop accepting applications at this time.***

WHO CAN APPLY

Applicants must:

- Identify as a woman, transgender, and/or gender-nonconforming artist
- Be 18 years or older on or before the grant deadline
- Be an individual artist who is the project lead of the proposed project
- Collaborative projects are eligible and encouraged to apply
- While partnerships with organizations are allowed, organizations themselves cannot apply or serve as the lead applicant

- Have residence in one of the 50 states, a Tribal Nation, a U.S. Territory, or the District of Columbia on the grant deadline
- Not be enrolled in a degree-seeking program of any kind during the grant term (August 2026 to August 2027)
- Not have received an AWAW EAG previously as the lead applicant
- Past recipients of other NYFA and AWAW grant programs are eligible to apply
- Not be a NYFA or AWAW employee, member of the NYFA Board of Trustees or Artists' Advisory Committee, and/or an immediate family member of any of the above

PROJECT ELIGIBILITY

The intended impact of the project is an important factor in the selection process. Environmental art projects that qualify for this program may focus on the following themes, but are not limited to:

- Regeneration
- Eco-social engagement
- Decarbonization as decolonization
- Ecofeminism
- Climate change/climate collapse
- Systems-restoration
- Interspecies relationships
- Natural or built systems
- Recycling and repurposing
- Clean energy production
- Bioplastics

The funded project or phase of the project must be completed by August 2027. The AWAW EAG is seeking to advance existing projects that are already in development to complete a project in full or to complete a phase of a project. New projects are not eligible to apply.

Projects must have a public engagement component that is free to attend, is open to the general public, and takes place within the grant term (August 2026 to August 2027).

Funds must be used to complete the project outlined in the application form. Funds may be reallocated as necessary to complete the project.

Tip: When considering the materials used within your project, it's important to prioritize sustainability and ensure that they are non-extractive and ethically sourced.

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Applications must be submitted in English.

What to Submit

- **Lead Applicant Information**
 - Name and contact details for the lead applicant
 - PLEASE NOTE: The lead applicant must be the primary project lead and meet all eligibility requirements. They will be responsible for receiving and managing the grant funds.
- **Artist/Collective Information**
 - Specify if applying as an individual or on behalf of a collective
 - Collective name (if applicable) and roles of core team members
 - Artist statement/mission
 - Artistic discipline
- **Project Information**
 - **Project Name:** Working title
 - **Project Location:** List the primary location(s) your project takes place
 - **Project Synopsis:** Overview of your project or phase of your project (max 250 words)
 - **Phase Description:** If applying to complete a phase of your project, provide details and goals (max 250 words)
 - **Project Milestones:** Outline key milestones already reached (max 250 words)
 - PLEASE NOTE: The AWAWEAG is seeking to advance existing projects that are already in development to complete a project in full or to complete a phase of a project. New projects are not eligible to apply.
 - **Project Timeline:** Detailed production and presentation steps, including public engagement (max 250 words)
 - **Environmental and Social Impact:** Describe the intended environmental impact and community it will affect (max 250 words)

- **Public Engagement Plans:** Detail your public engagement component, which must be free, open to the general public, and completed by August 31, 2027. (max 250 words)
- **Target Audience & Outreach Strategy:** Describe your target audience and marketing strategy (max 250 words)
- **Project Budget**
 - **Project Budget:** Upload or use the provided template to outline project costs, including artist fees, equipment, marketing, etc.
 - **Total Grant Request:** Indicate the amount requested (maximum \$20,000)
 - **Use of Funds:** Describe how the grant funds will be used to support your project (max 250 words)
- **Work Samples**
 - Upload up to 6 work samples total (images, PDF project presentations, manuscripts, audio, short video clips)
 - **Proposed Project Work Samples (Required):** Submit 1–3 in-progress samples from your proposed project.
 - **Supporting Work Samples (Optional):** Submit up to 3 additional samples that provide context for your work and/or project.
 - At least one sample must be an in-progress work from your proposed project
 - Include descriptions, titles, dates, and timestamps (for videos) in the metadata field
- **Supplemental Materials (Optional)**
 - **Artist Bios/Resumes:** Submit bios/resumes for the project lead and core team members in one document
 - **Letter of Commitment or Interest / Permits:** If applicable, upload a letter of support from a partnering organization or required permits for public spaces

NYFA regularly revisits its grant guidelines and eligibility requirements to improve clarity and accessibility and reduce unintentional bias. We invite feedback and suggestions that we can consider within the parameters of the program funder's goals and NYFA's required processes.

REVIEW PROCESS

Applications are reviewed over the course of 3 elimination rounds.

- **Round 1:** Preliminary panelists, made up of past recipients of the AWAW EAG, carefully review and score assigned applications independently. The highest scoring applications will move forward into the main panel for review.
- **Round 2:** A group of five panelists independently review and score the remaining applications. Top-scoring applications advance to the final round.
- **Round 3:** The panel convenes to collectively discuss the applications that have made it into this round and select the final grant recipients.

Evaluation Criteria

Eligible applications are reviewed and scored by a panel based on the following evaluation criteria:

1. Project Clarity and Feasibility

- The project concept and logistics are clearly described. Key participating artists and collaborators are identified and their roles are clearly defined.
- The timeline and budget are clear and realistic in relation to the project's scope.
- AWAW EAG is seeking to advance existing projects that are already in development. What stage is the project in development and how will the applicant use these funds towards the next phase? Milestones should reflect the progress of the project to date.

2. Environmental Impact and Community Engagement

- The applicant is able to clearly outline the environmental and/or social impact they are trying to affect and how they plan to achieve that impact.
- Does the scope of the project match the goals for impact? Are the goals for impact feasible?
- How are the goals for impact communicated to the target audience? How will the project engage its audience?

3. Creativity and Artistic Merit

- The applicant is able to provide documentation of a sustained commitment to their art practice.
- An applicant's artist statement/mission reflects the proposed project's goals, and is reflected in the quality of their submitted work samples.
- Work samples should be representative of the applicant's grant project, and the applicant or their project collaborators must be the originating artists of all work samples submitted.

Review Timeline

Tuesday, April 7, 2026: Application deadline for the 2026 grant cycle.

April- July 2026: Applications undergo a three-round review and elimination process to determine the final grant recipients.

August 2026: All applicants will receive a notification regardless of the outcome.

August-September 2026: Recipient contracting, payments, and public announcement. A detailed timeline for payment and announcement will follow recipient notifications.

August 2026 – August 2027: 2026 recipient projects and public engagement events take place.

HOW TO APPLY

We only accept applications via [Submittable](#). First-time users will need to register with the free Submittable platform to access the application portal.

Applications for the 2026 program cycle will open on Tuesday, February 10, 2026 at 10 AM ET.

Applications submitted after the deadline will not be accepted, and no exceptions will be made. We strongly recommend that applicants complete their applications in advance of the deadline to avoid potential technical problems.

Applicants will receive an automatic response from Submittable once their application has been successfully received.

Info Sessions

Links to recorded information sessions and live info session registrations can be found on the [AWAW EAG homepage](#).

CONTACT

For questions, please reach out to awaw@nyfa.org.