



North Carolina Arts Council
Fifty years of leadership

Wayne Martin
Executive Director

Susi H. Hamilton
Secretary

Roy Cooper
Governor, State of
North Carolina

September 10, 2020

Dear North Carolina Artists,

I am writing today to update you on the status of the NC Artist Fellowship program.

Please know that NC Arts Council is committed to providing statewide support to artists of all genres impacted by Covid-19. To that end, we are continually assessing what resources we have available to help individual artists during this unprecedented crisis. We have delayed making decisions about the Fellowship program until we could predict with more certainty the course of the pandemic in North Carolina. Thank you for your patience during this time.

Unfortunately, Covid-19 continues to constitute a grave public health threat and cause great economic hardship. Knowing that support for artists is crucial during the next nine months, we have made the decision to provide additional resources for individual artists during the 2020–2021 fiscal year. However, the NC Artist Fellowship program will continue to be paused so that all available artist funds may be re-purposed to provide increased funding for the Artist Support Grant program. The primary reason for this decision is that Artist Support grants reach a greater number of artists throughout the state, as opposed to the limitations of the Fellowship Program, which awards a small number of grants to artists of a specific genre in a given year.

For more information about the Artist Support Grant program, including application deadlines and program contact information, please visit: <https://www.ncarts.org/invest-arts/grants-artists/artist-support-grants>

In addition, this past summer we distributed \$100,000 directly to local arts councils and arts non-profits in North Carolina with established artist relief funds. Funds went to support artists in North Carolina whose work had been disrupted by Covid-19. Over half of the funds distributed were raised from the private sector through the benefit concert series “Under One Roof,” which was presented by the NC Arts Council, the NC Arts Foundation and Come Hear NC.

In closing I want to emphasize that we are not cancelling the NC Artist Fellowship program. Instead, we plan to take this time to re-evaluate the program in order to ensure that it meets our organizational mission of the “arts for all people” and our commitment to diversity, equity, accessibility, and inclusion in the grantmaking process. Artists who submitted an application in November 2019 will have their materials archived in our online grant system, GoSmart. We hope to access these applications in the future when the pandemic has passed and the Fellowship Program re-emerges.

Thank you again for your understanding and please do not hesitate to contact Carly Jones, Senior Program Director for Artists and Organizations, at carly.jones@ncdcr.gov or Kathleen Collier, Visual Arts Director and Accessibility Coordinator, at kathleen.collier@ncdcr.gov if you have questions or need assistance.

With gratitude for all that you do,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wayne Martin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Wayne Martin, Executive Director