



North Carolina Arts Council ARTIST FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Application Guidelines 2020-2021 Visual Arts, Craft, Film/Video, and Choreography

Deadline: November 1, 2019

www.ncarts.org

WHO MAY APPLY

The program operates on a two-year cycle. Choreographers and visual, craft, and film/video artists will be eligible to apply in November 2019 for the 2020-2021 grant year. Songwriters, composers, and writers will be eligible to apply in November 2020.

Artists who received a fellowship for 2015-2016, 2016-2017, 2017-2018, 2018-2019, or 2019-2020 are not eligible to apply this year. Artists may apply only one fellowship category per year. For collaborations, only one member of the collaborative team should submit the application on behalf of the group; however, the names of all collaborating members must be included in the application and all collaborators must meet the eligibility guidelines. Artists may submit only one application per year as either the primary applicant or a collaborator.

Fellowship applicants must certify on the application form that they:

- are at least 18 years old
- are a U.S. citizen or holder of permanent resident alien status
- have been a year-round resident of N.C. for at least one year immediately prior to the application deadline
- will remain a N.C. resident during the grant period and be physically present in the state for the majority of the grant period
- are not enrolled at the time of application and will not be enrolled during the grant period in an academic or degree-granting program.

Artists recommended for a fellowship will be required to supply proof of current N.C. residency status and sign a contract pledging compliance with the eligibility rules listed above.

VISUAL ARTISTS

This category is open to:

- Artists working in drawing, installation, mixed media, painting, photography, printmaking, and sculpture
- Artists working in experimental and performance forms

Please note: artists working in media associated with craft and artists who use film or video in their work may apply in the visual arts category, or may choose to apply in the craft or film/video categories. However, artists may apply in only one fellowship category per year.

CRAFT ARTISTS

This category is open to:

- Artists who work in basketry, ceramics, enamel, fiber, glass, jewelry, leather, metal, mixed media, natural materials, paper, textiles, or wood
- Artists who self-identify as craft artists

Please note: Artists working in media associated with craft may apply in the craft or visual arts categories. However, artists may apply in only one fellowship category per year.

FILM/VIDEO ARTISTS

This category is open to:

- Filmmakers
- Video artists

Applicants must have completed at least one film, which should be documented on their résumé.

Please note: Artists working experimentally with media (e.g., in installations or other non-traditional presentation formats) may apply in the film/video or visual arts categories. However, artists may apply in only one fellowship category per year.

CHOREOGRAPHERS

This category is open to:

- Choreographers of ballet, ethnic, folk, jazz, tap, urban, and modern dance.

WHAT WE FUND

Fellowships in the amount of \$10,000 support the creative development of N.C. artists and the creation of new work. Fellowship funds may be used to:

- Set aside time to work
- Pursue projects that further artistic development and support the realization of specific creative ideas
- Buy supplies and equipment
- Fund expenses related to the activities listed above: for example, costs related to studio construction or improvements

Fellowship funds may not be used to support academic research or formal study toward an academic or professional degree.

HOW TO APPLY

The 2020-2021 deadline is Friday, November 1, 2019. The application will be available online in September 2019. Applicants will submit the form electronically through [N.C. Arts Council Grants Online](#)

[\(GO Smart\)](#). The system will accept all of your application materials, including work samples. Online submissions will be accepted by 11:59 p.m. on the deadline.

If you don't have a computer at home, all public libraries have computers available for public use. Click [here for the statewide library directory](#).

REVIEW PROCESS

Arts Council staff reviews all of the applications for eligibility and completeness and prepares them for panel review. Discipline-based panels are assembled to review the applications and recommend the artists they consider most deserving of a fellowship. The panels' recommendations are then sent to the Secretary of Natural and Cultural Resources for approval. N.C. Arts Council staff does not participate in the assessment of applications, except to review for completeness, eligibility, and adherence to the guidelines.

The primary evaluation criterion is artistic excellence based on work samples submitted with the application. In making its final recommendations, the panel will also take into consideration the description of the plans for use of the fellowship and how the grant will contribute to the artist's development.

We send letters to all of the applicants as soon as possible after approval is given, and generally, no later than late July or early August of 2020, after the General Assembly passes a budget for the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, and the N.C. Arts Council.

APPLICANT REGISTRATION

To get started, all artists will follow this link to the **GO Smart online portal (formerly known as AGO)** <https://ncarts.gosmart.org>. If you have applied in the past, you can click **Login**. If you have forgotten your username and password, you can retrieve them on the Login page.

1. If you are a new applicant, the first step is to create your applicant profile. At the bottom of the GO Smart home page, there is a link that says **Click Here to create a new profile**.
2. After accepting the system's terms and conditions, you will create your new profile. This page provides us with your basic information, such as your name and ways to contact you during and at the conclusion of the process.
3. Be sure to check "Individual" when creating your profile.
4. In the User Information fields, enter your name the way you would like to be listed on our application records. Your record will be alphabetized by first letter of the name you enter in the Last Name field, so if you have a hyphenated or double last name, be sure to enter it in its entirety here.
5. Fill in all the required information and click **Submit**.
6. When you return to GO Smart, you should click the **Login** button.

7. Should any of your contact information (address, phone, email, etc.) change during the course of the review, please correct your profile in GO Smart by clicking **Edit Profile** and email Kathleen.collier@ncdcr.gov to update our records
 8. Once your profile is complete, click on **Current Programs and Applications** and scroll to find the NC Artist Fellowship 2020-21 link. This is where you begin your application or edit a saved application in progress.
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NARRATIVE

Before you answer the narrative questions, there are several further identifying questions to ensure that your name is listed correctly and that your work will be reviewed by the appropriate panel.

Discipline: The discipline you select will determine the panel that reviews your application.

Genre/medium: The genre/medium should further describe the work samples you submitted.

You will also indicate if your application is a collaboration with one or more other people. Only one member of an artist team should submit an application for the group, but work samples should represent work by the members of the collaborative team or, ideally, work done as a team. Eligibility requirements apply to all members of the team. Members of a team may not submit separate fellowship applications to support their own work. You should consult the appropriate program director prior to submitting a collaborative application.

Your narrative will address the following questions:

- How do you plan to use the fellowship? (1000 characters)
- How will receiving a fellowship impact your artistic development? (2500 characters)
- Why is it important that you receive a fellowship at this point in your artistic career? (1000 characters)

Character counts include spaces and punctuation. You will answer each question in a separate text box. The total space available to respond to all three questions is roughly one typed page. We recommend that you work on your answers in a Word document so that you can track the character counts for each response. Then copy and paste your answers in the appropriate text boxes. A budget page is not requested.

Remember that the narrative is an essential part of your fellowship application. In responding to these questions, consider what a panelist, who has seen the work samples you submitted, will want to know about the direction and ambitions you have for your work. Additionally, financial need is not a criterion. Keep the focus on your work and the path you see your practice taking in the future, rather than on yourself or your financial circumstances.

SUPPORT MATERIALS AND WORK SAMPLES

All applications will require a PDF résumé of no more than four pages, a one-page artist statement, and an image inventory for the Web Link Inventory form. See your specific discipline for more information.

Work samples are the most important part of your fellowship application. Fellowships are awarded primarily on artistic merit and your work samples are the only means panelists have to assess it. Samples should represent the best of your creative ability and be of the highest possible quality. You must have created the work in the past three years.

You can find your discipline-specific requirements using our [Artist Fellowship Work Sample and Support Materials PDF](#) or read the requirements below.

Visual and Craft Artists

- **PDF résumé** - no more than four pages emphasizing activities, employment, accomplishments, etc. related to your discipline.
- **PDF artist statement** – one page describing your work, its influences and context, and what you are trying to accomplish with it.
- **PDF Image Inventory or [Web Link forms](#) with descriptions**
- **Work samples**
 - 10 Images, or
 - Up to 5 minutes of video (maximum of 3 total video samples) or
 - Up to 5 images and up to 2 minutes of video (maximum of 2 total video samples)

Performance artists and artists submitting works with kinetic or other time-based elements may choose to present their work in digital video format, instead of with JPEG images. Work samples should be concise: five minutes or less. Do not upload video samples directly into the GO Smart system. Use the [Web Link Inventory \(see example\)](#) to copy and paste links of your video samples from websites like Vimeo and YouTube. Be sure to fill in the descriptive information, as outlined in the Work Samples and Support Materials resources section.

Uploaded images must be accompanied by the [Image Inventory \(see example\)](#) with descriptions of each work in the requested format.

Artists working in new genres, including work created on or intended for presentation on the computer, should select the format appropriate to the nature of the work. For instance, standard Web pages and static computer-manipulated images should be uploaded as JPEGs.

Original works of art, manuscripts, and other work sample formats (e.g., JPEGs on CD, slides, prints, or videotapes) will not be accepted for review.

Film/Video

- **PDF résumé** - no more than four pages, emphasizing activities, employment, accomplishments, etc. related to your discipline. Include a list of completed films.
- **PDF artist statement** – one page describing your work, its influences and context, and what you are trying to accomplish with it.
- **PDF [Web Link Inventory](#) with descriptions**
- **Work samples**
 - Two samples or excerpts that do not exceed 10 minutes in combined length.
 - An optional full-length work or any duration may also be included

Work samples may represent one or more complete works, a segment or segments of longer works, or some combination. Applicants may also submit an optional complete work in addition to the 10-minute sample, for a maximum total of four work samples. Do not upload video samples directly into the GO Smart system. Use the [Web Link Inventory](#) to copy and paste links of your video samples from websites like Vimeo and YouTube. Be sure to fill in the descriptive information.

If submitting an optional complete work, you can use a [Web Link Inventory](#) ([see example](#)). The work samples you submit should be original, independent work and represent your skills as the primary filmmaker. Do not submit trailers or other edited, promotional footage. Samples of work made for hire and educational pieces tend to be less competitive. Work completed as part of an academic requirement should not be submitted.

Choreography

- **PDF résumé** - no more than four pages, emphasizing activities, employment, accomplishments, etc. related to your discipline. Include a list of completed films.
- **PDF artist statement** – one page describing your work, its influences and context, and what you're trying to accomplish with it.
- **PDF [Web Link Inventory](#) with descriptions**
- **Work Samples**
 - Two samples that do not exceed 10 minutes in combined length.
 - An optional full-length work of any duration may also be included.

Do not upload video samples directly into the GO Smart system. Use the [Web Link Inventory](#) ([see example](#)) to copy and paste links of your video samples from websites like Vimeo and YouTube. Be sure to fill in the descriptive information.

Work samples must represent work you have choreographed and be set on adult dancers. If applying with collaborators, the primary applicant must submit samples representing collaborative efforts with the co-applicant(s). Electronically enhanced work samples, highly edited segments, or promotional videos will not be accepted.

NCAC STAFF CONTACTS

For all applicants

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For technical questions

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Guidelines are subject to change from year to year. Updated guidelines and online application forms for the current eligible categories are posted on the N.C. Arts Council's website by September each year.