



C O U N T Y • N J

**Arts Institute of Middlesex County**

**2026 Visual Arts Education Grants**

**GUIDELINES AND APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS**

Grant funding is available to nonprofit organizations located in Middlesex County to support Visual Arts Education programming for Middlesex County residents and visitors during the 2026 calendar year. Organizations are invited to submit proposals for free or low-cost visual arts education programs that decrease barriers to access and participation in visual art offerings.

This opportunity is for public-facing programs.

Organizations must be 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations at time of application submission.

Grant-funded activities must take place within Middlesex County.

All programming must be open to the public and comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

Previous grantees must be in “good standing” with the Arts Institute of Middlesex County, complying with all requirements of current and recent grant contracts.

Grants range from \$1,000-\$4,000

No cash match required.

Projects must take place between May 22, 2026 – December 31, 2026.

A final report is required.

**Deadline to Apply: Tuesday, April 21, 2026 by 11:59pm**

Submit your application through the online grants portal: <https://middlesex.smapply.io/>

*Questions? Contact Program Coordinator, Emmanuel Solano*

*emmanuel.solano@co.middlesex.nj.us*

*732-258-7505*



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Grant funding has been provided by the Middlesex County Board of County Commissioners through a grant award from the Middlesex County Cultural Arts Trust Fund. For more information on events, go to [MiddlesexCountyCulture.com](http://MiddlesexCountyCulture.com)



Made possible by funds from Middlesex County, a partner of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.

**Allowable Funding Uses:**

- Proposals may include requests for: summer art camp, visual arts classes, symposia, hands-on workshops, residencies, exhibitions with open calls and gallery talks, or other events/programming with educational and interactive components with participants
- Hiring teaching artists directly related to your project
- Hiring outside project coordinators, planning or nonprofit consultants, specialists, and/or training professionals directly related to your project
- Marketing, graphic design, and/or printing when directly related to your project
- Supplies when directly related to your project
- Phone and postage when directly related to your project
- Insurance and rentals when directly related to your project

**Restricted Funding Uses:**

- General administrative salaries
- Payment to board members
- Equipment or items with a life of 3 years or more
- Maintenance, restoration, or renovation
- Deficits or losses from other events or projects
- Any project or part of a project that is already completed
- Fundraisers
- Paying individuals under age 18
- Scholarships or awards
- Food and Hospitality
- Out-of-state travel
- Costs related to legal expenses or disputes
- Purchase of artwork
- Indirect costs
- Fireworks
- Subgranting
- Projects that utilize artificial intelligence to generate artwork