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Local artists can apply for grant from Love of Art Fund at Main Street Foundation

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Sep 23, 2026



The late Louise Lauretano DeMars.
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BRISTOL — Local artists are invited to apply for a grant from the Louise Lauretano DeMars Love of Art Fund at Main Street Community Foundation.

Samantha Rajotte, scholarship and program officer with the Main Street Community Foundation, said grants will be awarded to individual artists residing in the towns of Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, Southington and Wolcott who “wish to further their creativity, explore their talent or expand their learning.”

The deadline to apply is October 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,” Rajotte said. “Louise 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.”

Rajotte said DeMars’ 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,” Rajotte said. “Louise 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.”

The Main Street Community Foundation 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.

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.

The Main Street Community Foundation, located at 120 Halcyon Dr., can be reached at 860-583-6363. 120 h

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