



ArtPrize 2026 Featured Public Project Grant

Applications Open: March 2, 2026

Applications Close: April 1, 2026

Artist(s) Notified: Week of April 13, 2026

Grant Overview

ArtPrize is proud to continue supporting talented and conceptually compelling artists and designers to bring their big visions to life this fall at the 2026 ArtPrize event. ArtPrize is seeking proposals for compelling, large-scale, public artworks to activate high-visibility public sites and create must-see locations during the ArtPrize event.

Launched in 2016, Featured Public Projects is one of ArtPrize's signature grant programs. This program was created to assist artists in activating high-visibility public sites during the event with ambitious, large-scale public artworks. This year, the grant pool is dedicated to one project and will be distributed based on the needs of the selected. Featured Public Projects is returning for its sixth iteration with \$25,000 of funding available, and the sky's the limit (almost). Grant Funds will be provided to selected artists and designers to offset costs associated with:

- Creation of work
 - Installation of work
 - Necessary Special Permitting
 - Maintenance of the installation during the event
 - Transportation and lodging of Artists + Designers during the event
 - Unique needs of the selected Featured Public Project
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Eligibility & Application Process

Who can apply?

- Artists 18 years or older



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- Preference is given to artists with experience in large-scale public art
- Must comply with [Grand Rapids City Commission policies](#) on public art

Are international artists eligible?

- Yes, but a 30% federal tax withholding applies to grants awarded to non-U.S. citizens.

Is the grantee eligible to compete in ArtPrize 2026?

- Yes! The grantee must register as an ArtPrize 2026 Artist and is eligible for public voting and juried awards.

How do I apply?

- Submit applications via the [ArtPrize 2026 Featured Public Project Grant Application Form](#) by 11:59 PM, April 1, 2026. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

Required Application Materials

- Letter of intent:
 - Proposed public site
 - Concept overview
 - Artistic inspiration
- Resume or CV
- Design plans:
 - Site map
 - Renderings or drawings
 - Materials list
- Timeline:
 - Project overview
 - Installation & de-installation plan
 - Maintenance plan
- Budget breakdown:
 - Materials



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- Permits (event activation permits only; installation permits handled by ArtPrize)
- Insurance (if applicable)
- Transportation & lodging
- Equipment rental
- 3-5 images/videos of past work

All application materials must be submitted as a single document.

FAQs

Where can the project be installed?

The project must be installed in a designated exterior public space downtown. Alternative locations may be proposed, but all installations require approval from the City of Grand Rapids.

Locations available for 2026:

- Blue Bridge
- Calder Plaza
- 555 Monroe
- Sixth St. Park
- Rosa Parks Circle
- Gillett Bridge

How can the grant funds be used?

Funds support:

- Artwork creation
- Special permits
- Installation and maintenance
- Transportation of artwork and artist
- Signed engineering drafts (from a Michigan-licensed engineer)





- Lodging for the artist during the event

How are the funds distributed?

- Funds are distributed in installments. The first installment is deposited a week after the grant contract is signed. The second is a month out from the event, and then the last is held until after the artwork is deinstalled.

ArtPrize may assist in securing in-kind services (e.g., shipping, fabrication), but these are not guaranteed. If the project exceeds budget expectations, the artist may need to adjust the project, find additional funding, or withdraw.

Selection & Scoring Criteria

Applications will be reviewed by the ArtPrize Exhibitions Council and staff. The selection process prioritizes artistic merit, feasibility, and alignment with ArtPrize’s mission.

Scoring Rubric

Category	4: Excellent	3: Good	2: Needs Improvement	1: Not Demonstrated
Letter of Intent	Clear, compelling vision with strong goals	Good concept, but needs refinement	Lacks clarity or detail	Unclear or incomplete
Timeline	Detailed, structured, realistic	Organized, but minor gaps	Lacks key details	Unstructured or incomplete



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Budget	Well-documented, realistic costs	Mostly clear, but some gaps	Some costs are unclear or omitted	Insufficient detail
Design Plans	Comprehensive visuals & site integration	Clear plans but missing details	Unclear execution	No design plans provided
Creativity & Originality	Highly innovative, unique concept	Creative but not groundbreaking	Some originality but derivative	Lacks creativity & uniqueness
Past Work & Experience	Strong portfolio, aligned with proposal	Good experience, but minor gaps	Limited relevant experience	No experience or weak portfolio

Notification & Grant Distribution

Applicants will be notified by the week of April 13, 2026. The selected artist will receive a detailed grant payment schedule.

For questions, contact Exhibitions@ArtPrize.org.

