



# Essex County Arts Council

## 2026 Sunburst Awards

### Micro-grants for artists

**The Sunburst Award** is a micro grant program designed to support artists of all disciplines and all ages creating art in Essex County (or nearby) with a specific project or opportunity that will provide a significant impact and expansion to their art career.

Applicants are invited to submit proposals for projects or opportunities that will advance their art career, defined as:

- An opportunity to which you have been invited that will boost your career in a specific way;
- Participation in an event/conference/program/workshop that will help bring your career to a new level, that is, a step up rather than a lateral move;
- The completion of an on-going project where the final result will significantly impact your career.

#### **Application Process Details:**

- **Deadline to apply is October 1, 2026.**
- Applications will be evaluated and if successful, awards will be paid within 30 days of the deadline.
- Projects or opportunities must take place before December 31, 2027.
- Artists of all ages, disciplines and media can apply for grants up to \$500.
- Applicants must reside in Essex County, NY or show impact of work on Essex County residents.
- Proposals will be reviewed by a panel comprised of artists, cultural administrators, and/or community members.
- Due to limited funds, not all requests will receive awards. Awards may be less than the requested amount.

#### **Primary Evaluation Criteria:**

An important part of the application is providing specific details about the impact the specific opportunity will have on your artistic career. The merit of the opportunity and its feasibility as it relates to your career trajectory will be considered.

#### **The ECAC Sunburst Award can fund:**

Documentation of work  
Purchase or rental of materials or equipment  
Travel or accommodation costs  
Hiring of technical support  
Promotional expenses  
Exhibition, registration, tuition, workshop fees

#### **The ECAC Sunburst Award does not fund college/university (degree-based) tuition.**

#### **Artist's Responsibilities if Awarded a Grant:**

- Sign a funding letter detailing the use and requirements of an ECAC Sunburst Award;
- Provide a W-9 form to ECAC;
- **Credit the support of the ECAC Sunburst Award in all publicity and media related to the project;**
- Submit a one-page Final Report to ECAC upon completion of the project.

*The Essex County Arts Council reserves the right to describe or reproduce material from any project awarded funding through the Sunburst Award for publication or public relations purpose.*



## Essex County Arts Council (ECAC) Sunburst Award Form

In a text document, please provide the information listed below, numbering your responses to match the form. Please include a resume with this document, if you have one (1-2 pages).

1. Artist name
2. Mailing address, city, state, zip
3. Physical address, city, state, zip
4. County of Residence
5. Cell phone & Land line
6. Email
7. Website & other social media addresses  
(if you have none, please enter "none")
8. Briefly describe your **artistic discipline**. (no more than 250 words). Please provide photos in .jpg format that best represent your discipline. Include sample/s of your work with a maximum of four texts, images, or recordings; or a link to your work on website. Do not send materials unrelated to the specific opportunity or project. Sample materials will not be returned.
9. Title and description of the specific project or opportunity for which you are applying for funding.  
(no more than 250 words)
10. Describe, in detail, how this project or opportunity will have a significant impact on your artistic career. *If appropriate, would you be willing to present a public workshop or demo about your art?*
11. If you are NOT an Essex County resident, how will your project impact Essex County residents? (some preference may be given to Essex County residents.)
12. Define the NEED for the grant funds.
13. **PROJECT BUDGET**
  - a. Please list all project expenses with a CLEAR description.
  - b. Please list any project income.
  - c. **Project Request** equals a. minus b. (up to a maximum of \$500)
14. If your project is funded at less than your Project Request, how will you make up the difference?
15. Have you ever applied and/or received a Sunburst or ACD grant? **Please note that previous funding is NOT a guarantee of future funding.**

"My signature below certifies that the narrative, budget and supporting documentation are accurate. " (If e-mailing as attachment, typing your name serves as your signature. The above sentence must appear with your signature.) *Applicant Signature*

Submit the application and supporting materials via USPS mail to PO Box 187, Westport, NY 12993 or via e-mail to [admin@essexcountyarts.org](mailto:admin@essexcountyarts.org). If e-mailing, your materials should be sent in either a .doc or a .pdf format.

Contact ECAC by phone at 518.227.1242 or via e-mail at [admin@essexcountyarts.org](mailto:admin@essexcountyarts.org) with any questions or for assistance.

## **SAMPLE: ECAC SUNBURST GRANT APPLICATION**

1. W. Lawrence
2. PO Box 555, Essex, NY 12936
3. Lakeshore Rd, Essex, NY 12936
4. Essex County
5. 518-555-2222 (cell) 518-333-4545 (land)
6. [artistwl@gmail.com](mailto:artistwl@gmail.com)
7. Wlawrenceart.com; [www.facebook.com/wlawrencepaint](http://www.facebook.com/wlawrencepaint)
8. Watercolor paintings, local landscapes

### **9. Essex County Landscapes ~ November 1, 2026 to October, 2027**

Is this an invited opportunity? **No**

10. To date, my work has been shown in a half-dozen galleries and several shows. Over 10 years actively painting, I have developed a coherent style and produced over 120 original works; about 50 have been sold; about 20 of them have been reproduced and sold as art prints, and more than half have been reproduced and sold as note cards. I currently sell through four galleries, several shows and one gift shop. This project is intended to solidify and expand recognition of my work.

11. I am an Essex County resident.

12. **Need for the grant: To cover the up-front cost of frames and mats.** The key to realizing this project is obtaining funding to cover the cost of framing and mats for the exhibits. My monetary objective as always been to “pay-as-you-go” – to pay for my painting with sales of work, so I can pursue my passion without affecting family finances. That has been the case for ten years. However, I have never mounted a one-man show (let alone two) before; to do that, I must buy a lot of frames and mats, a sizeable up-front cost; hence, the grant request.

### **13. PROJECT BUDGET**

#### **a. Project Expense**

16 x 20” frame kits, 20 @ \$25 500.00 Print materials for home-made prints and cards:  
75.00 Commercial printing (12 large format prints, 11x14): 150.00 Clearbags pre-cut  
double mats, 16x20” & 11x14” 53.00 Ink for home prints: 50.00 Estimated costs\*:  
\$828.00

#### **b. Project Income**

Potential Sale of artwork (2 pieces @ \$150) \$300

- c. **Project Request:** \$500 would be applied to the cost of framing 20 pieces

14. The grant would provide the majority of “seed money” to procure framing materials to prepare for two one man shows. (I would provide the rest.)

15. I have applied and received a Sunburst grant. I understand that this is not a guarantee of future funding.

My signature certifies that the narrative, budget and documentation are accurate.

*(If emailing, typing your name will serve as a signature.) Please include a date with your signature*