William B. Pratt Endowment Guidelines

The William B. Pratt Endowment Fund is a legacy gift to the people of Montana to help them tell and share stories – especially the untold ones – about Montana’s arts, culture and history and to learn about the traditional art forms and cultures of this unique state. It will make grants:

- To build awareness, involvement and preservation of Indigenous, Folk, and Traditional Arts in Montana,
- To encourage the education about, as well as the production and presentation of, the Media Arts in Montana, and

The Donor: This fund was established by William B. Pratt who has a life-long interest in Indigenous, Folk and Traditional arts, with experience as a musician working in the folk tradition and as a living history and production artisan in forged iron. This fund also honors his work in documentary and industrial film/video production, fostering community video efforts, and his extensive experience in grants administration, the development of arts and nonprofit organizations, and fostering philanthropy in the state.

Grant applicants may apply for one of the following fields of interest:

1. **Folk Arts**

Montana’s Indigenous, Traditional and Folk Arts

Indigenous, Traditional Arts and Folk Arts include arts indigenous to an identifiable group. This group can be any community defined by such qualities as its ethnicity, geography, language, religion, or occupation. In some instances, it can also include familial groups. The Indigenous, Traditional and Folk arts contain arts such as fine handcraft, decorative arts, dance, music and poetry, instrumental music, storytelling and oral literature, foodways and local architecture. These arts are tied to identity, reflecting the aesthetics and values of that specific community from which they arise. They often become symbols of a group's identity or heritage, communicating the group's values to the outside world.

**Eligible Purposes:** Exhibits, performances, apprenticeships, festivals, community celebrations, in-school and after school community learning programs, and print or audio/visual documentation, which involve recognized Indigenous, Traditional artists and Folk Arts. Applications may be submitted to support fees, honoraria and associated program costs for the involvement of recognized Montana Indigenous, Traditional or Folk Artists. Projects must involve Living Traditional, Indigenous or Folk Artists. Projects requesting funding for a Traditional, Indigenous or Folk Arts festival must use that funding for the educational component of the festival (performance, lectures, demonstrations etc.) as opposed to the marketing or commercial elements of the festival and specify when and where (community and venue) event will take place.

**A brief note on capital expenditures:** Funding the involvement of living Traditional, Indigenous or Folk Artists is of primary interest. However, funding of temporary exhibit design or preparation costs, materials, stabilization and construction may be considered, especially if it involved other costs such as insurance for exhibit objects or materials relating to the exhibit, e.g. signage, brochure, audio-video presentations, etc.
Ineligible Purposes: “Folkloric” or interpretive programs by artists not from the culture to be presented, historical and oral historical programs, or reenactments.

2. Media Arts

The Production of, Education About and Distribution/Presentation of Media Arts

The media arts include photography, film, video, audio, multi-media, digitally-generated and -distributed media.

Eligible Purposes: Applications may be submitted to support fees, honoraria and associated program costs for the involvement of professional media artists, generally from Montana.

Media Arts applications may be made in one of the following three major categories:

1. Pre-production, production or post-production costs for well-researched and -thought out original documentaries about Montana’s arts, culture and history, including those produced by Montana public radio, public television or public access or tribal stations; Montana nonprofit organizations with a media arts-related mission; and professional media artists working under the fiscal sponsorship of a nonprofit organization that has a mission to support media and other artists. Support for animation, graphics and film, video or audio restoration may be requested but only for the documentary being produced.

2. Festivals or public programs, which, in whole or part, present documentaries about Montana’s arts, culture and history, and which request support to defray the cost of media productions to be presented, the involvement of professional media artists, and related program costs.

3. Media Arts Education programs, which involve professional media artists, may be: In-school (K-12) Artist in Residence programs, After-school and community-based programs, which include media history, aesthetics and the crafts of production and enable participants to create mini-documentaries that focus on the arts, culture and history of their communities, or Programs at tribal colleges in Montana.

Documentary Media Production is defined as:
A practice of media making (film, video, audio and photography) that deals with actual and factual (historical and contemporary) issues (ideally, from multiple points of view), institutions, and people; whose purpose is to educate, inform, communicate, persuade, raise consciousness, or satisfy curiosity; in which the viewer is commonly addressed as a citizen of a public sphere; whose materials are selected and arranged from what already exists (rather than being made up); and whose methods involve recording ‘real people’ as themselves in actual locations, using natural light and ambient sound.

Ineligible Projects
- Public service announcements
- Instructional productions
- Purchase or rental of non-Montana public television or radio and public access programming
- News programming
- Student media productions
- Theatrical productions
- Media festivals or public presentations of a general nature
- College or university courses, except for tribal colleges
- Docudramas, re-enactments or projects that can be perceived as celebratory, marketing, advocacy, public service announcements or fundraising for a particular organization
- Interviews with individuals
- Talk or interview shows
Each organization may only submit one application per year. However, organizations serving as fiscal sponsors for one or more media artists may submit multiple applications, including an application for the organization’s own programmatic purposes. Applications are encouraged that involve professional media artists and recognized Indigenous traditional or folk artists who are women, tribal members, rurally-based, or are from populations that can be considered underserved.

For projects involving Native American professional media artists or Native American artists in the Traditional Indigenous or Folk Arts, must attach documentation that they are enrolled members of federally-or state-recognized tribes. Note: All Native American artists in the Traditional Indigenous or Folk arts, must be enrolled in federally or state-recognized tribes in Montana, applicants must document this by providing a copy of their tribal ID, BIA Family Tree, tribal enrollment number or a letter from the tribal administrator.

For Non-Native Americans Working with Native American communities in Montana. The Fund has a goal of making 25% of the grant distribution for the benefit of residents of Indian reservations and/or in urban Indian communities in Montana. If a project conducted by Non-Native Americans involves Native American communities or cultures, the applicant must describe how those community representatives are being consulted and involved and, when possible, document tribal involvement through letters of support; or address why they are not involved.

**Grant Amounts:** Grants will range from $500 to $2,000.

**Matching requirements:** All grants must be matched dollar-for-dollar in cash or a combination of cash and in-kind contributions. Applicants are encouraged to seek multiple funding sources.