2024 GCAC Navigator Program

PROGRAM OVERVIEW - PLEASE READ

The Greater Columbus Arts Council is thrilled to continue the GCAC Navigator program, an initiative launched in 2023 that helps us engage more deeply with our diverse community. In 2024, GCAC will hire 10 additional artists to add to the current cohort as a continuation of the program. The hired artists will represent GCAC at artist and community events, share resources, and guide peer artists through GCAC grant & fellowship applications. The goal of this program is to increase outreach to new artists, especially those from historically marginalized or underrepresented communities through:

- **Awareness** – introduce new artists to GCAC (who we are and what we’re here for)
- **Education** – share GCAC resources and opportunities available to artists
- **Accessibility** – increase community knowledge of artist drop-in hours, computer lab, translation/interpretation services, workshops, one-on-one coaching
- **Connection** – build trust through meetings, attending events, asking for feedback, listening to artist needs, calling/emailing artists to appreciate their work in the community
- **Growth** – increase number of artists who attend workshops, apply for grants and fellowships, or connect with GCAC
- **Response** – based on Navigator and community artist feedback, help staff adapt guidelines, grant programs, workshop offerings, accessibility plans, and inclusion efforts

What are the benefits of being a GCAC Navigator?

- $4,000 total cash stipend (paid quarterly)
- $1,500 stipend to produce or host artistic events related to your own work (may combine with other Navigators for a larger event budget!).
- Free tickets to arts events and experiences, including the Columbus Arts Festival Patron Party
- Professional photograph (new Navigators only)
- Networking with other Navigators
- Access to GCAC staff members in their areas of expertise
- Recognition in GCAC Annual Report
- Current Navigator T-shirt designed by a local artist

What are the expectations for a GCAC Navigator?

- Be willing to participate the full length of the program: late January - early December 2024
- Share grant opportunities, guidelines, workshops, and other resources to immediate community
  - GCAC provides email addresses, nametags, flyers, one-sheets, handouts, QR codes, etc.
  - Track artists spoken to as part of Navigator role throughout the year
• Attend the following **mandatory** events/sessions:
  o Attend one or more GCAC Happy Hour or roundtable events during the year
  o Sign-up to represent GCAC for at least one session of “virtual drop-in hours”
  o **January 19-29** (at home): Watch *Support for Professional Artists* Workshop Video
  o **January 30, 10:00am-3:30pm**: Initial welcome and training (lunch included)
  o **March 13, 3:00-5:00pm**: Brainstorm/feedback session
  o **June 7-9**: Work a shift at the Columbus Arts Festival (2-4 hours)
  o **August 8, 11:00-1:00pm**: Brainstorm/feedback session (lunch included)
  o **Nov TBD**: Attend GCAC’s *Big Arts Night*
  o **December 5, 3:30-7:00pm**: Program wrap-up, debrief, and happy hour

**Who would make a great GCAC Navigator?**

• Actively working as an artist (including dance, fashion, film, literary, music, theatre, visual arts, multi-disciplinary) OR someone deeply connected to the artistic community, who has regular, on-going contact with artists
• Personally identifies as a member of a historically marginalized or underrepresented community. Including, but not limited to:
  o Members of BIPOC communities, members of the LGBTQIA+ communities, immigrants & refugees, veterans/active military, members of disability communities, justice system impacted individuals, and residents of underrepresented neighborhoods
• Has a deep network and loves to engage with their community in-person and/or online
• Comfortable with coaching, sharing resources, and attending public events
• Able to attend 9 mandatory events and put in approx. 80 hours of work over an 11-month period
• Familiarity with GCAC or a GCAC past grantee a plus, but not mandatory!

**Application Timeline & Instructions**

11/22 – Applications OPEN
12/11 at 5:00pm – Applications DUE
12/18 – Applicants notified of decisions

• Go to the GCAC Application Portal (**https://gcac.smartsimple.com/**) and login with your regular grant application account.
  o If you are new to GCAC, please complete the registration process.
• Once logged in, make sure your Personal Profile in the application is completely filled out.
  o To update, click on the black circle with your first initial in the upper right hand corner.
• Click on **Click on Grant & Fellowship Opportunities** to find the GCAC Navigator Program application.
• Fill out the information and hit submit!