{Literary] (Arts \Fund}

Information Session - June 18, 2026
2026 Innovation Project Grants

For questions about grants opportunities:

grants@literaryartsfund.org

literaryartsfund.org/faq/

literaryartsfund.org/newsletter/

Innovation project grants - call for applications

Applications are currently being accepted for new, one-time, and forward-thinking projects that aim to address critical infrastructural/structural challenges that, if improved or solved, would ultimately strengthen literary arts nonprofits' abilities to serve creative writers.

Proposed projects, which may be collaborative, should align with this description and goal and have impact beyond the project timeline.

Innovation project grants - please note

- Projects should be new (not ongoing) and one-time (have a start and end), while aiming to have lasting positive impact or effect.
- Projects should focus on infrastructural/structural challenges (e.g., systems, processes, methods, models, technology) not programmatic (i.e., ongoing offerings to an audience in fulfillment of a mission) within one nonprofit or across many.
- Projects will need to demonstrate how they ultimately benefit writers.

Innovation project grants - reflection prompt

While in future years the Literary Arts Fund might focus a call for applications further (i.e., asking proposals to speak to specific topics or themes), in 2026, it is intentionally broad.

In case it's helpful, the Fund offers this reflection prompt:

> In your nonprofit's work to serve creative writers— what do they need and what might you be able to fix/greatly improve/innovate in one year with some one-time resources?

Innovation project grants - competitive process

A total of $1 million will be awarded in grants in 2026.

Based on this limited amount and the focus on seeking forward-thinking, critical projects, this grant opportunity and funding will be highly competitive.

Please take this into consideration as you assess your capacity to prepare a proposal, which will require time to complete.

Please note that it's advised not to build in grant funds to your annual operating budget unless your nonprofit has received confirmation of a grant award.

Innovation project grants - tips for proposals

Characteristics of strong applications include:

- meeting all eligibility requirements and technical requirements (e.g., successful completion and upload of requested financial and other documents);
- having clearly defined a compelling challenge and its proposed solution;
- presenting a realistic timeline and budget.

Innovation project grants - award amounts

Grant awards will range from $25,000 to $100,000.

Applicants will be asked to specify a requested amount. Matching funds are not required, nor is other funding for the project, pending or committed.

If awarded, grant amounts will be informed by the proposed project.

Literary arts nonprofit's annual operating budgets may also be considered.

Innovation project grants - project period

Applicants will need to identify when the project will start and end.

The project period can begin anytime after January 1, 2027 and must end before or by December 31, 2027.

Projects may be completed in less than 12 months.

Grant funds need to be fully spent during the project period.

Independent or collaborative projects

Eligible nonprofits may apply independently for a project they are looking to undertake by themselves.

- OR -

Eligible nonprofits may apply as the lead of a collaborative project.

A nonprofit serving as the lead of a project can also be a collaborator on a different nonprofit's application.

Collaborative projects - lead applicant and collaborators

Only one nonprofit will submit an application on behalf of a collaborative project.

Collaborators will be listed as such in the application.

Collaborators can be non-literary, from another artistic discipline, for-profit, etc. However, only literary arts nonprofits that meet the Fund's eligibility requirements may receive a sub-award (project funds to cover expenses related to the project's fulfillment) from the Fund's grant $ and be listed in the project budget.

Collaborative projects - continued

There's no limit on the number of collaborators a proposed project can have.

There's also no limit on the number of times a nonprofit can be listed as a collaborator on applications.

However, it will be important for applicants to weigh how either or both might affect a proposed project's overall competitiveness as it could raise a concern about an applicant or a collaborator being overextended.

Innovation project grants' relationship to general operating grants and eligibility

If your nonprofit did not receive a 2026 general operating grant:

- Eligible to apply for a 2026 innovation project grant independently or as the lead of a collaborative. Also can be listed as part of a collaborative in 2026.

Innovation project grants relationship to general operating grants and eligibility

If your nonprofit received a 2026 general operating grant:

- Eligible to be listed as part of collaborative in 2026 and to receive sub-awards as noted in the project budget.
- Not eligible to apply for a 2026 innovation project grant independently or as the lead of a collaborative, but eligible to apply in either capacity in 2027.

Eligibility for nonprofits applying independently for a project grant or as the lead of a collaborative project

An applicant must be an independent nonprofit (or fiscally sponsored) literary arts organization or publisher based in the U.S. (in terms of location and activities) whose primary mission directly supports adult creative writers (of creative nonfiction, fiction, poetry, or hybrid works) in making artistic work and sharing it with readers in at least one of the following ways:

- 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 to apply to undertake or lead a collaborative project, nonprofits must:

- **Be post-pilot** as demonstrated by having been established for three years or more based on the date of nonprofit incorporation at the time of application. If the applicant is fiscally sponsored, this would be demonstrated by the contract date between the fiscal sponsor and applicant;

- **Have leadership stability** as demonstrated by a current executive director who has led the nonprofit through at least one full year of operations, i.e., has served in their role for twelve consecutive months or more at the time of application; and

- **Have financial stability** as demonstrated by an annual operating budget of at least $50,000, not including in-kind/non-cash contributions. For fiscally sponsored organizations and publishers: the organization or publisher, not the fiscal sponsor, must meet this requirement.

The Literary Arts Fund grantmaking strategy doesn't include the following:

- Dramatic arts nonprofits whose primary mission is focused on screenwriters and playwrights.
- Storytelling nonprofits with a primary mission of supporting this oral art form.
- Arts therapy nonprofits that focus on writing for its therapeutic purposes.
- Nonprofits, publishers, initiatives, and projects that are a department or division of, or are fiscally sponsored by, a college or university.

- Nonprofits whose primary mission is to present, publish, or support young writers.
- Arts education nonprofits that focus on increasing K-12 students' access to the arts and learning through the arts, in or out of school.
- Literacy nonprofits that focus on developing or strengthening youth or adult reading and writing skills and abilities.
- Academic, research, school, and public libraries.
- Trade and service organizations whose mission is focused primarily on serving other nonprofits and not creative writers.

Application steps

To prepare to apply, download a PDF guide to the innovation project application on the Grants page of literaryartsfund.org.

Grants Overview Key Dates Information Sessions Eligibility Requirements Application Process and Guidelines

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Application Process and Guidelines

2026 Innovation Project Grants

- The Literary Arts Fund will award a total of $1 million in grants in 2026 to literary arts nonprofits for new, one-time, and forward-thinking projects that aim to address critical structural challenges that, if improved or solved, would ultimately strengthen literary arts nonprofits' abilities to serve creative writers. Proposed projects, which may be collaborative, should align with this description and goal and have impact beyond the project timeline. This opportunity is anticipated to be highly competitive.
- Projects must commence some time after January 1, 2027, and conclude before or by December 31, 2027.
- Interested literary arts nonprofits may submit an application via Submittable from June 8, 2026, to August 17, 2026, at 8:59 p.m. PDT / 9:59 p.m. MDT / 10:59 p.m. CDT / 11:59 p.m. EDT.
- A downloadable guide to the grant application is available here to assist with preparation.

To apply, click the “Apply” button on the Grants page. You will be directed to Submittable, an online application platform.

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

Literary Arts Fund

Overview

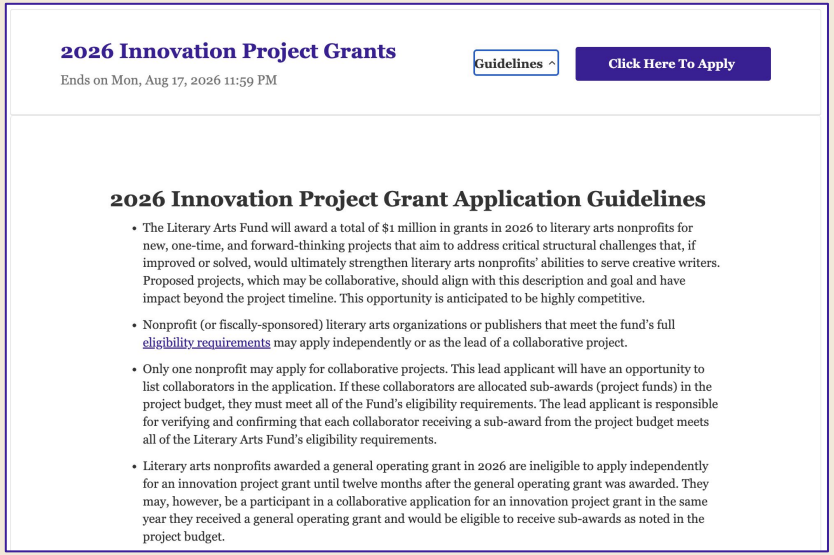
The Literary Arts Fund will provide at least $50 million in support of the nonprofit literary arts field over the next five years, concluding in 2031.

With a short timeline, the fund's grantmaking has a strategic focus on the areas of the literary arts ecosystem where it determined it could have the greatest impact—that is: supporting independent U.S.-based literary arts nonprofits whose primary mission is directly serving adult writers of creative nonfiction, fiction, poetry, and hybrid works in making their artistic work and sharing it with readers. Please review the fund's full eligibility requirements to learn more.

The Literary Arts Fund will annually hold open calls for two opportunities: general operating grants and innovation project grants.

Key Dates

- By May 30, 2026: General operating grant applicants were notified of results
- June 8, 2026: Start of open call for innovation project grant applications
- June 18, 2026: 2027 innovation project grants program information session (register here)
- August 17, 2026: Deadline for innovation project grant applications



2026 Innovation Project Grants

Ends on Mon, Aug 17, 2026 11:59 PM

Guidelines

Click Here To Apply

2026 Innovation Project Grant Application Guidelines

- The Literary Arts Fund will award a total of $1 million in grants in 2026 to literary arts nonprofits for new, one-time, and forward-thinking projects that aim to address critical structural challenges that, if improved or solved, would ultimately strengthen literary arts nonprofits' abilities to serve creative writers. Proposed projects, which may be collaborative, should align with this description and goal and have impact beyond the project timeline. This opportunity is anticipated to be highly competitive.
- Nonprofit (or fiscally-sponsored) literary arts organizations or publishers that meet the fund's full eligibility requirements may apply independently or as the lead of a collaborative project.
- Only one nonprofit may apply for collaborative projects. This lead applicant will have an opportunity to list collaborators in the application. If these collaborators are allocated sub-awards (project funds) in the project budget, they must meet all of the Fund's eligibility requirements. The lead applicant is responsible for verifying and confirming that each collaborator receiving a sub-award from the project budget meets all of the Literary Arts Fund's eligibility requirements.
- Literary arts nonprofits awarded a general operating grant in 2026 are ineligible to apply independently for an innovation project grant until twelve months after the general operating grant was awarded. They may, however, be a participant in a collaborative application for an innovation project grant in the same year they received a general operating grant and would be eligible to receive sub-awards as noted in the project budget.

Application form

There are two parts to the innovation project grant application: an eligibility quiz and the application form. The form has four sections:

I. General information, including financials;

II. 501(c)(3) status;

III. Innovation Project proposal narrative (including project description, goals, timeline) and project budget; and,

IV. Certification

Project budget - tips

- A project budget should include costs related to the project only (and not other general operating costs).
- Be specific and add details/explanations of revenue and expense items, including sub-awards (project funds) allocated to eligible collaborators.
- Direct costs/expenses are those necessary to complete the project.
- Indirect costs/expenses are overhead. For the Literary Arts Fund you are welcome to include indirect costs up to 20%. That is, your total direct costs x 0.20.

	A	B	C	D	E
1	**LITERARY ARTS NONPROFIT NAME**				
2	**INNOVATION PROJECT BUDGET**	**PROJECT PERIOD: MONTH/DAY/YEAR to MONTH/DAY/YEAR**	**LITERARY ARTS FUND REQUEST**	**OTHER FUNDS**	
3	**PROJECT INCOME** *(Note: should include funds requested or committed from other sources)*				**DETAILS** *(Note: please be as specific as possible, including noting if other funding is pending or committed, or in-kind)*
4	Foundations				
5	Individual contributions				
6	Corporate gifts				
7	Other *(Note: if listing in-kind support please specify)*				
8	**TOTAL INCOME**	0	0	0	
9					
10	**PROJECT EXPENSES**		**ALLOCATION OF REQUESTED LITERARY ARTS FUND GRANT FUNDS**	**ALLOCATION OF OTHER FUNDS**	**DETAILS** *(Note: please be as specific as possible)*
11	***DIRECT PROJECT COSTS***				
12	[Nonprofit name] Project Staff 1: please specify title/role				*(EX: list hours per week or % of salary for that the paid staff who will be working on the project)*
13	[Nonprofit name] Project Staff 2: please specify title/role				*(EX: list hours per week or % of salary for that the paid staff who will be working on the project)*
14	Taxes/fringe benefits for Project Staff				*(EX: for the paid staff working on the project)*
15	Expense item TBD: please specify				*(EX: specific expense directly related to the project)*
16	Expense item TBD: please specify				*(EX: specific expense directly related to the project)*
17	Expense item TBD: please specify				*(EX: specific expense directly related to the project)*
18	Expense item TBD: please specify				*(EX: specific expense directly related to the project)*
19	Expense item TBD: please specify				*(EX: specific expense directly related to the project)*
20	***Subtotal direct***	0	0	0	
21	***INDIRECT PROJECT COSTS***				
22	Overhead *(Note: 20% of project budget = 0.20 x total direct costs)*				*(EX: rent, utilities, phone, audit)*
23	***Subtotal indirect***	0			
24	**TOTAL EXPENSES**	0			
25					
26	**OTHER BUDGET NOTES:**				
27					
28					
29					
30					

Independent

Collaborative

	A	B	C	D	E
1	**LITERARY ARTS NONPROFIT NAME**				
2	**COLLABORATIVE INNOVATION PROJECT BUDGET**	**PROJECT PERIOD: MONTH/DAY/YEAR to MONTH/DAY/YEAR**	**LITERARY ARTS FUND REQUEST**	**OTHER FUNDS**	
3	**PROJECT INCOME** *(Note: should include funds requested or committed from other sources)*				**DETAILS** *(Note: please be as specific as possible, including noting if other funding is pending or committed, or in-kind)*
4	Foundations				
5	Individual contributions				
6	Corporate gifts				
7	Other *(Note: if listing in-kind support please specify)*				
8	**TOTAL INCOME**	0	0	0	
9					
10	**PROJECT EXPENSES**		**ALLOCATION OF REQUESTED LITERARY ARTS FUND GRANT FUNDS**	**ALLOCATION OF OTHER FUNDS**	**DETAILS** *(Note: please be as specific as possible)*
11	***DIRECT PROJECT COSTS***				
12	[Nonprofit name] Project Staff 1: please specify title/role				*(EX: list hours per week or % of salary for that the paid staff who will be working on the project)*
13	[Nonprofit name] Project Staff 2: please specify title/role				*(EX: list hours per week or % of salary for that the paid staff who will be working on the project)*
14	Taxes/fringe benefits for Project Staff				*(EX: for the paid staff working on the project)*
15	Sub-award for [nonprofit name] project collaborator				*(EX: for whom, what)*
16	Sub-award for [nonprofit name] project collaborator				*(EX: for whom, what)*
17	Sub-award for [nonprofit name] project collaborator				*(EX: for whom, what)*
18	Expense item TBD: please specify				*(EX: specific expense directly related to the project)*
19	Expense item TBD: please specify				*(EX: specific expense directly related to the project)*
20	Expense item TBD: please specify				*(EX: specific expense directly related to the project)*
21	***Subtotal direct***	0	0	0	
22	***INDIRECT PROJECT COSTS***				
23	Overhead *(Note: 20% of project budget = or 0.20 x total direct costs)*				*(EX: rent, utilities, phone, audit)*
24	***Subtotal indirect***	0			
25	**TOTAL EXPENSES**	0			
26					
27	**OTHER BUDGET NOTES:**				
28					
29					
30					

Innovation Project Grants application deadline :

August 17, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. EDT

Please note the time zone and your own local time.

Application review process

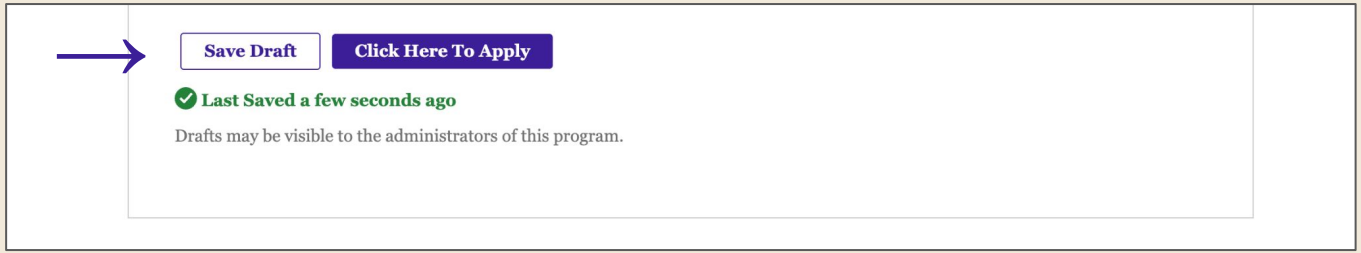
Applications will be screened by Literary Arts Fund staff and a team of reviewers, then assessed by a panel. Reviewers and panelists include creative writers and experts in the literary arts field.

Founding and contributing funders to the Literary Arts Fund do not make grant decisions.

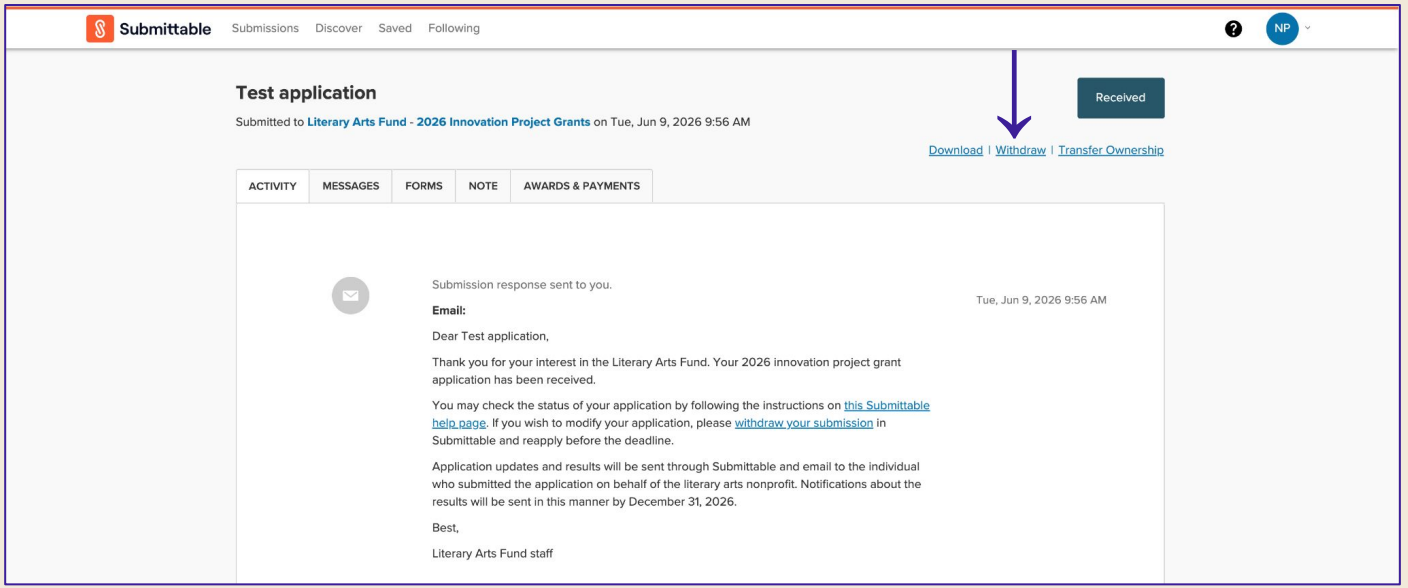
Innovation project grant applicants will be notified about results by December 31, 2026 via their Submittable account and email.

Additional pointers for the application

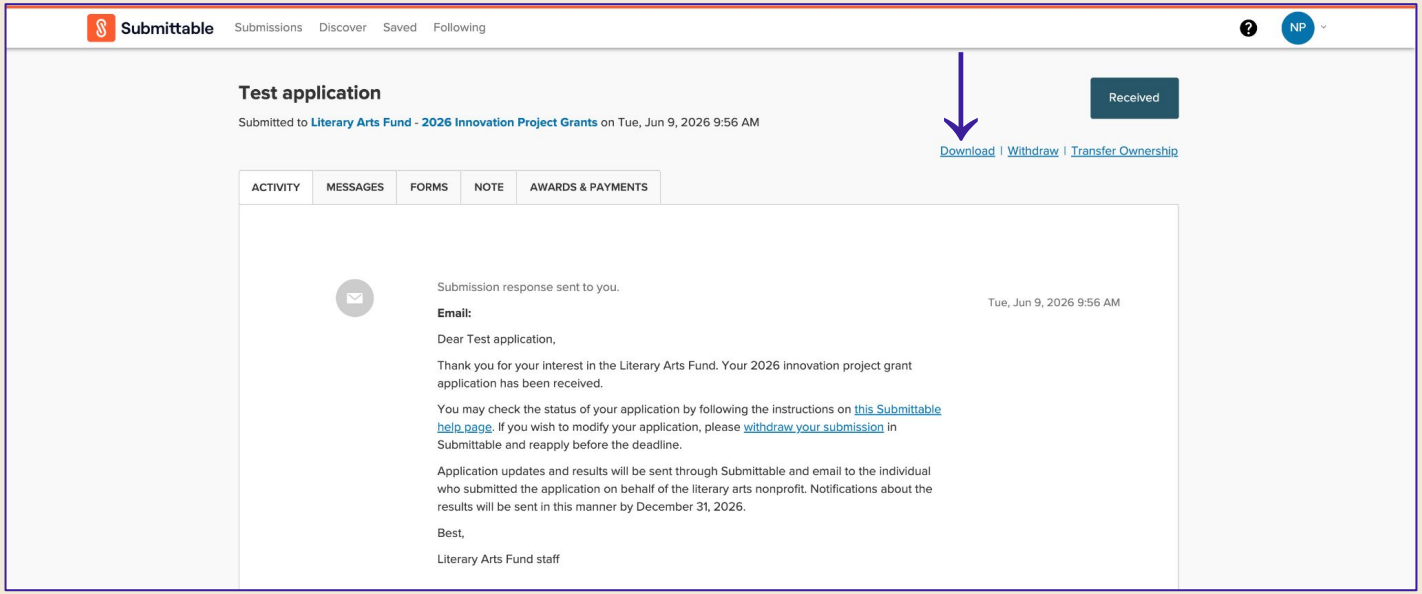
- You can save a draft of your work if you would like to finish filling out the form at a later date. Submittable also auto-saves your application.



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



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



- 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.

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info@literaryartsfund.org

For questions about grant opportunities:
grants@literaryartsfund.org

Questions?

Thank you for
your time today.