



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 2025, GCAC will hire 13 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?

- \$5,000 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 or discounted tickets to select arts events and experiences, including a free ticket to 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: January - early December 2025
- 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:

- **December 13, 2024 – January 8, 2025** (at home): Pre-reading and watch recorded workshops, as assigned
- ***January 9, 10:00am-2:30pm: Orientation and welcome – day 1**
- ***January 22, 12:00pm-4:30pm: Orientation and training – day 2**
- **Early February** – Arts Happy Hour open to the public – “Meet the Navigators”
- **February 19, 3:30-5:00pm:** Virtual Artist Projects Training
- **March** – Attend one Artist Writing Session
- **May 14, 11:00-1:00pm:** Brainstorm/feedback session (lunch included)
- **June 6-8:** Work a shift at the Columbus Arts Festival (2-4 hours)
- **August** – Attend one Artist Writing Session
- **August 11, 3:00-5:00pm:** Brainstorm/feedback session
- **Oct/Nov TBD:** Attend GCAC's *Big Arts Night*
- **December 1, 3:30-7:00pm:** Program wrap-up, debrief, and happy hour

***Anyone who cannot attend BOTH orientation dates will be dropped from the program. Please double check your calendar before applying.**

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:
 - 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 10 mandatory events and put in approx. 100 hours of work over an 11-month period
- Familiarity with GCAC or a GCAC past grantee a plus, but not mandatory!

Application Timeline & Instructions

10/21 – Applications OPEN

11/8 at 5:00pm – Applications **DUE**

11/22 – Applicants notified of decisions

- Go to the GCAC Application Portal (<https://gcac.smartsimple.com/>) and login with your regular grant application account.
 - 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.
 - 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!