A Thousand WordZ

ROOTS & ROUTES
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2026
5 TO 8 PM · LIVE AT MADRID'S, 144 FORE STREET

Direct grants to Maine artists.
No barriers, no waiting.

Roots & Routes launches the **A to Z Fund**, a program of A Thousand WordZ that puts money directly into the hands of working Maine artists. Most arts funding asks artists to prove themselves before it arrives. This fund meets them where the work actually stalls, at the start, in the middle, and at the finish line.

$86M	1,872	$20.7M	Jan 2027
PORTLAND ARTS SECTOR ECONOMIC ACTIVITY	JOBS SUPPORTED BY THAT SECTOR	GENERATED IN GOVERNMENT REVENUE	FIRST GRANT ROUND OPENS TO APPLICANTS

THREE WAYS A GRANT ARRIVES

Start it $500

Materials, studio time, and the first costs that keep work from beginning.

Continue it $1,000

For work already underway that runs out of runway partway through.

Complete it $2,000

Finishing costs. Pressing, framing, mastering, printing, installing, exhibiting.

HOW IT IS GOVERNED

Grants are decided by a review panel against published criteria. Sponsors and donors never choose or influence who is funded. Every artist documents how the money was spent. A Thousand WordZ is fiscally sponsored by Indigo Arts Alliance.

FOUNDING SUPPORTER LEVELS

$5,000	Founding Partner	Funds ten artists at Start it
$2,500	Founding Roots	Funds five artists at Start it
$1,500	Routemaker	Funds three artists at Start it
$1,000	Wayfinder	Funds one Continue it grant
$500	Community Builder	Funds one Start it grant
$250	Friend of the Arts	Helps fund a Start it grant

Supporters at every level are recognized in event materials, and supporters at $1,500 and above are included in our press outreach. Early gifts open the doors, paying for the artists who perform and for the venue itself. After that overhead, every dollar goes to the Fund.

PARTNERS Indigo Arts Alliance (fiscal sponsor) · Portland Ovations · Creative Portland · Cultural Alliance of Maine · Portland Regional Chamber · Visit Portland · Running With Scissors · Brass Roots · Live at Madrid's (host venue)

SCAN TO GIVE

EVENT PAGE

Give online. Scan the left code, or go to the A to Z Fund page on Zeffy.
zeffy.com/en-US/donation-form/a-z-fund-2

The evening: live music from The Finestkind, artists at work in the room, and the first artists introduced. Tickets go on sale Wednesday, Oct 14 at 10 AM.

To become a founding supporter, or to talk it through first, contact Atiim B. B. Chenzira at Atiim@athousandwordz.net. The right code opens the full event page and Fund guidelines.

Economic figures: Creative Portland, 2022.