

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 for Fiscal Year 2022
Deadline: November 1, 2021

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



Table of Contents

Link	About the Illinois Arts Council Agency
Link	Policies and Priorities
Link	IACA Online Grant System
3	What's New and Different This Year
4	Artist Fellowship Program
7	Process, Notification, and Compliance
8	Application Overview
10	Supporting Documents

Grantees included in cover photo collage: DanceWorks Chicago, Segundo Ruiz Belvis Cultural Center, Chicago Children's Choir, National Museum for Mexican Art, William O'Brien, Deeply Rooted Dance Theater, Oak Park Area Arts Council, Melissa Leandro, Janis Mars Wunderlich, 2019 3Arts Awards Celebration featuring a performance by Ayodele Drum & Dance Ensemble, and Freeport Art Museum.

Illinois Arts Council Agency Contacts

For specific information on this grant contact:

Digital Arts and Photography:

Teresa Davis

Program Director

Phone: +1 (312) 814-6753

Email: Teresa.N.Davis@illinois.gov

Crafts and Ethnic & Folk Arts:

Susan Dickson

Program Director

Phone: +1 (312) 814-6740

Email: Susan.Dickson@illinois.gov

Visual Arts and Sculpture:

Jerome Grand

Program Director

Phone: +1 (312) 814-6766

Email: Jerome.Grand@illinois.gov

New Art Forms:

George Tarasuk

Program Director

Phone: +1 (312) 814-3916

Email: George.Tarasuk@illinois.gov

Accessible Guidelines

To obtain assistance regarding applications and written materials, contact the agency's

ADA/504 Access Coordinator:

Teresa Davis

Phone: +1 (312) 814-6753

TTY: +1 (888) 261-7957

Email: Teresa.N.Davis@illinois.gov

What's New and Different This Year **NEW**

The Illinois Arts Council Agency (IACA) has made several changes for Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22). Please read the guidelines carefully to learn the full details, but here is a summary of what to watch for.

New Online Platform

In FY22 we are transferring to a [new online system](#) that is different than the SlideRoom system used in previous years. To help you navigate the new system there is a recorded webinar on the [IACA Workshops and Webinars page](#).

We also have several opportunities for you to connect with IACA staff for questions on the program or the new platform:

- Artist Fellowship Grant Webinar, pre-registration is required:
 - [Wednesday, September 29, 2021 at 1:00pm](#)
- Drop-in sessions for questions on the program or online platform, pre-registration is not available. To join click on the link at the meeting time:
 - [Friday, October 1, 2021 at 1:00pm](#)
 - [Friday, October 22, 2021 at 1:00pm](#)

Updated Guidelines

Please note that nearly all sections of the guidelines have been updated. We ask you to please read them completely for all details.

Artist Fellowship Program

The intent of the Artist Fellowship Program (AFA) 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.

This is not a project-specific grant. The AFA is meant for artists whose work is of exceptional artistic merit and who are at a career stage beyond emerging.

Awards

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

- Crafts (category includes) *
 - Clay
 - Fiber
 - Glass
 - Jewelry
 - Leather
 - Metal
 - Paper
 - Plastic
 - Textiles
 - Wood
 - Mixed Media
- Digital Arts (category includes) *
 - Audio/sound arts
 - Computer/game art
 - Immersive virtual environments
 - Internet art
 - Interactive art
 - Virtual art
 - Software art
- Ethnic & Folk Arts (category includes) *
 - Material culture (crafts/objects)
 - Oral traditions
 - Traditional dance & music
 - Traditional crafts

- New Art Forms (category includes) *
 - Conceptual arts
 - Community engaged work
 - Experimental arts
 - Interdisciplinary arts
- Visual Based Arts (includes sub-categories)
 - Photography *
 - Sculpture *
(3-dimensional/Environmental/
Installation/Kinetic/Public art)
 - Visual Arts * (2-dimensional/Drawing/
Graphics/Painting/Printmaking)

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 each category. The applicant will need to select whether they would like to be considered for a Finalist Award.

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

In the next application cycle (FY23), the discipline categories of Literature (Poetry, Prose, Scriptworks), Media Arts, Music (Compositional Music, Improvisational Music), and Performance-Based Arts (Choreography, New Performance Forms) will be reviewed.

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
- Except for Ethnic and Folk Art applicants, be an originating artist (i.e., the creator of original artwork)
- Submit no more than one application to the Artists Fellowship Program per fiscal year individually or collaboratively
- Submit an application utilizing a Salesforce account registered to the applicant
- Submit all requested application materials

- Due to the high number of anticipated applications, the initial review of the application’s eligibility 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’s 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 FY2021 or 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.

Deadline

The deadline for the FY2022 AFA Program is Monday, November 1, 2021. Applications must be successfully submitted to the [IACA Salesforce system](#) by 11:59 pm on the deadline date.

Please note 30 days after the deadline all draft applications will be removed from the IACA Salesforce system.

Artistic Disciplines

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

Crafts

Craft is defined by its approach to object making with a strong connection to materials, skill, process and making things by hand. Crafts within the decorative arts traditionally has a relationship to functional or utilitarian products (such as sculptural forms in the vessel tradition) or by their use of such natural media as wood, clay, ceramics, glass, textiles, and metal.

Digital Arts

Digital Art is defined as computer or web-based work in which the computer is central to the work’s creation, presentation, or understanding. Digital Art can incorporate virtual, immersive, interactive, or multi-media installations/works.

Ethnic and Folk Arts

Ethnic and Folk Arts are defined as those artistic practices which have a community or family base, express that community’s aesthetic, heritage, and tradition, and have endured through several generations. These art forms reflect the particular culture of a region, tribe, language, or national group from which they spring. Ethnic and Folk Arts Fellowships honor exemplary artists who have achieved mastery of a folk or traditional ethnic art appropriate to their cultural heritage.

New Art Forms

New Art Forms is defined as work which is experimental or conceptually driven. This may include community or time-based work - or be a hybrid of multiple art forms (artists in this genre often have an interdisciplinary approach to their art making).

Visual Based Arts

Visual Based Arts is defined as art in 2 and 3 dimensions based on traditional arts. It encompasses three subcategories: Photography, Sculpture, and Visual Arts.

Process, Notification, and Compliance

Review Process

- When the application is submitted it is 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 committees comprised of arts professionals.
- The final recommendations are presented to the Board for their consideration and approval.
- Awards will be announced in late Spring 2022.
- 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

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.

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.

Compliance

Work Sample Retention

Work samples of AFA 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.

Application Overview

IACA utilizes an [online grant system](#) to accept applications. **Please note for the FY22 AFA Grant there is a new application portal/system.** The IACA Slideroom system is closed for future applications. Much like Slideroom, the new online application consists of form field components and the uploading of required documents. Each component must be completed and submitted in the required format by the deadline. For complete instructions go to the [Using Salesforce](#) section of the IACA website.

There is also a [user manual for the new online platform](#) on our website to help guide the application process. Please review this carefully and use as a reference.

How to Apply

- Read the AFA 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.
- Prepare Artistic Resume, Statement, and Awards & Recognition (Note these are required fields to create the application. This text can be edited after creating the application.)
- Select work sample material.
- Register for an account with or login to the [IACA Salesforce](#) system.
- Select and complete the appropriate Discipline Category electronic application form and upload supporting document attachments and work sample material in the IACA Salesforce system.
- Successfully submit the online application by the deadline.

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

Application Components

1. Applicant Information

Under this tab please create or update the entity applying for the grant. **For the AFA grant this must be an individual.** This tab requires the following information:

- Individual contact information

Please note this information may be updated at any time. Please keep this information current to ensure communications from IACA reach you.

2. Grant Programs Selection

Under the Grant Programs tab, select from the following Fellowship applications accordingly:

- Artist Fellowship – Crafts – 2022
- Artist Fellowship – Digital Arts – 2022
- Artist Fellowship – Ethnic & Folk Arts – 2022
- Artist Fellowship – New Art Forms – 2022
- Artist Fellowship – Visual Based Arts – 2022

The system will prompt the selection of the applicant to move forward.

On this main section please also provide:

- Artistic Discipline & Sub-discipline
- Indication of Finalist Award consideration
- Indication if application is collaborative
- Artistic Resume describing your artistic accomplishments, 8,000-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, 3,000-character limit.
- Awards & Other Recognition of significance that you have received throughout your professional career, 3,000-character limit.

Please note that after an application is started it will appear on the home screen in the online grant system. Within the grant application, the requirements/sections will be listed along the left-side of the screen. Please access your draft application from here to avoid starting a duplicate application.

Please also note that once you create your application the system will say your Financial Information records are complete. This is because the AFA application does not have financial data as part of the application.

3. Supporting Documents

All listed attachments are required.

The attachments to be uploaded are:

- Work Samples – *may be upload or url link*
- Proof of Illinois Residency

4. Submit / Certification

Please note this is a two-step process to both certify and submit your application. Once the application is complete click the Submit Button in the lower left-hand corner. A pop-up will require certification of eligibility and application content.

After certification there is another submit button which must be clicked to complete the application in the [IACA online grant system](#). The application will not be successfully submitted until the second submit button is clicked.

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.

Supporting Documents

Work Samples / Work Sample Description

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.

With each work sample there is a field to describe the work sample. This field has a limit of 1,000 characters for the work sample description.

Please note – work samples submitted via a link (ex. YouTube, Vimeo, etc.) must be public and without password protection.

Audio

- Uploaded audio work samples may be no larger than 2 GB in size.
- Acceptable formats are: mp3, .wav, .ogg
- Links to work samples on SoundCloud are also acceptable. There is no size restriction for linked work samples, but they must be accessible without passwords.

Digital Images

- Uploaded digital work samples may be no larger than 2 GB in size. Acceptable formats are: .jpg, .jpeg, .png, .gif, .tif, .tiff, .bmp, .vsd

Video

- Uploaded video work samples may be no larger than 2 GB.
- Acceptable formats are: .vi, .mov, .mpeg, .mpg, .swf
- Samples on Vimeo and YouTube are also acceptable. There is no size restriction for linked work samples, but they must be accessible without passwords.

PDF

- Uploaded PDF documents may be no larger than 2 GB in size.

Crafts

Upload or link to eight digital images.

In the Work Sample Description field, provide the following for each work:

- Title of work
- Date of completion
- Medium
- Dimensions (height x width x depth)
- Additional details

Digital Arts

Upload or link to two digital work samples.

In the Work Sample Description field, provide the following for each work:

- Title of work
- Date of completion
- Media / Format
- Total length of work
- Indicate what portion of the work sample should be reviewed, up to 10 minutes.
- Additional details

Ethnic and Folk Arts

Applicants with static art forms may upload or link to eight digital images. Other applicants may upload or link to two audio or video samples to show the active nature of the work. Follow the requirements that best capture the work being presented.

In the Work Sample Description field, provide the following for each work:

- Title of work
- Date of completion
- Additional details

New Art Forms

Upload or link to eight digital images. Applicants may substitute up to two digital images with audio or video samples to show the active nature of the work.

In the Work Sample Description field, provide the following for each work:

- Title of work
- Date of completion
- Medium

- Dimensions (height x width x depth)
- Additional details (for applicants with audio or video samples - indicate what portion should be reviewed, up to 5 minutes.)

Visual Based Arts

Upload or link to eight digital images. Applicants with multi-media or kinetic work may substitute up to two digital images with video samples to show the active nature of the work.

In the Work Sample Description field, provide the following for each work:

- Title of work
- Date of completion
- Medium
- Dimensions (height x width x depth)
- Additional details (for applicants with multi-media or kinetic work - indicate what portion of the video should be reviewed, up to 5 minutes.)

Proof of Illinois Residency

Applicants must upload of one of the following items:

- 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)

If the application is collaborative the pdf must include residency verification for all collaborators. Collaborative applications without all residency documents will be ineligible.

Submit this document as a PDF file and named:
Lastname_Firstname_Residency.pdf

For general information contact:

Illinois Arts Council Agency
James R. Thompson Center
100 West Randolph, Suite 10-500
Chicago, IL 60601-3230
Phone: +1 (312) 814-6750
Toll-free in Illinois: +1 (800) 237-6994
Email: iac.info@illinois.gov
Web site: www.arts.illinois.gov



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.