A THOUSAND WORDZ · FISCALLY SPONSORED BY INDIGO ARTS ALLIANCE

How the A to Z Fund Works

The A to Z Fund makes small grants of $500 to $2,000 that help Maine artists, musicians, writers and poets get their work made. It launches at Roots & Routes on November 18, 2026. The first application round opens in January 2027.

START IT
$500
First studio time, materials, supplies.

CONTINUE IT
$1,000
A residency, a recording or mixing session, rehearsal space.

COMPLETE IT
$2,000
The uninterrupted weeks, final production, printing or mastering.

WHO CAN APPLY

- Any working artist who lives in Maine, in any discipline.
- Individuals, bands and collectives. A band or collective names one lead applicant who signs the agreement and is accountable for reporting.
- One grant per artist in any 12-month period.
- Not eligible: ATW board members, panelists, fiscal sponsor staff, and their immediate families. The founder does not apply, score, or vote.

WHAT GRANTS PAY FOR

- Studio, rehearsal or recording time
- Materials, supplies and equipment rental
- Residency fees, travel and lodging
- Mixing, mastering, printing, framing, production

Not covered: tuition, debt, rent or living costs unrelated to the project, or work already finished.

HOW GRANTS ARE CHOSEN

A rotating panel of working Maine artists, plus one partner organization representative, scores each application on decisiveness, stage fit, feasibility, and reach to artists with less access to other funding. Panelists declare conflicts. **Sponsors and donors never choose or influence who is funded.**

WHERE THE MONEY GOES

- Donations and sponsorships go to Indigo Arts Alliance, a 501(c)(3), restricted to the A to Z Fund.
- Indigo pays each grant directly to the artist and keeps the books.
- Event costs are paid from ticket and bar revenue, not Fund donations.

ACCOUNTABILITY

From each artist:

- A one-page grant agreement before payment.
- Receipts or invoices for every cost the grant paid, even partial costs, such as a studio invoice showing the rate and hours covered.
- A short note on what was made, with an image, clip or excerpt.
- Credit to the Fund where it fits. Unspent money returns to the Fund.

From A Thousand WordZ:

- A public list of every grant: artist, stage, amount.
- An annual summary of money raised, granted and held, reviewed with Indigo.
- A report to every donor and sponsor showing the work their money made.

HOW TO APPLY

Online at athousandwordz.net, about 30 minutes: stage, a 250-word project description, a line-item budget with quotes, and a work sample. Help by phone or in person for anyone who needs it.

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