

State of Illinois
JB Pritzker, Governor

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

Artist Fellowship Program

Guidelines
Fiscal Year 2020
Deadline: October 31, 2019

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



Table of Contents

Link [About the Illinois Arts Council Agency](#)
Link [Policies and Priorities](#)

3 Artist Fellowship Program
5 Application Overview
6 Application Media (Work Samples)
9 Review Criteria and Process
10 Notification and Compliance

Program Contact

For specific information on this program contact:

Encarnación Teruel
Program Director
Phone: +1 (312) 814-6753
Email: Encarnacion.Teruel@illinois.gov

Accessible Guidelines

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

Encarnación M. Teruel
Phone: +1 (312) 814-6753
TTY: +1 (888) 261-7957
Email: Encarnacion.Teruel@illinois.gov



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.

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:

- Ethnic and Folk Arts
- Interdisciplinary/Computer-Based Arts
- Visual Arts
 - Visual-Based Arts (Installation, Mixed Media, Painting, Graphic & Drawing)
 - Photography
 - Sculpture
 - Crafts

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.

In the next application cycle (FY21), the discipline categories of Literature (Poetry, Prose, Scriptworks), Media Arts (Audio Art, Digital Art, Film, Video), Music Composition, and Performance-Based Arts (Choreography, New Performance Forms) will be reviewed.

Deadline

The deadline for the FY2020 Artist Fellowship Program is October 31, 2019. 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 FY2019

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 will demonstrate a 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.

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 the regional language, tribal, or nationality 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 heritage.

Subcategories of Ethnic and Folk Arts are:

- Material Culture (crafts, objects)
- Dance
- Music
- Storytelling

Interdisciplinary/Computer-Based Arts

- Digital Art includes computer or web-based work in which the computer is central to the work's creation, presentation or understanding
- Interdisciplinary/Computer-Based Art is defined as work that incorporates at least one discipline outside the visual arts, including interactive or multi-media installation/works and computer or cyber-based work in which the computer is central to the work's creation.

Visual-Based Arts

Visual-Based Arts encompasses four subcategories:

- Visual Arts includes design arts (architecture, fashion, graphic, industrial, interior, landscape architecture), experimental (conceptual, new materials), graphics, works on paper (drawing, printmaking, artists' books), mixed media, painting, and sculpture
- Crafts include clay, fiber, glass, leather, metal, paper, plastic, wood, and mixed media
- Photography
- Sculpture (includes kinetic arts)

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.

Ethnic and Folk Arts applicants must also describe:

- Traditional art form practiced and how it was learned (from whom, when, and where it was learned).
 - How the art form and personal experience expresses the culture and communities from which it springs.
 - How the practice of this traditional art enriches your life and the life of your community, 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.

Ethnic and Folks Arts

For a definition of Ethnic and Folk Arts, refer to the Discipline Categories section. Follow the formats described for the discipline category that best captures the work being presented. Upload or link to either digital images or audio or video work samples.

Interdisciplinary/Computer-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)
- Title of work

Visual-Based Arts

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

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

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

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 2020.
- 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:

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, transgender status, 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 or parental status, pregnancy, arrest record, military status, veteran 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.