



2023 Artisan Sustainability Accelerator

COMPANION GUIDE

OVERVIEW

Welcome to Nest's 2023 Artisan Sustainability Accelerator Application Companion Guide! This guide has been created to help you prepare for and complete your application for the upcoming accelerator program.

ELIGIBILITY

To apply for a spot in the 2023 Artisan Sustainability Accelerator, businesses should meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Nest Guild member*
- Focused on handcraft design, development or production
- Demonstrated commitment to sustainability practices
- Average 3-year revenue growth, with desire to responsibly scale
- International trade show or international retailer experience
- Must commit to actively engage in the program and fulfill program requirements
- Must agree to abide by Nest's Program Commitment Statement & Code of Conduct
- Must agree to complete a Confidentiality Agreement & Media Release (if accepted)

* Businesses that participated in the following phases of the 2021 Artisan Accelerator program: Capacity Building Fellowship Projects, Market Access, Ethical Handcraft, and those a part of our Control Study group, are not eligible to apply for the 2023 Artisan Sustainability Accelerator, but will be invited to apply in 2025. Please contact anthony@buildanest.org with any questions regarding your previous Accelerator participation.

TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL APPLICATION

- Be clear and concise and highlight your unique artisan / maker product and business purpose
- Demonstrate a clear sustainability focus / practices
- Show evidence of market research and understanding of your target market
- Demonstrate a clear path for growth and responsible scalability

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

If you need further assistance with your application, or have additional questions about the program overall, please contact anthony@buildanest.org.

We wish you the best of luck with your application!

KEY DATES

- April 7 / Applications Open
 - April 30 / Applications Close
 - May 2-4 / Judging
 - May 15 / Accelerator Cohort Announcement
 - June / Track Announcements & Program Orientation
 - Late June - Early July / Accelerator Program Begins
- Applications must be submitted by 11:59pm EST on **April 30, 2023**.

PREPARE FOR THE APPLICATION

To apply for this program, you should be prepared to provide information / details in the following areas:

- Business revenue performance over the past 3 years, and future projections
- Business development challenges and successes
- Sustainability practices and goals
- International trade show and / or international retailer experience
- Sourcing and market access challenges and successes
- Product lines you work with, and which you'd be interested in implementing compliance with

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Before submitting your application, be sure that you have:

- Reviewed and completed all required fields in the application form
- Proofread your responses for clarity and accuracy
- Ensure that all responses are supported by data
- Checked that all supportive documentation has been prepared and uploaded