

## IV. Thinking about Applying for the Artist Enrichment Grant

### Questions to ask yourself if you're thinking of applying for an AE grant:

Is my artwork (writing, music, performance, etc.) strong and highly original?

What do I need at this point in my life to develop as a feminist social change artist and to develop the quality and impact of my art?

What opportunities exist in my community to enhance my growth as an artist? Have I fully taken advantage of the opportunities available to me?

What support do I already have for my art and my ideas? Have I fully accessed this support?

Who are other feminist artists in my community that I can learn from? Is there someone I can identify who can serve as a mentor for me in my artwork, or can point me to new ideas and resources?

What creative possibilities exist for presenting my work?

What are the results that I want/need to develop my art and/or myself as an artist? How will I go about obtaining these results? How long will it really take me to get the results that I want/need? What materials do I need?

What larger social impact will my artistic development contribute to? What kind of indicators make sense to help me know if I am making a difference?

### AE Questions Frequently Asked of KFW Staff:

#### **Can I apply to purchase equipment related to my art?**

Yes. However, if the equipment is expensive and for long-term use, your request will be strengthened if you explain its relevance to your proposed artistic activities. Your budget request will be stronger if equipment purchases are directly related to the proposed activities AND will support your continuing artistic work. For example: A filmmaker applies to purchase editing software for a particular feminist project, but she explains in her description how the software will help enhance her future work as well.

#### **Can I apply to work with a mentor?**

Yes. If you apply to work with a mentor, be sure to show how working with this particular mentor will help you to develop your artistic skills and/or will help you to develop as a feminist social change artist. Reviewers sometimes find it helpful

when applicants include biographical information about the person with whom they would like to work, and a statement of commitment (not a letter of recommendation) from the mentor to confirm that she or he will be a willing participant in the activities outlined in the application.

**Can I apply for funds to self-publish my writing or produce my own CD?**

You can. However, please think about whether this will be the best path for your artistic development or the social change goals you want to achieve. Working with an editor, producer, or other outside expert might strengthen your artistic development more than self-publishing or self-producing, especially if you are in your beginning stages as an artist. Sometimes attending workshops or having peers review your work is more valuable than self-publishing or self-producing your work.

**May I apply for a grant to work with an out-of-state artist?**

You may, but be sure to explain clearly how that artist's involvement will further your development as a feminist social change artist, and why this particular person is essential to developing your feminist work. KFW rarely supports the full cost of an out-of-state artist, and your application and budget should reflect how bringing in an artist from out of state will develop your (or your organization's) abilities and skills as a feminist social change artist.

**General Questions Frequently Asked of KFW Staff:**

**I received an Artist Enrichment (AE) grant last time. Can I apply for an Art Meets Activism (AMA) grant again this year?**

Yes, you may apply for each grant in turn. Keep in mind that the purposes of the grants are different, and therefore your application materials will be strongest with these differences in mind.

**May I submit more than one application?**

Each individual or organization may submit only one application for each grant cycle. Collaborative partners should apply together. Individual artists and organizations submitting more than one application for the same project will be considered together, as one application. *See Notes for Partner Applicants and Notes for Organizations.*

**How many applications do you fund each year?**

The actual number varies each year, but KFW usually receives an average of 60 - 75 applications per grant cycle. Because of the large number of strong applications received and the amount of available resources, KFW can usually fund about 1/3 of the applications received.

**Do you fund male artists?**

KFW staff and reviewers recognize that men can be feminist social change artists, so they are not excluded from applying to KFW. As with women applicants, it is very important that men clearly define how they see their art as feminist and how it will affect social change for women and girls. In the past, men who have been funded by KFW are often collaborating with a female partner or addressing an important feminist issue with their work.

Because there are so few funding sources available for women in Kentucky, KFW is primarily focused on meeting the needs of women artists and activists. Historically, fewer than 3% of those who have applied for a KFW grant are male. Since 2001, KFW has awarded 302 Art Meets Activism grants and 428 Artist Enrichment grants. In that time, two men have received grants, one under AMA and one under AE. These totals do not include men who have written KFW grants on behalf of an organization to which they belong.