



2021 Artist Fellowship FAQs

What is an Artist Fellowship?

Erie Arts & Culture recognizes individual artistic achievement and potential through its annual Artist Fellowship program, which provides cash awards to three artists from Erie County. The Fellowship, which includes cash awards ranging between \$2,000-\$5,500, helps individual artists sustain or enhance their creative process and advance their career in the arts.

How are applications reviewed?

After applications are submitted, Erie Arts & Culture Program's Department reviews each application to confirm they are complete and meet the application requirements. Applications are then reviewed by an independent panel composed of subject matter experts from outside of Erie County. The review panel evaluates Fellowship applications using an objective set of criteria.

How are Fellows selected?

Artist Fellowships are chosen based on the work samples submitted that demonstrate a compelling vision as defined by the panel's collective opinion. Materials are reviewed and voted on by panelists in a single panel meeting. An artist's advancement is a product of the collective vote of the panel. A single panelist cannot ensure an applicant's success or failure. Panel recommendations are reviewed by the Grantmaking Committee and by Erie Arts & Culture's Board of Trustees. Neither the Committee nor the Board reviews the work of applicants or makes any aesthetic judgments. Panelists' names are kept confidential until the awards are announced.

Erie Arts & Culture is committed to supporting artists of diverse cultural, sexual, and ethnic backgrounds. Erie Arts & Culture does not discriminate based on the gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or belief, and welcomes work whose content reflects the lived experiences of the applicants.

How are panels assembled?

Recommendations for potential panelists come from many sources including: the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, the Grantmaking Committee, the Arts in Lifelong Learning Committee, state-wide arts and cultural organizations, and suggestions from practicing artists. Panelists are chosen for their professional experience, expertise in an artistic discipline, and ability to objectively review grant materials. NOTE: Panelists change each year.

What are the eligibility requirements for applying?

To be eligible for the award, applicants must be 18 years old or older, and be a current resident of Erie County, PA. Applicants cannot be a full-time student of any kind at the time of the application deadline. Applicants cannot be a member of Erie Arts & Culture's board of Trustees, subcommittees, or staff, or be an immediate relative of a member of Erie Arts & Culture's board of Trustees, subcommittees, or staff.

What is a Curriculum Vitae (CV)?

Your CV is a summary of your most important experiences and record of accomplishments. It provides an overview of your professional activities, skills, and expertise - specific to your career in the arts. The information included in your CV should be structured in an organized manner. In your CV, you will want to include information related to your formal education, exhibitions or performances where your work has been presented, awards you've received, and residencies you've completed.

Be certain to include your contact information in the header of your CV. This should include your name, e-mail address, website, phone number, and primary address. It's important that you list multiple options for contact. This information should either be centered or aligned to the left of the page.

Education

This section of your CV relates to post-secondary institutional education. List any formal training you have, such as a BFA or MFA. You should list your degrees in chronological order, with the most recent on top.

Use the following format when listing your education:

Name of the school, Location of the school, Degree obtained, Graduation year



Artist Fellowship FAQs (Continued)

Exhibition (or Performance) History

This section of your CV relates to exhibitions or performances where your work has been presented. If you have participated in fewer than 15 shows, include your entire history. If you have more than 15 shows, include only the top 15 most notable shows. If this is the case, use the header "Selected Exhibition History." If you have more than five solo shows then separate them into their own category titled "Solo Shows." For fewer than five solo shows, include them with the rest of your exhibition history, but make sure to clearly label them as solo shows. You should list your exhibition history in chronological order, with the most recent on top.

Use the following format when listing your exhibitions:

Date, Institution/venue where the exhibition/performance was presented,
Title of the exhibition/performance, City and State where the institution/venue is located

Awards

This section of your CV relates to awards you've been honored with for your art or art-related work. You should list your awards in chronological order, with the most recent on top.

Use the following format when listing your awards and grants:

Year, Title of the award, Name of organization or institution issuing the award

Residencies

This section of your CV relates to the residencies you have completed. Residencies are an important part of an artistic career because they show a dedication to your practice and to your professional development. You should list your residencies in chronological order, with the most recent on top.

Use the following format when listing your residencies:

Year, Type of residency, Name of the institute where the residency was conducted, City where the institute is located

Affiliations

This section of your CV relates to any arts-related organizations of which you are currently a member. This can include national organizations or groups that are local to your community.

Use the following format when listing your affiliations:

Name of organization, title of your position within the organization (if applicable)

You can expand your CV to also include publications that you've been featured in or prestigious collections that your work is a part of.

How do I choose the appropriate discipline category in which to apply?

Ultimately, this decision starts and ends with you, the applicant. No applications will be disqualified. All applications are seen in the panel review process. Please note, fellowships will not be awarded to interpretative artists such as dancers, actors or musicians. Applicants must be the originators of the work (choreographers, playwrights, or composers). The following is a list of disciplines that are organized into three categories, Performing Arts, Visual & Media Arts, and Language Arts.

PERFORMING ARTS CATEGORY

Choreography: The Performing Arts category accepts work in all choreographic styles, including mixed-media or multi-genre performance works in which choreography and/or organized movement is primary.

Music and Sound: The Performing Arts category accepts submissions from composers working in any and all styles of music.

Playwriting and Screenwriting: The Performing Arts category accepts work in the writing of stage plays, screenplays, teleplays, libretti, radio plays, and audio dramas. While librettists may apply in this category, no audiotapes are accepted in this category.



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VISUAL & MEDIA ARTS CATEGORY

Crafts and Sculpture: The Visual & Media Arts category accepts work in all forms of craft, including ceramics, glass, wood, metal, fiber, textiles and mixed media. This category accepts work in all forms of sculpture, including kinetic works and installations.

Digital and Electronic Arts: Erie Arts & Culture will accept work in which technology is an essential element of the work's creation, presentation, or understanding. Examples of appropriate work include: 2D works created or displayed on computers or other electronic media; works based on 3D computer models; sculptural works; interactive installations including immersive virtual environments; internet projects; hypertext documents; other image, text, audio or video works rooted in technology. Examples of inappropriate work include: works in which the computer is a vehicle for reproduction (i.e. scanned and manipulated paintings) and works in which the computer mimics but does not expand on a traditional method of production (i.e. non-linear video editing).

Painting: The Visual & Media Arts category accepts work that involves painting of any kind upon any surface.

Photography: The Visual & Media Arts category accepts work in traditional and experimental photography or any work in which photography or photographic techniques are pivotal, if not exclusive.

Printmaking, Drawing, and Book Arts: The Visual & Media Arts category accepts work in visual media other than painting, including artists books, aquatints, collages, engravings, etchings, lithographs, monotypes, prints, serigraphs, woodcuts, and drawings.

Video and Film: Erie Arts & Culture will accept work in video or any work in which video or video techniques are pivotal, if not exclusive. This category also accepts work that has been initially shot with a film camera. Filmed material that has been transferred to videocassette or computer for editing and processing is acceptable.

LANGUAGE ARTS CATEGORY

Fiction: The Language Arts category accepts work in all varieties and genres of prose fiction, including novels, short stories, and experimental forms. Work in graphic or "comic book" fiction is also accepted in this category.

Nonfiction: The Language Arts category accepts work in all varieties and genres of nonfiction literary prose, including essays, criticism, journalism, autobiography, monographs and experimental forms.

Poetry: The Language Arts category accepts work in all forms of poetry, for either the page or stage.

The following art discipline may be categorized as Performing Arts or Visual & Media Arts or Language Arts, depending on the applicant. Applicants are encouraged to select the discipline category that best fits their work.

INTERDISCIPLINARY WORK:

Erie Arts & Culture will accept submissions from artists combining or crossing disciplines, either within a single piece or throughout a body of work. This work may draw on traditions from the visual arts, especially those with a performative, political and/or social aspect. Examples include, but are not limited to: participatory installations or environments, live art, and public art. Theater, dance, or visual art that employs traditional methods of exploration are not appropriate for this category. You may not submit manuscripts. Live performances cannot be attended.



Artist Fellowship FAQs (Continued)

How should I choose which of my work to submit?

Choose work that you have created in the last three to five years and represents your vision as an artist. The fellowship is intended to fund an artist's voice or vision; it is important to select work(s) that represent a strong stylistic presence, voice, or theme. Show the panel the depth rather than breadth of your work. Samples should represent something that you do well. When making your work sample selection, narrow it down to focus on one or two bodies of work that relate in some comprehensive way.

Can I send published work?

Yes, you may send published work. You may also have work published in the interim while we review applications. There is no restriction on published or unpublished work. In addition, applying with work samples does not put your materials in the public domain.

Can I apply in more than one artistic category?

You may submit only one application.

Can I apply if I am taking a class in an unrelated subject towards a degree, or if I am a student in a degree-granting program that is unrelated to my application?

No full-time student, regardless of field of study, pursuing a degree is eligible to apply for a Fellowship.

When are the fellowships announced?

All applicants will be notified of the final decision for an award in fall. The names of all Fellows will then be announced publicly and listed online at www.erieartsandculture.org.

If I receive an award, what must I do?

You will be asked to sign a fellowship award agreement, which is a contract with Erie Arts & Culture stating that you will spend the award within the given timeframe.

Within 30 days of the end of the fellowship period, artists will submit a final report to Erie Arts & Culture. This two-page summary will document how the fellowship award supported their artistic development and growth. Reports should include supporting photographs or videos.

Most recent tax laws state that fellowships are taxable income; fellows are encouraged to consult a tax advisor.

I haven't received notification about the status of my application. When should I contact Erie Arts & Culture?

All Fellowship applicants will be notified by November, whether or not they have received Fellowships. If you have not received a notification by then, please contact us.