

{ Literary]
(Arts |
/ Fund }

Information Session
2026 General Operating and Innovation Project Grants

Founders

Ford Foundation, Hawthornden
Foundation, Lannan Foundation,
John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur
Foundation, Mellon Foundation,
Poetry Foundation, and an
anonymous foundation

The Literary Arts Fund is a pooled fund:

- Multiple contributors
- Shared vision and collective work
- Fiscally sponsored project of the National Center for Civic Innovation

Receiving funding from a contributing foundation has no bearing on eligibility.

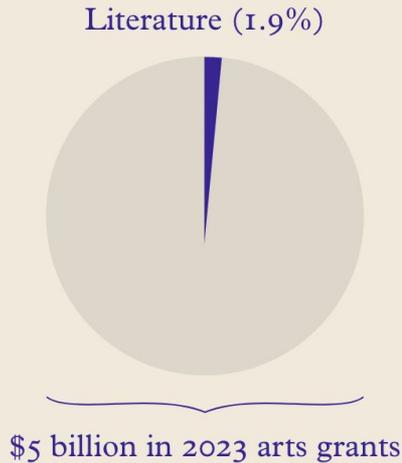
The Literary Arts Fund is a short-term project with a long-term vision.

Its aim is threefold:

- Increase the visibility and understanding of the nonprofit literary arts field in the U.S., which is composed of more than 1,000 nonprofit organizations and publishers that contribute to writers, readers, and arts and culture in a wide-range of important ways.

(Continued)

- Catalyze new and increased giving to this field, which is the least supported by philanthropic foundations, receiving less than 2% of giving to arts and culture year-over-year.



(Continued)

- Distribute at least \$10 million in grants to literary arts nonprofits in each of the next five years.

The Literary Arts Fund aims to have a positive impact that outlives its timeline, helping to ensure a healthy and more robust U.S. literary culture in support of creative writers for decades to come.

Overarching grantmaking focus

Independent literary arts organizations or publishers that share the following characteristics:

- Nonprofit status or a fiscal sponsor, and if they have a fiscal sponsor, it does not contribute its own funds or subsidize them financially;
- A mission that is primarily dedicated to supporting creative writers of creative nonfiction, fiction, poetry and hybrid works in making and sharing their artistic work; and
- A programmatic track record, and stable leadership and finances.

Open calls for 2026:

General operating grants

Innovation project grants

Calls will be posted on literaryartsfund.org.

General operating grants

- Unrestricted funding to support a literary arts nonprofit's mission, activities, administrative and day-to-day operating needs that could include marketing, fundraising, planning, technology, etc.
- Grants will range from \$37,500 to \$500,000, disbursed in a single payment, intended for use over a five-year period
- Applicants will not be asked to specify a grant amount
- Grant amounts will be informed in part by literary arts nonprofits' annual operating budgets

Innovation project grants

- Funding for projects that may be collaborative and that aim to address critical challenges that, if improved, would directly benefit creative writers' artistic work and ability to share it with readers and audiences
- Grants will range from \$25,000 to \$500,000, disbursed in a single payment, for use during the project period
- Applicants will be asked to specify the project budget and total
- Grant amounts will be informed in part by the proposed project and literary arts nonprofit's annual operating budgets

Can my literary arts nonprofit apply for both grants in the same year?

If you receive a 2026 general operating grant:

- Eligible to apply for a 2026 innovation project grant only as part of a collaborative, but eligible to apply independently in 2027

If you do not apply for or receive a 2026 general operating grant:

- Eligible to apply for a 2026 innovation project grant independently or as part of a collaborative

Please note: the Literary Arts Fund may prioritize applications from literary arts nonprofits that have not yet been supported by the fund.

Eligibility

U.S.-based literary arts nonprofits with a primary mission of directly supporting creative writers and their artistic work in any one of the following ways are eligible to apply:

- Present them at public events for readers and audiences;
- Publish their work in print or digital publications;
- Build their readership through feature articles, interviews, reviews, either through print or digital media, including online archives and podcasts;
- Provide them with writing residencies, retreats, mentorship, or workshops; and
- Recognize their artistic achievement through awards, fellowships, or prizes.

In addition, to be eligible, literary arts nonprofits must:

- Serve adult creative writers and audiences;
- Have been established for three years or more (based on the year of incorporation or contracted partnership with a fiscal sponsor) as of December 19, 2025;
- Have an executive director who has served in their role for at least 12 consecutive months as of December 19, 2025; and
- Have an annual operating budget of at least \$50,000, not counting in-kind contributions.

The Literary Arts Fund's grantmaking strategy does not include the following:

- Nonprofit organizations and publishers whose primary mission is not focused on the literary arts and creative writers;
- Literary arts nonprofits, publishers, initiatives, and projects that are part of and funded by a college or university;
- Nonprofit literary organizations and publishers whose primary mission is to present, publish, or support young writers;

(Continued)

- Arts education organizations that focus on increasing K-12 students' access to the arts and learning through the arts, in or out of school;
- Literacy organizations that focus on developing or strengthening youth or adult reading and writing skills and abilities;
- Academic, school, and public libraries; and
- Trade and service organizations whose mission is focused primarily on serving other literary arts nonprofits.

Key Dates

November 10, 2025: start of open call for general operating grant proposals

December 19, 2025: deadline for general operating grant proposals

By May 30, 2026: general operating grant applicants are notified of outcome

June 2026 (TBD): start of open call for innovation project grant proposals

August 2026 (TBD): deadline for innovation project grant proposals

November 2026 (TBD): innovation project grant applicants are notified of outcome

Application steps

- To prepare to apply, [download a PDF guide](#) to the general operating application on the [Grants page of literaryartsfund.org](#).

Overview Key Dates 2026 Grants Information Session Eligibility Requirements Application Process and Guidelines

2026 General Operating Grants

- General operating grants provide unrestricted funding to support a literary arts nonprofit's mission, activities, and administrative needs. These grants are disbursed to nonprofits in a single payment and intended for use over a five-year period.
- Organizations and publishers applying for a general operating grant must first complete an eligibility quiz on Submittable.
- Literary arts nonprofits that are eligible to apply must submit an application form on Submittable by December 19, 2025, at 8:59 p.m. PST / 9:59 p.m. MST / 10:59 p.m. CST / 11:59 p.m. EST.



- [A downloadable guide to the grant application is available here to assist with application preparation.](#)

(Continued)

- To apply, click the “Apply” button on the Grants page. [You will be directed to Submittable, an online application platform.](#)

Overview Key Dates 2026 Grants Information Session Eligibility Requirements Application Process and Guidelines

the deadline.

- The Literary Arts Fund is not responsible for applications not received by the deadline due to user error. Applicants may visit the [Submitter Resource Center](#) or [contact Submittable](#) for questions about using the platform and technical support.
- Grant applicants and recipients will be notified about the results by May 30, 2026, via their Submittable account and email.
- The Literary Arts Fund’s decisions regarding eligibility are final.
- For questions, visit the Literary Arts Fund’s [FAQ page](#) or email grants@literaryartsfund.org.

→ **APPLY**

(Continued)

- You will need to [create a free Submittable account](#) if you don't already have one, then log in with your credentials.



Overview

The [Literary Arts Fund](#) was established in 2025 to dramatically increase funding for and the visibility of the nonprofit literary arts field toward ensuring a healthy and more robust U.S. literary culture in support of creative writers. The fund will award at least \$10 million in grants to the nonprofit literary arts field in each of the next five years, concluding in 2031.

The Literary Arts Fund will hold open calls for two opportunities in 2026: [general operating grants](#) and [innovation project grants](#).

Key Dates

- November 10, 2025: Start of open call for general operating grant applications
- November 13, 2025: [Information session](#) on 2026 general operating and innovation project grants
- December 19, 2025: Deadline for general operating grant applications
- By May 30, 2026: General operating grant applicants and recipients are notified
- June 2026 (TBD): Open call for innovation project grant applications

Application form

There are two parts to the general operating grant application: an eligibility quiz and the application form. The form has six sections that collect narrative and numeric information:

- I. General information;
- II. 501(c)(3) status;
- III. Financials;
- IV. Mission, history, activities, and audience;
- V. Staffing and volunteers; and
- VI. Additional information: activities and audience.

General operating grant application deadline :

December 19, 2025, at 11:59 p.m. EST

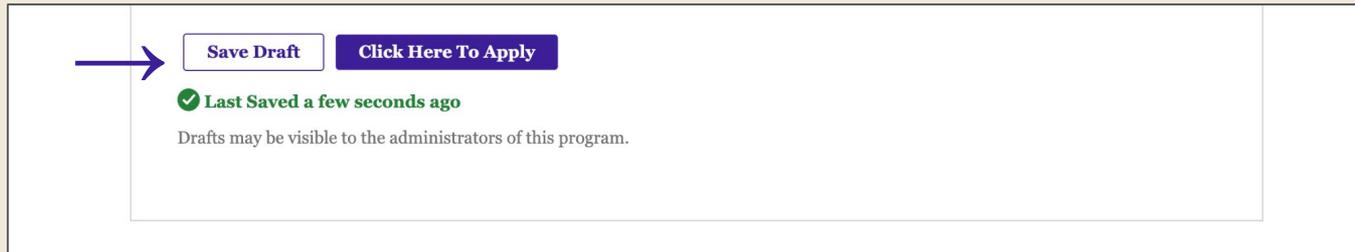
Please note the time zone and your own local time.

Application review process:

Eligibility screening by Literary Arts Fund staff; review by a team of readers; and, panel assessment by published creative writers and experts in the literary arts field.

Additional pointers about the application:

- You can save a draft of your work if you would like to finish filling out the form at a later date. Submittable also auto-saves your application.



(Continued)

- If you need to modify your application, you will need to [withdraw your initial submission from Submittable](#) and reapply before the deadline.

Test Literary Arts Publisher

Submitted to [Literary Arts Fund - 2026 General Operating Grants](#) on Mon, Nov 10, 2025 8:58 AM

[Download](#) | [Withdraw](#) | [Transfer Ownership](#)

 Received

ACTIVITY	MESSAGES	FORMS	NOTE	AWARDS & PAYMENTS

(Continued)

- After you submit, you may want to download a PDF copy of your application, which you can easily do in Submittable.

Test Literary Arts Publisher

Submitted to [Literary Arts Fund - 2026 General Operating Grants](#) on Mon, Nov 10, 2025 8:58 AM

[Download](#) | [Withdraw](#) | [Transfer Ownership](#)

 Received

ACTIVITY	MESSAGES	FORMS	NOTE	AWARDS & PAYMENTS

(Continued)

- Submittable works best on Google Chrome, Firefox, and Safari. Internet Explorer is not supported. Please make sure you are using a supported browser.
- Notifications will be sent through Submittable and email.
- Please be sure to safelist notification emails from Submittable and check the email you used to sign up for your Submittable account regularly.
- Visit the Submittable [Submitter Resource Center](#) or contact their [customer support](#) for additional instructions and technical questions.

To stay engaged with and informed about the Literary Arts Fund:

Visit literaryartsfund.org

Subscribe to the [Literary Arts Fund's
newsletter](#)

For general inquiries:
info@literaryartsfund.org

For questions about grant opportunities:
grants@literaryartsfund.org

For questions about the Literary Arts
Funders Collaborative, a new affinity
group for foundation leaders and staff,
and philanthropists:
L AFC@literaryartsfund.org

Follow the Literary Arts Fund

[Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Threads](#), and [Bluesky](#)

@literaryartsfund

Newest members of the Literary Arts Funders Collaborative

Adrian Brinkerhoff Poetry Fund of the Sidney E. Frank Foundation, Barr Foundation, Houston Endowment, Jerome Foundation, McKnight Foundation

Questions?

Thank you for
your time today.