

II. Thinking about Feminism, Art and Social Change, including results and impact

Because the mission of the Kentucky Foundation for Women is to promote *positive social change* through varied *feminist expression in the arts*, both grant programs focus on all three areas: **feminism, art and social change.**

Thinking About Feminism

Questions to ask yourself:

What does feminism mean to me?

What is my understanding and practice of feminism?

How does my art reflect feminism?

What is the feminist nature of my art?

Statements on feminism that could be helpful:

The KFW Board of Directors has adopted the following statement on feminism: *Feminism is a conceptual framework based on a radical transformation of society and self. Feminism challenges socially and politically defined gender roles and fosters greater opportunity, choice, and independence. Feminism creates economic equality, a violence-free society, and racial and ethnic justice. Feminism is an evolving process, which requires courage and advocacy.*

KFW staff and reviewers also recognize feminism as a dynamic force for social change that varies across age, ethnicity, economic class, geography, sexuality, and other differences. For this reason, KFW does not promote a single definition of feminism and encourages grant applicants to describe their own understanding and practice of feminism.

Thinking About Art

KFW staff and Board recognize the value and importance of a wide variety of art forms. If you apply for a grant, you will be asked to indicate the primary art form you will be using in one of the four following categories: Performing, Media, Visual, or Literary. Although you may be working in more than one of these forms, you will need to identify one art form as the most important in terms of the application.

Questions to ask yourself:

Which of these four categories best describe my strength as an artist or the strength of the lead artist?

Is my art strong and highly original (a criteria for both grant programs)?

What kind of work sample will I submit to demonstrate the strength and originality of the work I want to do?

Thinking About Social Change

In thinking about social change, you may want to consider such things as how feminist art has the power to increase awareness about women's issues, alter perceptions, stimulate dialogue, open new spaces for civic participation and imagine new ways to create a more just and equitable Kentucky.

Questions to ask yourself:

What is my understanding of the relationship between art and social change?

What kind of social change do I want to see in my life, town, area, state, nation, and world?

How can I use my art to inspire and affect this kind of change? / What are the concrete results that I want to accomplish through my art?

How will I know what kind of social change impact my art will have?

The Women's Funding Network has identified several areas of social change that especially relate to women and girls. Some of these include:

- Health
- Discrimination and Racism
- Housing and Homelessness
- Environment and Sustainability
- Media/Body image
- Economic justice
- Human rights
- Education
- Immigrant & refugee rights
- Reproductive justice
- Gender based violence
- Incarceration
- Leadership/ empowerment
- Rural or Appalachian issues
- Birth and motherhood
- Gender roles
- Disabilities
- Women's history
- Anti-war
- Spirituality and faith
- Youth empowerment

Does my artwork address, evoke or inspire change in any of the areas identified by the Women's Funding Network?

If I am not working in an area identified by the Women's Funding Network, what area of social change do I want to pursue through my work as an artist?

Thinking About Results and Impact

As part of the feminist-led arts-based social justice movement in our state, how do you think about the difference your art makes in the world? Maybe you know you want to make a difference through your art, but don't know how to do that, or maybe you *think* you're making a difference, but how can you show it? Based on what KFW staff has learned from KFW grantees and from leaders in the field of art and social justice, KFW staff finds it helpful to think about **Activities, Results, and Impact.**

Activities are concrete actions. What will you actually do? Activities will be the *what, who, and when.*

Results are the observable, quantifiable and measurable end *product(s)* or *processes* caused by the activities. Results include artwork or collaborations created; new relationships formed, capacities or skills developed; or behaviors observed while doing your artwork. Results look at *how many* and *how much.* For instance, what do you want to learn, what will be some ways in which you will develop as a feminist social change artist, what kind of art will be created, how many pieces, how many people do you expect to participate, etc.

Impact is *how* the results of your activities will advance positive social change or made a difference. Impact includes both individual/personal transformation and larger social change. KFW values both personal and societal transformation, because it is the link between these two where social change occurs. KFW staff recognizes that personal transformation is an important prerequisite for social change. Social transformation takes place when feminist social change art makes some *impact* on others. To think about what impact you want to have, it will help you to think about *social change indicators.*

Social Change Indicators are like signs, or road markers, to show what kind of difference your art can make. Indicators can help you, as a feminist artist, think about how you will make progress towards social change. Indicators can come in a variety of forms: they can be "facts," or they can be anecdotal stories that will show that change is happening: changes can be in awareness and knowledge, attitudes and motivation, behavior and participation, public discussion, individual or organizational capacity or systems, or policies or conditions. Indicators can be short-term or long-term changes in attitudes or behavior resulting from your development as a feminist social change artist. So, before you apply for a grant or begin your activities, think about what you want to do in the context of your art and what *your* indicators for social change will include. By observing and recording these indicators, you will be able to show how your feminist art can make a difference.