



FY27 FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS | PUBLIC ART: ART EXHIBITION (CURATORIAL) GRANT PROGRAM SEPTEMBER 28, 2026, COMMISSION MEETING

Grant Program Name:

FY27 Art Exhibition (Curatorial) Grant Program (AEG)

Grant Program Description:

The Art Exhibition (Curatorial) Grant Program (AEG) provides support for the development and public presentation of visual art exhibitions by District resident curators through grant support and use of CAH's exhibition space within the District owned building lobby and CAH's virtual platform. Applicants must be individuals or organizations with prior curatorial experience. Two (2) exhibition proposals will receive grants for curation and installation during FY27 around the following themes:

- 1) Social Justice Arts (Winter 2027)
- 2) Open Theme (Spring 2027)

Number of Cycles: 1

Allocated Budget Amount:

FY2027	70,000 (recommending two \$35,000 grants)
FY2026	70,000 (awarded two \$35,000 grants)
FY2025	105,000 (awarded three \$35,000 grants)
FY2024	N/A
FY2023:	\$35,000 (awarded one \$35,000 grant)
FY2022:	\$30,000 (one \$30,000 grant) (Awarded)

Number of Panels: 1 Panel

Grant Manager: Michelle May-Curry, Curator

Convener: Karyn Miller, Public Arts Manager

Ranking and Award Justification:

- **Cut-off:** All 10 eligible applications were reviewed and scored by panelists, in an online review of portfolios, on a scale of 1-10.
- **Score:** Highest one score per thematic funding category (social justice, open theme).

- **Allocation of Funds:** Funding is available to support the recommendation of one (1) exhibition proposal to receive a grant of \$35,000 per thematic category, for a total of two (2) exhibitions and \$70,000 in total.
- Grantees are funded in full based on the applicant's request up to the maximum allowable amount by cohort. (individuals up to \$30,000; curatorial teams up to \$35,000).
- **Total Recommended Request: \$70,000**
- **Outreach and observations**
 - There was an increase in applications from FY26 to FY27 from 10 to 16.
 - Revisions to the RFA made in FY25 that likely continue to positively impact applications numbers include:
 - Thematic curatorial emphases that appeal to specific demographics and community groups;
 - Making organizations eligible for consideration;
 - Decreased requirements at the application stage, including making a full exhibition checklist and exhibition rendering optional; and
 - Inclusion of appendix with list of available CAH gallery equipment, including pedestals, TV monitors, storage, and comms support.
- Outreach efforts were increased by the following:
 - Sent personal email invitations to DC curators and organizations to apply
 - Additional one-on-one meetings and calls with prospective applicants to assist with technical issues and answering questions
 - Facilitated three virtual grant workshops

Committee Recommendation:

The Public Art Committee recommends adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, that the Commission adopt the funding recommendation for the FY 2027 Art Exhibition (Curatorial) Program Grant as presented for a total funding amount of \$70,000.



FY27 FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS | PUBLIC ART:

ART BANK PROGRAM GRANT

SEPTEMBER 28, 2026, COMMISSION MEETING

Grant Program Name:

FY27 Art Bank Program (ABP)

Grant Program Description:

In support of local visual artists and art nonprofit organizations, CAH provides grants to artists and nonprofits through its special Art Bank Program Grant. The ongoing and annual acquisition of art from metropolitan artists becomes part of the Art Bank Collection. Artwork in the collection is managed by CAH's Public Arts Department and loaned to District government agencies for display in public areas and offices within DC government. The Art Bank Collection has over 3,000 artworks in various media.

For this grant, metropolitan artist is defined as a legal resident of Washington, DC, or an artist whose practice is based in and primarily serving the District, for at least one (1) year prior to the application deadline. Award amounts to metropolitan artists vary. Eligible applicants can be awarded up to \$15,000 for individuals and up to \$25,000 for nonprofit art galleries or organizations.

Program goals include:

- Growing the District's collection of art to reflect the rich, diverse artistic histories and communities of the District of Columbia and metropolitan region.
- Providing support, exposure and professional benefit for visual artists residing in the District of Columbia and metropolitan region.
- Enhancing the aesthetic experience for District employees and visitors that use the District of Columbia government buildings and public spaces.

Number of Cycles: 1

Award Amount History:

FY2027	385, 713.00	71 artists	71 Artworks
FY2026	\$378,205.00	68 Artists	69 Artworks
FY2025	\$384,067.00	68 Artists	77 Artworks
FY2024:	\$347,060.00	76 Artists	88 Artworks
FY2023:	\$334,700.00	75 Artists	100 Artworks

Number of Panels: 5 Panels
Grant Manager: Michelle May-Curry
Convener: Karyn Miller



Ranking and Award Justification:

- **Cut-off:** All eligible applications were reviewed and scored by panelists, in an online review of portfolios, on a scale of 1-10.
 - Panelists recommended select works for in-person finalist review, with a score cut off varying from 6.9 to 7.6 by panel.
 - In a second round in-person review, 134 finalists' works were reviewed. Panelists made recommendations based on a "yes," "no," or "maybe" judgement.
 - The Public Art Team reviewed all recommendations from the panels. In some instances, the Public Art Team may recommend that work be added or removed from the list. This is based upon the criteria as defined in the RFA, including: suitability for a public collection; whether the work is redundant of existing works in the collection; DC residency; and any conservation, framing, or maintenance concerns.
- **Allocation of Funds:**
 - The Public Arts Department puts forward the recommendation of 71 artists' works, with a total recommended funding amount of \$385,713. Pending funding availability, Public Art staff recommends funding the program at this amount.
 - The team put together additional funding scenarios to account for changes, and specifically possible reductions, to CAH's final budget. Those include:
 - **Option A** would support the recommendation of 61 artists' works, with a total recommended request of \$310,664. This budget would fund only artists who received unanimous yeses from the panel.
 - **Option B** would support the recommendation of 65 artists' works, with a total recommendation request of \$332,713. This budget would fund an additional 4 artists with DC residency who received majority yes votes from the panel.
 - Artists are funded in full based on the applicant's request up to the maximum allowable amount by cohort. (Individuals up to \$15,000; Organizations up to \$25,000).
- **Total recommended request: \$385,713**

Outreach and Observations:

- While there was a 12% increase in completed applications between FY25 and FY26, from 289 to 325, in FY27 applications remained consistent with FY26 numbers, at 326.
 - This year we saw a slight decrease in first-time applications. Among the 326 applicants, 112 were first-time applicants (34% of total applicants). In FY26, 127 of 325 were first-time applicants (39% of total applicants).
 - This year we continued our work to decrease the number of ineligible applications with additional outreach to applicants. An eligibility review of missing and incomplete documents and a targeted outreach strategy to support applicants in fulfilling their compliance requirements reduced the number of ineligible applications from 127 to 5. In FY26, ineligible applicants were reduced from 115 to 7. In FY25, ineligible applicants were reduced from 75 to 5. In FY24, there were 97 ineligible applicants.



- Among the 71 recommended artists at the full funding amount, there are 28 artists (39% of acquisition cohort) who are new to the Art Bank Collection.
 - This exceeds our FY27 goal of 25% of recommended artists being new to the collection
- Among the 134 finalists, 53% were accepted.
- The majority (56%) of applicants in FY27 are from the District of Columbia, with Maryland and Virginia applicants trailing respectively.
 - DC applicants: The highest number of applicants came from Ward 1 (35 applicants) and Wards 3 and 5 (both 32 applicants).
- In 2023, CAH added focus to the RFA and Panel scoring to highlight the Artist's contribution to the arts in DC. Applicants were required to provide an Impact Statement asking applicants to detail how their work is committed to the growth of the arts in Washington, DC. This addition remains impactful in shaping a diverse applicant pool committed to DC's arts ecosystem.
- Outreach efforts were increased by the following:
 - Sent personal emails to DC artists and artists groups to apply with a focus on bringing in artists who are new to the Art Bank collection, and artists for historical acquisition.
 - Additional one-on-one meetings and portfolio reviews, and studio visits with prospective applicants to assist with technical issues and answering questions.
 - Facilitated 3 FY27 Art Bank Program Grant Workshops with a total of 89 attendees.
 - April 21 (35 attendees)
 - April 30 – in person at MLK library (21 attendees)
 - May 7 (33 attendees)

Committee Recommendation For FY27 ABP grants:

The Public Art Committee recommends adoption of the following resolution:

"Resolved, that the Commission adopt the funding recommendation for the FY 2027 Art Bank Program Grant as presented for a total funding amount of \$385,713.00."

ABP Final Stats	FY27	FY26	FY25	FY24	FY23	FY22
# of artworks recommended:	71	69	77	84	100	75
# of artists recommended:	71	68	68	75	75	65
# of first-time applicants accepted:	19	20	16	11	17	
# of artists accepted new to AB collection:	28	25	19	58	35	29
Total \$ amount recommended:	\$385,713	\$378,205.00	\$384,067	\$347,060	\$334,700	\$231,391



Residency Information	FY27	FY26	FY25	FY24	FY23	FY22
DC	44	44	37	58	43	49
MD	18	15	19	13	18	8
VA	9	9	11	8	12	8
Ward 1	9	10	8	9	11	10
Ward 2	2	2	3	1	5	2
Ward 3	5	11	6	13	5	6
Ward 4	11	5	6	5	4	13
Ward 5	9	7	7	11	7	8
Ward 6	5	2	3	7	6	7
Ward 7	1	5	3	9	3	1
Ward 8	2	2	1	3	2	2
Total	71	68	67	79	73	65

ABP Applicant Info	FY27	FY26	FY25
Total applicants	326	325	289
Total first-time applicants	112	127	103
First time applicants who did NOT qualify as a finalist	77	94	78
Original # of ineligible applicants	127	115	75
Ineligible applicants after outreach effort	5	7	5
Declines pre finalist round:	190	199	175
Declines total	255	257	219
Total declines who were first time applicants	78		84
Artists in finalist round	134	122	111
Artists in finalist round who were declined	65	54	43
Artists in finalist round who were declined and are already represented in art bank	40	37	37
Artists in finalist round who were declined who were first time applicants	13	11	6



FY27 FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS | PUBLIC ART

PUBLIC ART BUILDING COMMUNITIES GRANT

SEPTEMBER 28, 2026, COMMISSION MEETING

Grant Program Name:

FY27 Public Art Building Communities (PABC)

Grant Program Description:

The Public Art Building Communities (PABC) grant program supports individual artists and organizations. Eligible projects support designing, fabricating, and installing new permanent or temporary works that connect artists (and their artwork) with communities. This grant is open to experienced artists or arts professionals (e.g. presenters, producers or educators), eighteen (18) years of age or older and a current resident of Washington, DC as well as to DC based nonprofit organizations or DC Business improvement Districts (BIDs) or Community Improvement Districts.

For this grant, public art is defined as artwork sited and installed onto locations that fulfill three (3) criteria: 1) locations must be accessible to the public (without cost); 2) locations must be in exterior (outdoor) locations free of encumbrances; and 3) artwork must be sited and installed onto locations that are accessible and viewable from public space. Materials should be sustainable, low maintenance, and protected by graffiti resistance coatings. Permanent public art projects exist for a duration of more than two (2) years without a deinstallation plan. Works can only require minimal routine maintenance. Temporary public art projects exist for less than two (2) years with a deinstallation plan.

Number of Cycles: 1

Allocated Budget Amount:

FY2027	\$370,965	3 projects
FY2026	\$345,000	3 projects
FY2025	\$392,085	3 Projects
FY2024	\$384,412	4 projects

Number of Panels: 1 Panel

Grant Manager: Kerry Kennedy, Arts Program Coordinator

Convener: Karyn Miller, Public Arts Manager

Ranking and Award Justification:

- **Cut-off:** All eligible applications were reviewed. Scores above 78.0 are recommended for funding.
- **Score:** Highest score 86.8. Difference of 1.0 point for next highest scoring applicant.
- **Allocation of Funds:**



- The panel recommended the top highest scores which were all above 78.0.
- The review panel scored four (4) applications favorably and the Public Arts Team would like to bring those four (4) applications (all scored above a 78) forward to be recommended for funding.
- **CAH currently has funding available for the top three applicants but would like to recommend one additional applicant should additional funds become available later in the year.**

- **Project Breakdown: Three (3) Organizations/BIDS for total of \$370,965**

Recommended Total Request (3 projects): **\$370,965**

Additional Recommendations: **\$150,000** (contingent on available funding)

Total Funding: **\$520,965**

Outreach and Observations:

There was a 20% increase in completed eligible applications between FY26 to FY27.

- Outreach efforts were increased through three (3) PABC Workshops/Live Chats.
- One (1) Business of the Arts Workshop: Head Start was held with 36 attendees.
- Staff attended four in-person, on-site workshops: two Creative Chill events; one DMV Creative Chat; and a workshop with Forecast Public Art.
- Numerous one-on-one meetings and calls were held with prospective applicants.

Awardees are in Ward 1, Ward 6 and Ward 7*, (*applicant has special projects happening in all eight wards.) Additional funding would bring another project to Ward 6.

Committee Recommendation:

The Public Art Committee recommends adoption of the following two resolutions:

"Resolved, that the Commission adopt the funding recommendation for the FY 2027 Public Art Building Communities Grant as presented for the top three applicants for a total funding amount of \$370,965."

"Resolved, that the Commission adopt the funding recommendation for the FY 2027 Public Art Building Communities Grant as presented to approve the fourth applicant, should additional funding become available later in the year for an additional funding amount of \$150,000."