

THE BRISTOL EDITION

UNCATEGORIZED

Attention local artists! Grant applications to further artistic growth available through 'Love of Art Fund'



by [Staff](#)

September 22, 2026



The Louise Lauretano DeMars's Love of Art Fund at Main Street Community Foundation was established by bequest upon DeMars' passing in 2023. | MSCF

Local artists seeking to further their growth as artists, build on their established art form or expand their learning are invited to apply for a grant from the Louise Lauretano DeMars Love of Art Fund at Main Street Community Foundation.

Grants will be awarded to individual artists residing in the towns of Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, Southington, and Wolcott who wish to. The deadline to apply is Oct. 28.

The fund was established through a bequest by Bristol resident Louise Lauretano DeMars after her passing in 2023 to continue her joy and passion for art while inspiring other artists.

Applications will be considered from working artists in fine arts, graphic arts and performing arts (music, dance, theater) fields who reside in Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, Southington, or Wolcott.

Grant requests should be for projects or initiatives that help further the artist's creativity, exploration of their talent, or expansion of their learning. Guidelines and eligibility criteria are available at mainstreetfoundation.org/apply-for-grant.

Applicants must contact Whitney Shufelt, director of grants and programs, or Alicia Krar, grants manager, at the foundation's office at least one week prior to the application deadline to discuss eligibility and receive instructions to apply.

MSCF has awarded \$23,025 to five established, local artists since its first grant cycle in 2024. Last year, three individuals received grants to support their professional education, further their practice, and to finalize production of and marketing for their work.

DeMars was a well-known leader in the Bristol community; she had a personality that was larger than life, was talented and passionate about the arts, and was a beloved mentor. DeMars's contributions to the museum industry, as well as the arts and culture community, were many and varied.

Most notable in the greater Bristol community was her 28-year tenure as the executive director of The Carousel Museum which established the museum as a national tourist destination.

DeMars was a valued member of many organizations and associations over the course of her career in the museum industry and arts community, and this Fund continues her joy and passion for art while inspiring and supporting established artists.

