



CRITICAL FIERCENESS

a microgrant program for queer arts in chicago

CRITICAL FIERCENESS is a project of *Chances Dances*: chancesdances.org/fierceness

Mission:

Since its founding in 2005, Chances Dances has sought to create a safe space for all gender expressions by bringing together the varied LGBTIQ communities of Chicago. The creation of the Critical Fierceness grant expands upon this goal by offering a unique opportunity for queer artistic expression. Individuals or groups who wish to utilize the Critical Fierceness Grant for artistic purposes and who identify themselves or their work as queer are encouraged to apply. The Critical Fierceness Grant supports queer artists with financial assistance of up to \$500.

In 2012, Chances Dances expanded the Critical Fierceness Grant to include the Mark Aguhar Memorial Grant, which seeks to fund projects by queer woman-identified and trans-feminine artists of color. The Mark Aguhar Memorial Grant supports feminine-spectrum queer artists of color with financial assistance of up to \$1000. Chances Dances is proud to provide both these opportunities for personal exploration, community development and radical change through art.

Eligibility:

The Critical Fierceness Grant is open to emerging, established, part-time, full-time, and first-time artists (or artistic initiatives) who:

- ▲ Live in Cook County, Illinois and have resided in the area for at least six months.
- ▲ Are LGBTIQ-identified and/or identify their artistic practice as queer.
- ▲ Have not received The Critical Fierceness Grant within the past 2 years

Process/Deadlines:

To be considered for the grant, applicants must send in four items:

- ▲ application (included in this document)
- ▲ budget form (included in this document)
- ▲ documentation/portfolio/work samples (separate)
- ▲ signed application checklist (included in this document)

The APPLICATION, BUDGET FORM, and CHECKLIST must be filled, signed, and submitted via email to chances.dances@gmail.com with “[Your Name]: Critical Fierceness [Winter/Summer] Application” as the subject.

DOCUMENTATION AND WORK SAMPLES can be sent via email or post: see guidelines at end of form.

All electronic materials must be submitted no later than July 31st (Summer) and January 31st (Winter). All physical materials must be postmarked no later than July 31st (Summer) and January 31st (Winter).

If you have any questions about these instructions, contact us at chances.dances@gmail.com.

APPLICATION

Individual Artist or Group Names

If you are a partnership, organization, collective, or other group, choose one individual as your representative and list the officers/members.

Your name or Primary Contact's name:

Group Name:

Group Members/officers:

Contact Information

For groups, list primary contact's info only.

Email:

Phone Number:

Mailing Address:

Website (optional):

Artist/Mission Statement

Write about your artistic practice in general, or the goals of your organization. *300 words maximum.*

Project Summary

Describe the project for which you are requesting funds. Concisely summarize its background/concept, planned execution, and intended impact. Specifically describe what stage the project is in, and what parts of the project funding would go to. *300-500 words maximum.*

BUDGET FORM

Before outlining your project's budget, please offer a few sentences in the space below on how winning the funds will help make your project successful. *200 words maximum.*

Budget tips – there are really only two surefire tips for writing a successful project budget:

1. Be ambitious. Think about everything you would want or need to make your project amazing. Don't lowball! DO NOT underestimate funding in order to fall below the \$500 dollar mark. We expect budgets of all sizes, and assume funding above \$500 will be accounted for/sourced out by our artists.
2. Be specific. Citing specific models of equipment, exact prices, and reliable sources for purchase will show you've researched your full financial need. Don't guess where your supplies will come from or how much they should cost.

BUDGET WORKSHEET

ITEM	PRICE	QTY	SUB TOTAL	SOURCE (vendor name and location/website)

GRAND TOTAL OF ALL ITEMS:

If your budget exceeds the Critical Fierceness grant amount, please tell us how you plan to finance the difference:

DOCUMENTATION

To complete the application process, please include one or more types of the following documentations of your work, as relevant to your practice and the project for which you are requesting funds. Documentation can be sent electronically or by snail mail, but **PLEASE CHOOSE ONE METHOD** for all documentation.

Electronic documentation can be included in the same email as your application/budget form, sent to chances.dances@gmail.com with “[Your Name]: Critical Fierceness [Winter/Summer] Application” as the subject. Electronic documentation must be received by June 30th or Decemer 31st.

Physical documentation can also be mailed to:

*Chances Dances
c/o Aay Preston-Myint
3027 W Logan Blvd #3
Chicago, IL 60647*

Physical documentation must be postmarked by July 31st (Summer) and January 31st (Winter).

Acceptable Work Samples:

- ^ up to 10 high resolution digital images of visual art - email as .jpg attachments or mail as CD-ROM
- ^ up to 10 minutes of time based media - email as attachments (under 5MB), include in body of email as a mediafire/vimeo/youtube link, or mail as CD/DVD
- ^ 4 - 5 pages double-spaced (1500 words max) of literary work - email as PDF attachment
- ^ Publications - by mail or scanned and emailed as PDF attachment
- ^ internet projects - direct URL included in body of email, or saved to files on CD/DVD and mailed.
URLS may be submitted solely for time-based projects (like film or video) and web-based projects (whose content specifically resides on the web), NOT for portfolios of 2D or 3D artwork, etc.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- ^ **For all formats: please provide a list of your submitted work samples with a brief description of each work and their corresponding file names.**
- ^ In-progress documentation, sketches, or models of the project you are requesting funds for may be included along with past work.
- ^ We accept most popularly supported file formats, if you have questions please ask.
- ^ **WE DO NOT ACCEPT SLIDES OR LINKS TO WEB PORTFOLIOS** as your primary work sample.

Optional Materials:

- ^ CV or resume - emailed as PDF attachment or printed and mailed
- ^ Reviews and press – emailed as PDF attachments, direct URLs included in body of email, or printed and mailed

CHECKLIST, PERMISSIONS and NOTIFICATIONS

I have fully completed my application and budget form as required.

yes

I am sending the following documentation (check all that apply),

images written/literary work internet projects
time-based media publications

and the following optional materials (check all that apply).

CV resume reviews or press

I have included a list describing the work samples and corresponding file names,

yes

and all my documentation will be sent by (please choose one format)

email post

REQUIRED – check to confirm

If I win funding from the Critical Fierceness Grant, I permit Chances Dances to publish images or samples of my winning project for publicity or educational purposes (with written credit for my work provided).

OPTIONAL

I permit Chances Dances to re-publish material from my application as instructions or examples for future grant applicants yes no

Please consider me for the **Mark Aguhar Memorial Grant**, a \$1000 grant for women-identified and trans-feminine artists of color.**

Please sign electronically to confirm all the above information as truthful and correct, and to attest that all documented creative works submitted along with this application are properly credited to the people/individuals who made them.

X_____ Date: _____

Remember to send these forms to: chances.dances@gmail.com with “[Your Name]: Critical Fierceness [Winter/Summer] Application” as the subject, by July 31st (Summer) and January 31st (Winter).

**Artists applying for the Mark Aguhar Memorial Grant are eligible for both the Mark Aguhar Memorial Grant and the Critical Fierceness Grant, but will be awarded only one.

Questions may be directed to chances.dances@gmail.com, or the Critical Fierceness liaison, Aay Preston-Myint at aay@dirtrainbow.net.