

The logo for ArtistRelief.org is a blue square with the text "ArtistRelief.org" in white, and "support for artists affected by COVID-19" in a smaller font below it.

ArtistRelief.org  
support for artists affected by COVID-19

The logo for The Design Vanguard consists of the words "THE DESIGN VANGUARD" in a bold, black, sans-serif font, stacked vertically.

THE  
DESIGN  
VANGUARD

## The Design Vanguard Joins Artist Relief as Field Partner

*Network of design leaders to lend expertise, regranting support,  
and fundraising capabilities to aid COVID-19 relief coalition.*

NEW YORK — September 9, 2020 — [Artist Relief](#), the coalition of national arts grantmakers, is proud to announce [The Design Vanguard](#) as its new Field Partner. In this partnership, the organization will lend its expertise in the world of design and support the overall development and refinement of Artist Relief’s efforts to assist designers affected by COVID-19.

A national, multidisciplinary partnership between [Academy of American Poets](#), [Artadia](#), [Creative Capital](#), [Foundation for Contemporary Arts](#), [MAP Fund](#), [National YoungArts Foundation](#), and [United States Artists](#), Artist Relief is a coalition formed to provide emergency \$5,000 grants and information resources to artists in the midst of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Artist Relief’s discipline-specific Field Partners, which also includes [CERF+](#), [The Artists Safety Net](#), and [Sundance Institute](#), are integral to scaling the coalition’s efforts during this unprecedented emergency.

"We've admired Artist Relief since its launch, and are grateful for their work to support designers in this perilous time. The Design Vanguard is proud to partner in this effort, promoting Artist Relief's work to support the needs of designers across the country as this crisis continues," said co-founder **John Cary**.

Cary’s co-founder, Jocelyn Wyatt, CEO of IDEO.org, adds, “Partnering with Artist Relief gives us the opportunity to help direct much-needed support to designers who are bringing creative solutions to some of the toughest challenges our society faces today.”

Artist Relief launched on April 8th with \$10 million, consisting of \$5 million in seed funding from [The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation](#) matched with \$5 million in initial contributions from an array of foundations across the United States listed [here](#). Its Field Partner program appears alongside a sustained fundraising campaign designed to continually expand the coalition’s impact. In the four months since launch, Artist Relief has distributed 2,400 grants, at an average rate of 100 per week, with \$535,000 spent to support 107 designers.

“We’re elated to welcome The Design Vanguard as an Artist Relief Field Partner. Over the last four months, we have witnessed the immeasurable toll COVID-19 has had on designers across the country and we are grateful to have The Design Vanguard’s leadership and support as we work to support as many design practitioners as possible. As everything has changed drastically, we need fierce advocates for designers given the exponential power of design to create a more sustainable and just world,” said **Carolyn Ramo, Executive Director of Artadia, a coalition member of Artist Relief.**

Since opening applications, Artist Relief has been met with an overwhelming response from the country’s artists. As expected, applications for the \$5,000 emergency grant have dramatically outpaced Artist Relief’s resources. As such, Artist Relief is continuing to fundraise, relying on the support of a growing number of foundations and individual donors, and will continue to evolve as the needs of the country’s artists shift over the coming months.

**Tax-deductible donations can be made at [artistrelief.org](https://artistrelief.org); 100 percent of donations will be applied directly to aid.**

### **ABOUT ARTIST RELIEF**

Artist Relief is an initiative organized by the Academy of American Poets, Artadia, Creative Capital, Foundation for Contemporary Arts, MAP Fund, National YoungArts Foundation, and United States Artists—all small to mid-sized national arts grantmakers—that have come together in this unprecedented moment guided by the understanding that the wellbeing of artists has financial, professional, social, and mental dimensions, and should be fostered with a holistic framework of support.

### **ABOUT THE DESIGN VANGUARD**

The Design Vanguard is a community of the foremost creative leaders from the business, tech, and social sectors, leveraging their collective resources and influence in service of creating a more just, safe, and beautiful world. Together, the group extends the reach and impact of design by: 1) holding veteran and emerging designers to higher ethical standards; 2) shaping a generation of designers that reflects the rich diversity of the world; and 3) pushing the edges of what it means to design for humanity—thinking about individuals, communities, and systems alike—in this new era of COVID-19. Additional information is available at [www.designvanguard.org](https://www.designvanguard.org).

### **ABOUT COALITION PARTNERS**

[Academy of American Poets](https://www.aapoet.org) — The Academy of American Poets is a national membership-based organization that supports American poets at all stages of their careers and fosters the appreciation of contemporary poetry.

[Artadia](https://www.artadia.org) — Artadia is a national non-profit organization that identifies innovative visual artists and supports them with unrestricted financial awards and connections to a network of opportunities.

[Creative Capital](#) — Creative Capital supports innovative and adventurous artists across the country through funding, counsel, gatherings, and career development services.

[Foundation for Contemporary Arts](#) — Founded in 1963 by John Cage and Jasper Johns, and still led by artists, the Foundation for Contemporary Arts (FCA) encourages, sponsors, and promotes innovative work in the arts made by individuals working in dance, music/sound, performance art/theater, poetry, and the visual arts.

[MAP Fund](#) — The MAP Fund invests in artistic production in live performance, as the critical foundation of imagining, and ultimately co-creating, a more equitable and vibrant society.

[United States Artists](#) — United States Artists is an independent nonprofit and nongovernmental philanthropic organization dedicated to supporting artists and cultural practitioners—in all disciplines and across the country—with unrestricted awards.

[National YoungArts Foundation](#) — National YoungArts Foundation (YoungArts) identifies the most accomplished young artists in the visual, literary and performing arts, and provides them with creative and professional development opportunities throughout their careers.

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