

Council for the Arts at MIT Grants Program Information Session

“How to Dress for
Armageddon”
From *Infinite Magazine*
Issue 9
Fall 2021 Grant Recipient

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MIT Office of the Arts includes:

- Council for the Arts at MIT (CAMIT)
- Center for Art, Science & Technology (CAST)
- Student Arts Programs (Arts Scholars)
- MIT Arts Studios

Info session outline

- Overview of CAMIT
- Types of funding available
 - Mini-Grants
 - CAMIT committee grants
- Examples of grant projects
- Application process

Council for the Art at MIT (CAMIT)

Council members are alumni and friends of the Institute with a strong commitment to the arts and to serving the MIT community. The Council's programs are funded by the annual contributions of its members.

Arts Project Funding Opportunities

- **Grants Committee Funding**

- Application deadlines in fall and spring
- Requests of up to \$5,000
- Eligibility: students, faculty, and staff

- **Student Arts Project Mini Grants**

- Rolling applications during the academic year
- Requests of up to \$500
- Eligibility: current students and student groups

**Small project? Small
budget? Still prototyping?
Want to test an idea?**

Apply for a mini grant

Student Arts Mini-Grants

- Mini-Grants are capped at \$500 and can be used to support ideation and prototyping, launch a project, or fund a small-scale arts project.
- Rolling applications, apply any time during the academic year!
- Projects should have the end goal of engaging the MIT community

CAMIT-funded project example: initial development

A mini-grant grant of up to \$500 is usually the best fit for projects in the initial stages of development.



Daniel Landez, *Brownface*, 2020 mini-grant and 2021 committee grant recipient

Title: *Brownface*

Recipient: Undergrad student

Project: Initial small-scale prototyping of a stage set and costumes for a theater piece. The full production was funded later by a CAMIT committee grant.

Ready to go with a larger project?

Apply for funding from the CAMIT grants committee

Arts Project Funding from the CAMIT Grants Committee

- Supports extracurricular/independent arts projects that engage the MIT community.
- Academic coursework and thesis projects are not eligible, but scaling from those projects is.
- Average award is \$2,000-\$3,000, maximum is \$5,000.
- Current MIT students, faculty, and staff may apply, individually or on behalf of a group or organization.
- ACT second year graduate students are eligible, first years apply through the ACT pilot funding program.

Engaging the MIT community may include:

- A performance, panel discussion, or work-in-progress talk
- Workshops for MIT students and community members
- An on-campus exhibition
- Documentation of the project via a website and social media



*Murals of Senior Haus, Wiesner Student Art Gallery Exhibition
CAMIT Grant Recipient, 2018*

CAMIT-funded project example: execution

Title: *Virtual VGO, IAP Edition*

Recipient: MIT student org

Project: A chamber-orchestral performance of original student arrangements of video game music, recorded asynchronously and premiered at the virtual MIT Blueprint Hackathon. Grant funds supported expenses for virtual rehearsals and recording.



MIT Video Game Orchestra, 2021 CAMIT Grant Recipient

CAMIT-funded project example: scaling



Title: *Lodgers: Serendipity in the Wilderness*

Recipient: M.Arch student

Project: Continuation of a project that was started outside of MIT. Grant funds supported an exhibition of the project and its design process in the Wiesner Student Art Gallery.

Lodgers, Mengqi Moon He and Zhicheng Xu, 2021 CAMIT Grant Recipient

Project examples:

arts.mit.edu/camit/funding/recipients

Application process

Check if your project is eligible:
arts.mit.edu/camit/funding/eligibility/

CAMIT Committee Grant Application Process

Phase 1: Preliminary Proposal: *Due Sept 19*

Fill out the Google form with the following:

- Project title
- Brief project statement (who, what, where, why, when)
- Estimated funding request (\$)
- Safety requirements (EHS)
- Start and end dates
- Location
 - Fabrication location
 - Exhibition/performance location

Then what happens?

Preliminary proposals are reviewed based on eligibility criteria.

Select applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal.

Full proposals will be due Friday, October 17

CAMIT Committee Grant Application Process

Phase 2: Full Proposal: *Due Oct 17*

- Project statement
- Artist statement
- Budget spreadsheet
- 1-3 references
- MIT policies and safety compliance
- 1-minute video (elevator pitch)

Grant pitch video (example)



How do I know if I'm ready to apply?

- You know what expenses your project requires.
- You have determined the phase of the project that is the best fit for funding from CAMIT.
- You know where your project will take place, and have taken steps to reserve a location and acquire required approvals.
- You know the timeline for your project, and have taken contingencies into account.
- You have connected with project partners to secure support and resources.
- You have confirmed that you can carry out your project in compliance with MIT policies on health and safety.

What makes a successful CAMIT grant application?

- Project demonstrates innovative approaches to community engagement with art at the core.
- Project title, description, artist statement, and budget demonstrate you meet the grant criteria.
- Budget is clear, based on actual estimates, and does not include ineligible expenses.
- Project has support from collaborators and funding partners.
- You have confirmed locations for project fabrication and/or presentation.

When will I know if I've received funding?

- CAMIT Grants Selection Committee will receive proposals on Oct 31 and will review applications.
- The CAMIT Grants Selection Committee will meet on Mon & Thurs, Nov 10 & 13 to finalize decisions.
- Grant recipients will be notified the week of Nov 17 if they've received a grant and for how much money.
- Grant recipients will be invited to meet the week of Dec 1 to review next steps, funding steps, documentation needs.

Arts Project Planning Resources

arts.mit.edu/resources

Next steps

- Identify your who, what, where, why, when & how
- Research costs and feasibility
- Consult our website for further info: arts.mit.edu/camit/funding/
- Email us at council-arts@mit.edu

Not sure if you're ready? When in doubt, reach out and come talk to us!