



DeHaan Artist of Distinction Award

2026 Application Guidelines

Application Release

Tuesday, January 6, 2026, 10:00 a.m

Application Deadlines

Round 1: May 3, 2026

Round 2: October 18, 2026

Application Portal

indyarts.grantplatform.com

About the Program

The DeHaan Artist of Distinction Award, offered annually and administered by the Indy Arts Council and funded entirely by a legacy gift from the Christel DeHaan Family Foundation, is an artist grant/award program to provide project funding for professional artists in Indiana that promotes, celebrates, recognizes, and rewards innovation. The aim of the program is to recognize contemporary visual artists and support original projects.

The DeHaan Artist of Distinction Award Program will honor up to five contemporary artists each year with **grants of \$10,000 for aspirational visual arts projects**. Each project must demonstrate a need for the requested funds and be completed within the stated deadline. It is intended to allow a high-tolerance for risk and exploration and will provide support for an artist's creative practice that will help them push their work in dynamic ways. Each awarded artist will submit a final report at the end of the process and must participate in a final public exhibition of their work. Recipients will be required to document the project with images and reflections regarding the impact of the project on their artistic development and how the project brought something new to the field of visual art.

Contact Information

Questions concerning the DeHaan Artist of Distinction Award which are not answered in the below guidelines should be directed to:

Anna Tragesser, Program Manager

grants@indyarts.org, 317-631-3301, ext. 221

Eligibility Requirements

Read through the general eligibility requirements carefully for the DeHaan Artist of Distinction Award for both artists and projects. Each individual's situation is different. It is the responsibility of the applicant to make the case in the application for meeting the eligibility requirements.

ARTIST ELIGIBILITY

1. Must be a visual artist, inclusive of art forms such as, but not limited to, painting, drawing, printmaking, sculpture, ceramics, photography, textiles, and digital/new media.
2. Must have 5 years documented experience demonstrating excellence and innovation (quality solo exhibitions, national exposure and/or experience, critical reviews, residencies, awards, fellowships, juried exhibitions, etc.).
3. Must have lived and/or worked in the state of Indiana for a minimum of three consecutive years at the date of application.
4. Must reside and/or work in the state of Indiana for at least one year following the conclusion of the award activities.
5. Must have generated consistent income over the past five years through your work in the field of visual art.
6. Must not have received a DeHaan award within the last 12-months at time of application. *Preference is given to artists who have not previously received an award.*
7. Artwork must be *contemporary*, meaning the artist is creating innovative, forward thinking, and challenging work that brings something new to the field of visual art.

PROJECT ELIGIBILITY

1. Can be either a new or existing project that supports an artist's professional or creative practice.
2. Must be aspirational and innovative.
3. Must occur and conclude within 12 months of execution of signed agreement.
4. Must be able to share the results of the project through submission of a final report.
5. Awardees must agree to participate in a professionally curated group exhibition at Gallery 924 at Indy Arts Council, tentatively for October/November 2026.
6. Must further the applicant's artistic endeavors and/or propel their career.
7. Must submit at least two work samples for artistic documentation.

Application Process

All applications, attachments, and work samples will be submitted at indyarts.grantplatform.com. This is an online, written application. If you prefer an alternate format (i.e. dictated responses, video responses, other languages), please reach out to grants@indyarts.org, and we'll do our best to accommodate. **Incomplete applications are ineligible.**

Applications will be reviewed in two rounds. Applicants may submit an application in either or both rounds.

Round 1 Application Deadline: May 3, 2026

Round 2 Application Deadline: October 18, 2026

Application Support

Video: A recorded information session about the program and how to prepare a successful application is available at <https://indyarts.org/grants/dehaan-artist-of-distinction-award/>.

Application Instructions: If you need assistance with completing your application, please review the [application instructions found here](#).

Office Hours: To discuss your ideas or specific questions with the grants team, email grants@indyarts.org to schedule a virtual meeting.

Draft Review: If you submit your application by the draft review deadline, Indy Arts Council staff will review your application and provide suggestions to improve it. To receive a draft review, fill out and submit your application at indyarts.grantplatform.com before the deadline below. Staff will provide feedback via email 1-2 weeks after the deadline. Submitted applications may be edited until the application deadline.

Round 1 Draft Review Deadline: March 15, 2026

Round 2 Draft Review Deadline: September 20, 2026.

Examples of Award Activities

Support will be awarded for DeHaan Artist of Distinction Award activities occurring within a 12-month period. There is no minimum time frame. Examples of possible projects and initiatives include but are not limited to the following:

- Exploration of a new body of work
- Participation in a national event/exhibition
- Purchase of materials or supplies related to a specific project
- Travel and shipping of artwork for exhibition

Project activities may be conducted anywhere. Funds may be used for travel, housing, and/or the equipment necessary to conduct proposed activities. Funds may also be used for materials necessary to create artwork in preparation for an exhibition. Awardees will be responsible for making all arrangements and/or purchases for grant activities.

Restrictions from Funding

1. Funds cannot be used for tuition or tuition expenses at any college, university, or degree-granting institution.
2. Funds cannot be re-granted or redistributed to any other person, organization, or entity.
3. Funds cannot be used for debt reduction, debt elimination, student loans, penalties, or litigation costs.
4. Funds cannot be used toward the production of a short or feature-length film.

Selection Criteria

A selection panel, including qualified representatives from the Christel DeHaan Family Foundation, the Indy Arts Council, and local and national visual art professionals, will make the award determinations through an online process.

- **Quality of the Artistic Work (30%)**
Artist demonstrates strong technical skills and craft in the execution of their work. Combination of aesthetics, technical skill, and delivery is engaging emotionally, intellectually, and spiritually. Artist has an authentic relationship/connection to the content/community involved in the work. Work samples display a clear and consistent identity for the artist.
- **Aspirational and Innovative Components of Proposed Project (30%)**
Artist proposes a project that is new, fresh, and challenges and/or innovates on their current body of work and adds something noteworthy to the visual arts field, both locally and non-locally.
- **Strength of Proposed Project and Relation to Work (20%)**
Artist should propose a strong project concept and demonstrate how they will reasonably and realistically move toward project completion. Project should build upon their current body of work and their artistic skills.
- **Documented Success in the Field (10%)**
Artist demonstrates that they have achieved a high level of success and recognition within their respective art form through exhibition history, other awards and fellowships, residencies, education, commissions, sales, contracted work, public art, etc.
- **Intended Impact on Applicant's Career (10%)**
Artist demonstrates that the proposed project will have a positive impact on the trajectory of their career, both artistically and professionally, leading to more opportunities, acclaim, public attention, and/or some other metric of success.

Financial Information About DeHaan Award

DeHaan Artist of Distinction Award grants are up to a maximum of \$10,000, and up to five awards will be presented annually.

Payments will be made in two installments: 80% at the beginning of the grant period and the remaining 20% when a final report has been submitted, according to the schedule determined in each awardee’s grant agreement.

Each grant recipient will be required to submit an IRS W-9 form so that an IRS 1099 income statement can be issued by Indy Arts Council for the awardee’s tax records. **All taxes and reporting of taxes will be the responsibility of the award recipient.**

Notification and Award

DeHaan Artist of Distinction Award recipients will be notified of their selection by email within 8 weeks of the application deadline.

Indy Arts Council staff will send a DocuSign email with a DeHaan Artist of Distinction Award agreement and an IRS W-9 form, and may request a headshot and artist bio to be used in the award announcement. When these pieces are completed, Indy Arts Council will begin processing the first payment.

Program Schedule

January 6, 2026 Application Release

Round 1

March 15, 2026 Draft review deadline (optional)
May 3, 2026 Application deadline
July 2026 Award notification
June 30, 2027 Final report deadline

Round 2 (subject to availability of awards)

Sept 20, 2026 Draft review deadline (optional)
October 18, 2026 Application deadline
December 2026 Award notification
November 30, 2027 Final report deadline

Fall 2027 Gallery 924 Group Exhibition