



APTITUDE STUDIO GRANTS

The Arts Partnership is thrilled to announce grants that will fully offset studio rent and utilities for artists at Aptitude at West Acres in 2021. TAP has received funding to support relief for artists, and we believe that time in a rent-free space at our largest artist asset, Aptitude, is a perfect way for artists to create in a safe environment outside of their homes.

Beginning in January 2021, we will offer Aptitude Studio Grants of three or six months in four of the Aptitude studios. As an Aptitude Studio Grantee, you will have 24/7 access to an individual studio that locks, the ability to interact regularly with other artists and the larger community, plus access to the marketing and communications arms of The Arts Partnership and West Acres.

About Aptitude

Aptitude, a creative incubator, provides an exciting opportunity for artists, makers, culture bearers and creative workers of all disciplines to work in a creative and collaborative community. Its studio spaces welcome artists of all backgrounds and career levels. Aptitude also hosts opportunities for the community to collide with the arts, through art markets and open studio dates.

The Arts Partnership and West Acres Development partnered to bring Aptitude to fruition. Its location at the West Acres Mall brings the art to the people – breaking down the perceived and sometimes real barriers that prevent all people from engaging in the arts.

Aptitude provides a place for artists to make art, experiment, grow their own artistry, get more recognition and join a communal artistic practice of excellence. Working in close proximity to artists of all stripes allows for easy sharing of know-how, skills and resources.

About the Grants

The Aptitude Studio Grants allow selected artists to create in one of Aptitude's studio spaces for three or six months, free of charge. Pending availability, we may be able to offer extensions of three to six months on the studio space. Our goal with these grants is to foster creativity through opportunities for exploring, experimenting, quiet reflection, engagement and cross-genre exchange with other artists.

Use of a rent-free, temporary studio outside of your home can allow you to focus on a specific project or body of work. However, if you receive an Aptitude Studio Grant, there is no expectation of a final product. An Aptitude studio will give you solo creative space, while also allowing you to connect and interact with other artists and the community at large. We hope the former will happen on a daily basis and the latter at open studios and art markets throughout your grant period.

Facility amenities at Aptitude include:

- 19 individual studios, with locking doors
 - 14 feature 8 ft. walls and open ceilings
 - 5 have with closed ceilings
- 24/7 access
- Overhead skylights to provide natural light
- 1 kiln room; reasonable kiln firing fees
- Utility Sinks
- Interior mall access
- Wi-Fi
- Double door for easy loading and unloading
- Abundance of free parking
- Two restrooms
- Accessibility throughout Aptitude and the mall

Note: We are committed to providing a safe, healthy environment at Aptitude, including limiting the number of occupied studio spaces to nine and regular check-ins with our studio artists. We expect Aptitude Studio Grantees to follow COVID-19 safety (including mask-wearing) and social-distancing guidelines and to keep us updated about any relevant health concerns.

Application Deadline: Monday, December 14 at 5 pm. Grants will be announced within 5 business days of the application deadline.

Questions? Contact Tania Blanich, Director of Operations, at tania@theartspartnership.net or 917.325.0000.

Aptitude Studio Grant Application

This grant opportunity is open to artists, makers, culture bearers and creative workers living and working in the Metro and near region. Eligible artists may be at any stage in their careers, including college students in their junior or senior years. Too, eligible artists may be working in any genre. However, given the physical construction and size of the Aptitude studios, it may not be well-suited for certain genres or modes of working. ***If you have questions regarding that, please contact Tania Blanich at tania@theartspartners.net or 917.325.0000 before submitting an application.***

Although we do not require a final product at the end of this grant period, Grantees will be asked to provide mid-grant and end-of-grant reflections on their time at Aptitude. Further, we strongly encourage Grantees to commit to participating regularly in Aptitude's open studios and art markets, which generally happen Saturdays. This commitment is an important piece of growing a community of artists with which the larger community can engage.

To apply, we ask you to fill out an application that includes the following:

- Contact information
- Brief description of your artistic practices
- Two references
- Preferred timeframe for grant
- Availability to Participate in Open Markets
- One-page letter of intent specific to the Aptitude Artist-in-Residence. Why is it important for you to have this time in a temporary studio in this space at this time? How will you use your time at Aptitude to grow your artistic practice?
- Current resume or CV
- Work Samples with brief descriptions including title, date made and other relevant information:
 - Visual Artists, Artisans and Creatives: 3 jpegs
 - Video/Filmmakers: 2 links to videos on Vimeo or YouTube channel.
 - Musicians and Other Performers: 2 links to Soundcloud/YouTube channel
 - Writers: 2 writing samples (not to exceed 10 pages total)

Please note: our on-line form does not save information or documents, so work offline until you are ready to submit the application.

Funding for the Aptitude Studio Grants comes from an anonymous donor. The Arts Partnership is part of the Upper Midwest Emergency Relief Fund coalition, in partnership with Arts South Dakota, Crosshatch Center for Art & Ecology, CultureSource, ImagineMKE, Racing Magpie, Springboard for the Arts, and The Arts Partnership.

APPLY HERE