

The Iowa Arts Council is committed to recognizing the impact individual artists have on the vitality of the arts in Iowa. The Artist Fellowship Program provides support to individuals who demonstrate exceptional creativity in the arts and the capacity for continued contributions to the excellence and innovation of the arts in the state. The Artist Fellowship Program seeks to elevate the arts in Iowa by advancing the artistic careers of Iowa artists through funding and professional development. Fellowship recipients exemplify the following program priorities:

- **Excellence & Innovation** | Artist capitalizes on new, emerging methods or trends in their field, achieving artistic vision through unique and highly creative means in concept and form
- **Career Readiness** | Artist is at a pivotal stage in artistic career and is committed to advancing to the next level
- **Public Value** | Artist contributes to the vitality of arts in Iowa by actively creating and presenting new work that is accessible to Iowans

Funding for the Artist Fellowship Program is made possible by an annual appropriation from the Iowa Legislature to the Iowa Arts Council, a division of the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs, and by the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. Applicants must adhere to the funding policies of the Iowa Arts Council.

Timeline

May 2, 2016 | Letter of Intent Deadline

The deadline to submit an online letter of intent to the program is 11:59 PM, May 2, 2016.

May 13, 2016 | Invitation to Submit Application

Select applicants invited to submit an application to the program will be notified by May 13, 2016. An invitation to submit a full application is neither a guarantee of funding nor an endorsement of the applicant by the Iowa Arts Council or Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs.

May 20, 2016 | Application Deadline for Invited Applicants

The deadline to submit an invitation only online application to the program is 11:59 PM, May 20, 2016

July 1, 2016 | Award Decision Notification

Applicants will be notified of award decisions by July 1, 2016.

July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017 | Funding Period

Fellowship recipients are required to use the grant award and participate in all programmatic activities during the fiscal year 2017 fellowship period of July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017.

August 1, 2017 | Final Report Deadline

Fellowship recipients are required to complete a final report by August 1, 2017.

Program Expectations

The Artist Fellowship Program is a partnership between the Iowa Arts Council and selected fellows. Fellows are expected to fully engage in the professional development and networking opportunities provided, as well as to utilize the integrated funding and promotional resources offered over the course of the fellowship period.

The Artist Fellowship Program seeks to support professional, active Iowa artists who are committed to advancing their artistic career at a pivotal stage. Applicants are expected to demonstrate why now is the appropriate time in their artistic career for the one-time award.

The Artist Fellowship Program is not an award to support a specific art project, an award of recognition for lifetime achievements nor is it an award for artists just beginning their careers.

Program Benefits

Funding

Fellows are provided financial support for the development of their artistic career and to enhance their capacity for creative work.

- **Grant Award** | Fellows are awarded a \$10,000 grant for the fellowship award period.
- **Crowdfunding** | In partnership with Hatchfund, Kickstarter and IndieGoGo, the Iowa Arts Council features fellows' projects on curated pages in order to leverage additional promotional and monetary support for their work.

Professional Development

Fellows are regularly convened during the fellowship period to receive professional development to elevate their artistic careers.

- **Creative Capital** | Fellows participate in Creative Capital's Core Weekend Professional Development Program held in Des Moines in Fall 2016. Creative Capital is the nation's leading provider of professional development for artists. The Core Weekend Professional Development Program is an intensive two-and-a-half day workshop integrating business management, strategic planning, fundraising, communication, marketing and promotion.
- **Panelist Program** | Fellows serve as panelists on the Iowa Arts Council's review panels over the course of the fellowship year. The panelist program provides the opportunity for fellows to develop their grant writing skills by offering expert citizen advice on arts activity taking place across the state.

Promotion

Fellows are provided opportunities during the fellowship period to be recognized for the impact and value of their work.

- **Award Ceremony** | Fellows will be recognized at an award ceremony in Summer 2016
- **Blog** | Fellows are interviewed and featured in the Iowa Culture Blog and in department social media platforms
- **Events** | Fellows participate in a series of events across the state to introduce their work to new audiences and communities
- **Video** | Fellows are featured in a video documenting the impact of the program over the fellowship year

Applicant Eligibility Requirements

Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants must meet all of the following requirements. Iowa residence is defined by Iowa Code [422.4](#) and Iowa Administrative Code [701-38.17 \(422\)](#).

- Individual artist
- Legal Iowa resident
- 21 years of age or older
- Full-time Iowa resident for 3 consecutive years prior to application
- Full-time Iowa resident for the duration of the funding period

Ineligible Applicants

- Past recipients of the Iowa Arts Council Artist Fellowship
- Individuals currently enrolled in any type of undergraduate or graduate degree granting program
- Artist group, collaborative or collective-applicants must apply as an individual person
- Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs grantees who have an outstanding final report or who have been placed on a department funding moratorium

Eligible Disciplines

Eligible applicants to the Artist Fellowship Program must be originating, non-interpretive artists working in any artistic discipline(s). Originating artists create original works of art (e.g., visual artists, composers or choreographers). Interpretive artists perform or interpret original works of art of others (e.g., dancers, actors, or musicians).

Iowa Arts Council Administered Program Eligibility

- Eligible artists can receive one Artist Fellowship award in their lifetime.
- No more than one grant application per applicant per program can be submitted during a single grant deadline.
- Eligible artists may not submit both an Artist Fellowship and an Art Project Grant application at the same deadline.
- Eligible artists may only receive an Art Project Grant or an Artist Fellowship in a single fiscal year.

Online Application Submission

Applicants must submit the letter of intent as well as the full application via the Iowa Arts Council's SlideRoom, an online application portal. Applications will not be accepted in any other format. Late, incomplete or ineligible applications will not be accepted. Applicants can access the current online application requirements at www.iowaartscouncil.slideroom.com. Applicants must create a login to view the full application requirements for the program. Applicants can visit the [SlideRoom Help Desk](#) for technical assistance related to the online submission.

Review Process

Submitted letters of intent are reviewed by staff for completion, eligibility, and adherence to published guidelines. Letters of intent are reviewed as submitted. New information or subsequent clarification submitted after a program deadline is not considered. Staff will also review an applicant's record of compliance and good standing with the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs, State and Federal government. Letters of intent or applicants determined by staff to be ineligible will not be submitted for panel review and are specifically denied any appeals process. Applicants submitting letters of intent determined to be eligible will be referred to a competitive first round review by a panel with appropriate expertise commensurate to the purpose of the grant program. The panel will select competitive applicants from the initial pool of first round applicants who will be invited to submit a full application to the program. Decisions of the panel are final and may not be appealed due to dissatisfaction.

Full applications will be reviewed by staff for completion, eligibility and adherence to published guidelines. Applications are reviewed as submitted. New application information or subsequent application clarification submitted after a program deadline is not considered. Eligible applications will be referred to second competitive review by the same panel. Panel recommendations are submitted to the Administrator of the Iowa Arts Council for consideration and to the Director of the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs for funding approval. All funding decisions are final and may not be appealed due to dissatisfaction. Applicants may review the department appeals policy for information on grounds for appeal and the appeal process.

Scoring Rubric

Letter of Intent Review

Artist Fellowship Letters of Intent will be evaluated on the following two criteria. Applicants who meet these criteria will be invited to submit applications for a second round of review.

- **Artist Statement and Work Samples** | Artist statement and work samples are of high quality and exemplify artistic excellence. Artist achieves a unique artistic vision through highly creative means in concept and form.
- **Curriculum Vitae or Artist Resume** | CV or artist resume demonstrates applicant is at a professional level and is actively creating and presenting new works.

Application Review – Invitation Only

The Artist Fellowship Scoring Rubric will be used to evaluate full applications. Each section has criteria and corresponding point values to ensure a fair review process. The rubric is on a scale of 18 points.

ARTIST VISION STATEMENT AND PROFILE: 3 points possible		
3	2	1
Evolution of applicant's work demonstrates exceptional capabilities in concept and form. Past work clearly informs current artistic vision. Applicant demonstrates a record of career progress through relevant notable achievements.	Evolution of applicant's work is described. Past work is related to current artistic vision. Relevant notable achievements are identified.	Evolution of applicant's work is unclear or does not demonstrate satisfactory capabilities in concept and form. Relevant notable achievements are not identified.

CAREER READINESS: 3 points possible		
3	2	1
Applicant is an active Iowa artist who is at a pivotal stage in artistic career. Demonstrates clear understanding of integrated program benefits and dedication to advancing artistic career over the fellowship period.	Applicant is an active Iowa artist. Limited understanding of integrated program benefits. Stated interest in advancing artistic career over the fellowship period.	Applicant is not an active Iowa artist and is not at a pivotal stage in artistic career. Does not demonstrate understanding of integrated program benefits or dedication to advancing artistic career over the fellowship period.

PUBLIC VALUE: 3 points possible		
3	2	1
Applicant has clear, exemplary plans to impact the vitality of the arts in Iowa through the creation and presentation of new work over the fellowship period.	Applicant satisfactorily demonstrates plans to impact the vitality of the arts in Iowa through the creation and presentation of new work over the fellowship period.	Applicant does not sufficiently demonstrate plans to impact the vitality of arts in Iowa through the creation and presentation of new work over the fellowship period

WORK STATEMENT: 3 points possible		
3	2	1
Artwork capitalizes on new, emerging methods or trends in the field. Artistic vision is achieved through unique and highly creative means in concept and form.	Artwork utilizes common methods or trends in the field. Artistic vision is achieved through creative means in concept and form.	Artwork does not capitalize on new, emerging methods or trends in the field. Artistic vision is not achieved through unique and highly creative means in concept and form.

WORK SAMPLES: 3 points possible		
3	2	1
Work samples are of professional quality and represent an excellent/innovative and cohesive body of work that clearly advances artistic vision.	Work samples are of average quality and represent a body of work that relates to artistic vision.	Work samples are of poor quality and do not represent a cohesive body of that advances artistic vision.

GRANTSMANSHIP & CASE FOR SUPPORT: 3 points possible		
3	2	1
The application is clear, concise and well-composed. Case for support is exemplary and merits investment from the State.	The application is clear. Case for support is adequate.	Application is unclear or poorly composed. Case for support is inadequate or does not merit state investment.

Glossary of Terms and Definitions

Applicants should refer to the glossary for clarification of program terms and definitions.

Contact

Potential applicants are encouraged to review all published material and contact Iowa Arts Council staff, Veronica O'Hern at 515-281-3293 or veronica.ohern@iowa.gov, with questions well in advance of application deadlines.