

State of Illinois
JB Pritzker, Governor

Illinois Arts Council Agency
Shirley R. Madigan, Chairman
Rhoda A. Pierce, Vice-Chairman
Joshua Davis-Ruperto, Executive Director

Artist Fellowship Program

Guidelines
Fiscal Year 2021
Deadline: November 2, 2020

**building a strong,
creative, and
connected Illinois
through the arts**



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The Illinois Arts Council Agency logo and cover image are a stylized version of a cast bronze sculpture, *Hybrid Muse*, created by Illinois' renowned artist Richard Hunt.

Accessible Guidelines

To obtain assistance regarding applications and written materials, contact the agency's ADA/504 Access Coordinator:

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Artist Fellowship Program

The intent of the Artist Fellowship Program is to enrich and strengthen the state of Illinois by supporting accomplished Illinois artists who are the foundation of Illinois' creative environment. The Artist Fellowship Program recognizes exceptional artists who have created a substantial body of work throughout their career by providing awards to support continued artistic growth.

Awards

The IACA will provide a limited number of \$15,000 awards across the following discipline categories:

- Literature (includes sub-categories)
 - Poetry *
 - Prose *
 - Scriptworks *
- Media Arts (category includes) *
 - Audio Art
 - Digital Art
 - Film
 - Video
- Music ^{UPDATED}
 - Composition Music*
 - Improvisation Music*
- Performance-Based Arts (includes sub-categories)
 - Choreography *
 - New Performance Forms *

A limited number of \$1,500 Finalist Awards will also be given. Recommendation for a Finalist Award has no bearing on an applicant's opportunity to receive an Artist Fellowship Award. Finalist Award recommendations are made only after all Artist Fellowship recommendations have been completed in a given category. If the applicant does not wish to be considered for a Finalist Award, indicate within the application.

* Indicates the areas that Fellowship and Finalist awards will be distributed.

In the next application cycle (FY22), the discipline categories of Ethnic and Folk Arts, Interdisciplinary/Computer-Based Arts, Visual Arts (Visual-Based Arts, Crafts, Photography, and Sculpture) will be reviewed.

Deadline

The deadline for the FY2021 Artist Fellowship Program is Monday, November 2, 2020. Applications must be

successfully submitted to the [IACA SlideRoom system](#) by 11:59 pm on the deadline date.

Eligibility Requirements

All applicants must:

- Be citizens of the United States or holders of permanent resident alien status
- Be legal residents of the state of Illinois for the twelve months prior to the application deadline
- With the exception of Ethnic and Folk Art applicants, be an originating artist (i.e., the creator of original art work)
- Submit no more than one application to the Artists Fellowship Program per fiscal year.
- Submit an application utilizing a SlideRoom account registered to the applicant.
- Submit all requested application materials.
- Due to the high number of anticipated applications the initial review of the applications eligibility requirements will be strictly enforced.

Refer to the [Proof of Eligibility](#) page on the IACA website for specific details and verification requirements.

The following individuals are not eligible to apply:

- Individuals enrolled in any degree or certificate granting program (including high school, bachelor, or master degree programs) at the time of application or during the award period. Ph.D. candidates need to have completed their course work by the application deadline to be eligible.
- Recipients of an IACA Artist Fellowship Award in FY2020

To be considered applicants must:

- Have created a substantial, independent body of work over at least a five-year professional arts career.
- Have made a recognized contribution to their discipline through public presentation of their work.
- Demonstrate a consistent high-aesthetic level of artistic ability throughout their professional arts career.
- Provide evidence of continued commitment to serious and exceptional aesthetic investigation in his or her chosen medium.

Successful applicants should demonstrate any record of regional, national, or international public presentations (i.e. exhibitions, festivals, performances, screenings, broadcasts, publications, etc.), grants, awards, fellowships, residencies, or other recognition within a discipline. Work produced within an accredited degree program is not applicable toward the five-year period of professional accomplishment.

Collaborative Applications

Collaborating artists may submit one application that involves the joint creation of a body of work of art by the applicant and up to two other artists. Only one artist of the collaborative team may be the applicant. The applicant must play a principal artistic role in the overall body of work and is responsible for all legal and contractual issues related to the grant, including taxes. Any artist who indicates they are part of a collaborative team must demonstrate an ongoing record of collaborative work with the collaborating artists as named in the application. All collaborating artists must meet the “Eligibility” requirements listed in the guidelines including providing Proof of Residency.

Artistic Disciplines

Artists will select one discipline category to apply in. Each discipline category has a specific application form. Within some discipline categories, applicants will need to select a subcategory.

Literature

Literature encompasses three subcategories:

- Poetry
- Prose includes works of fiction (short stories and novel excerpts) and creative non-fiction. Creative non-fiction is distinguished from non-fiction by its strong narrative literary quality found in personal essays and memoirs. This does not include works that are primarily analytical, scholarly, or journalistic.
- Scriptworks includes stage plays, screenplays, teleplays, libretti, radio plays, and audio dramas.

Media Arts

Media Arts includes:

- Audio Art consists of work created and produced by the applicant for broadcast, independent presentation, or web-based real-time audio (as opposed to soundtracks for film, video, or installation; or traditional musical compositions). This can include experimental narratives, radio dramas, documentaries, sound constructions, audio collages/montages, and radio artworks.
- Digital Art includes computer or web-based work in which the computer is central to the work’s creation, presentation or understanding. Film includes documentary, experimental, animated, and narrative works. This does not include works primarily having a corporate, industrial, or educational audience.
- Video includes documentary, experimental, animated, and narrative works. These do not include works primarily having a corporate, industrial, or educational audience.

Music UPDATED

Music encompasses two subcategories:

- Composition includes the creation of notated chamber, choral, opera, and symphonic music.
- Improvisation includes contemporary improvisation, jazz, or any other experimental form of improvisation outside of traditional, notated music.

Performance-Based Arts

Performance-Based Arts encompasses two subcategories:

- Choreography includes original choreography in all dance forms including ballet, hip-hop, jazz, modern, and tap.
- New Performance Forms includes original work from performance artists, solo theatre artists, movement-based artists, and performance poets

Application Overview

The Artist Fellowship Program application consists of an electronic application form, required attachment, and work samples. All application components must be completed in full and submitted in the format outlined in these guidelines by the application deadline.

How to Apply

- Read the Artist Fellowship Program guidelines carefully and contact IACA staff for clarification. It is the responsibility of the applicant to be familiar with IACA [policies, priorities](#), and guidelines.
- Identify the discipline category for application.
- Select work sample material.
- Register for an account with or login to the [IACA SlideRoom](#) system.
- Select and complete the appropriate Discipline Category electronic application form and upload attachments and work sample material in the IACA SlideRoom system.
- Successfully submit the online application to SlideRoom by the deadline.

For further guidance on applying to the Artist Fellowship Program, watch our application webinar.

Application Components

1. Forms

The Forms section contains the following subsections:

- Applicant Contact Information
- Eligibility Certification
- Artistic Discipline
- Finalist Award
- Artistic Resume describing your artistic accomplishments, 8000 character limit. Do not include general employment history or other information unless it is pertinent to your artistic career.
- Artist Statement explaining the direction, focus, aesthetic, thematic, content or form of your work, 3000 character limit.
- Awards & Other Recognition of significance that you have received throughout your professional career, 3000 character limit.

2. Attachments

Under this tab upload Proof of Illinois Residency.

Applicants must upload a copy of one of the following items at the time of application:

- A valid Illinois driver's license which includes the date issued and expiration date (entire front and back)
- A valid State of Illinois identification card which includes the date issued and expiration date (entire front and back)

3. Media (Work Samples)

Refer to the description for uploading work samples.

4. Submit

In this section, certify and submit application to the IACA SlideRoom system.

Application Media (Work Samples)

All applicants must submit samples of work completed within the past five years. Artists should consider a consistency in the body of work submitted for review. Hard copy materials of any kind will not be accepted. Each discipline category has specific work sample requirements, which are outlined below. Submitted work samples that do not follow the required format and page limits will not be reviewed.

Outlined below are acceptable formats and size restrictions for work samples. Refer to SlideRoom FAQs for further information on uploading and sizing samples.

Audio

- Uploaded audio work samples may be no larger than 30 MB in size.
- Acceptable formats are: mp3, .wma, .ogg, .flac
- Links to work samples on SoundCloud are also acceptable. There is no size restriction for linked work samples.

Digital Images

- Uploaded digital work samples may be no larger than 5 MB in size. Acceptable formats are: .jpg, .jpeg, .png, .gif, .tif, .tiff, .bmp, .tga

Video

- Uploaded video work samples may be no larger than 250 MB.
- Acceptable formats are: .m4v, .mov, .mp4, .wmv, .flv, .asf, .mpeg, .mpg, .mkv
- Samples on Vimeo and YouTube are also acceptable. There is no size restriction for linked work samples.

PDF

- Uploaded PDF documents may be no larger than 10 MB in size.

Literature

Upload a PDF of a typed manuscript. Each subcategory has specific format and page limit requirements. Submitted Work Samples that do not follow the required format and page limits for each subcategory will be automatically deemed ineligible.

- Manuscripts must be typed with at least one-inch margins on all sides
- Font size must be 12 pt. or larger
- Pages must be numbered consecutively in the upper right-hand corner
- Titles of works should appear at the top of every page

For Poetry

Upload one PDF document not to exceed 16 pages in length. No more than one poem should appear on each page. The first page of the document must list the following for each poem submitted in the order it appears in the document:

- Title of work
- Number of pages
- Date completed

In the Label Media section, provide the following:

- Title (enter Manuscript)
- Genre (enter Poetry)
- Number of works submitted
- Number of pages in document

For Prose

Upload one PDF document not to exceed 31 pages in length. The document can be made up of a single work or multiple works, or an excerpt from a larger work. The first page of the document must list the following for each piece submitted in the order it appears in the document:

- Title of work
- Genre (fiction, creative non-fiction)
Type of work (short story, essay, excerpt from novel)
- Number of pages
- Date completed

In the Label Media section, provide the following:

- Title (enter Manuscript)
- Genre (enter either fiction, creative non-fiction)

For Scriptworks:

Upload one PDF of an entire script.

In the Label Media section, provide the following:

- Title of work
 - Genre (e.g. stage play, screenplay, teleplay, libretto, radio play, audio drama, etc)
 - Number of works submitted (enter 1)
 - Number of pages in document
 - Indicate a 15 page excerpt in which the panel should focus their attention
 - Additional details (enter a brief synopsis of the script and the date completed)
-

Media Arts

Upload or link to two video or audio work samples.

In the Label Media section, provide the following:

- Title of work
- Date completed
- Original presentation format (film, video, digital)
- Total length of work
- Indicate what portion of the work sample should be reviewed, up to 10 minutes.
- Additional details (indicate your role and the role of others involved, if applicable, in the production of the work)

Performance-Based Arts

Upload or link to two video work samples.

In the Label Media section, provide the following for each work:

- Title of work
 - Date completed
 - Total length of work
 - Indicate what portion of the work sample should be reviewed, up to 10 minutes.
 - Additional details (if you are also performing, identify yourself)
-

Music UPDATED

Upload or link to two audio or video work samples.

Accompanying scores are required for those applying under Compositional Music. Accompanying scores or lead sheets are optional for those applying under Improvisational Music.

In the Label Media section, provide the following:

- Title of work
- Date completed
- Total length of work
- Indicate what portion of the work sample should be reviewed, up to 10 minutes.
- Additional details (For improvisational compositions in which you are also playing, indicate your instrument. For compositions for which scores are not available, provide a brief description of the composition process)

Review Criteria and Process

Evaluation Criteria

- The quality of the applicant's work.
- The applicant's record of professional arts activity and achievement.
- Evidence that the applicant's work reflects continued, serious and exceptional aesthetic investigation in his or her chosen medium.

Program priorities are to recognize artists geographically across the state and across disciplines.

Review Process

- The application is received and assigned an application number that will be used in future communication regarding that application.
- Applications which have been ruled ineligible or incomplete will not be reviewed.
- Applications are reviewed based on the evaluation criteria by advisory juries comprised of arts professionals.
- The final recommendations are presented to the Board for their consideration and approval.
- Awards will be announced in late Spring 2021.
- A record of the review process is maintained for all reviewed applications, applicants are encouraged to call for review feedback after receiving decision notification.

Notification and Compliance

Notification

Applicants will be notified of the Council's decision on their application via email. If funded, this notification will include required materials, which must be completed and returned to authorize payment. Once these documents and copies of other requested materials are returned to the IACA, it will take at least two months and up to six months for payment to be issued by the State Comptroller.

Before funds are released, grantees may be required to provide additional documentation that verifies residency status for at least one year prior to the application deadline. Refer to the [Proof of Eligibility](#) page on the IACA website for specific details and verification requirements.

Work Sample Retention

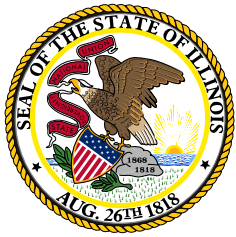
Work samples of Artist Fellowship award recipients will be retained or copied by the Illinois Arts Council Agency for its archives or submission to a public-use archive. By submitting work samples, applicants give permission to the IACA to use images and content in IACA produced publications and website.

Taxability of Grant

The Internal Revenue Code provides that the full amount of an Artist Fellowship is taxable to its recipient. For questions regarding income-tax liability, contact the Internal Revenue Service or a personal tax advisor.

For general information contact:

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Visit the [Illinois Arts Council Board Members](#) page on Appointments.Illinois.Gov for a complete list of current board members.



The IACA acknowledges continuous support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

It is illegal for the Illinois Arts Council Agency or anyone receiving assistance from the Illinois Arts Council Agency to discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, non-binary and gender non-conforming employees, sexual harassment, national origin, ancestry, citizenship status, physical or mental disability, political affiliation, beliefs, age, order of protection status, any other non-merit status, marital status, pregnancy, arrest record, military status, veterans status or unfavorable discharge from military service. Any individual who has been subject to such discrimination may file a complaint with the Illinois Department of Human Rights at +1 (312) 814-6200 or TTY +1 (312) 263-1570.