



2021 Artist Fellowship Guidelines

In 2016, Erie Arts & Culture committed to making a greater investment in the artists living and working in Erie County by establishing the annual Artist Fellowship program. The agency saw a need to provide artists with unrestricted funding that could be used to pursue artistic development and growth.

Originally, Erie Arts & Culture awarded three fellowships annually – two to emerging artists and one to an established artist. In 2020, the agency's Grantmaking Committee reviewed the program's eligibility requirement through the lens of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Upon further reflection, the Erie Arts & Culture Board of Trustees and Grantmaking Committee decided that it was necessary to revise program criteria and guidelines. Starting in 2020, the fellowship program includes three artist categories: Emerging, Mid-Career, and Established.

Eligible disciplines are Visual, Media, Performing, and Language Arts.

Artists 18 years of age or older must demonstrate their commitment to living and working in Erie County as part of their application. Full-time students, including secondary or higher ed students, are ineligible to apply. Fellowships will not be awarded to interpretative artists such as dancers, actors, or musicians who solely perform the work of others. Applicants must be the originators of the work; i.e. choreographers or playwrights. Fellowships will be awarded to artists regardless of their gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or belief affiliation.

Emerging Artist Fellowship (\$2,000)

Emerging - An emerging artist is someone who is in the early stage of their career and has a modest independent body of work. At this stage in the artist's career, solo exhibitions or performances of their work are often limited and recognition and opportunities occur primarily at the local level.

Mid-career Artist Fellowship (\$3,500)

A mid-career artist is an artist who has created an independent body of work over a number of years. At this stage in the artist's career, one has received a number of solo exhibitions or performances through esteemed venues, either regionally and nationally.

Established Artist Fellowship (\$5,500)

An established artist is mature in their career. They have created an extensive body of independent work and may even be an influencer in their respective disciplines. At this stage in their career, an established artist has an advanced level of achievement and has sustained national and even possibly international opportunities and recognition.

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.

Who can apply?

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 the deadline to apply?

Applications must be submitted online by 11:30 pm July 30, 2021. No applications will be accepted after the deadline. Artist Fellowship awards will be announced by the fall.



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How do I apply?

1. All applications and support materials must be uploaded and submitted via the online application at erieartsculture.submittable.com. The link to the online application can also be found on erieartsandculture.org/pro-network. Erie Arts & Culture will not accept any physical copies.
2. You are able to save a draft of your online application and return to it later. You may also download the Microsoft Word or PDF version of the application available at www.erieartsandculture.org, and complete your narrative prior to beginning the online form. Then, begin the online application.
3. Fill in the online application and upload the required support materials. Each application will have varying components depending on the discipline in which an applicant is applying. Please refer to the category guidelines for further assistance in completing the application.
4. Submit the application. When the application is complete and all required support materials have been attached, click the Submit button on the bottom of the application form to submit an application.

QUESTIONS?

Contact our Director of Public Impact at **(814) 452-3427** or laurel@erieartsandculture.org.

SEE PAGE 3 FOR EXAMPLE APPLICATION.



2021 Artist Fellowship Application

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:

Applications must be submitted online at erieartsculture.submittable.com by **11:30 pm July 30, 2021** for consideration. No applications will be accepted after the deadline.

DISCIPLINE CATEGORY:

APPLICANT INFORMATION:

Artist Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Phone:

Email Address:

Web Address: (if applicable)

Social Media Handles: (if applicable)

VERIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible, applicants requesting an Artist Fellowship must answer 'Yes' to ALL of the following criteria:

Applicant is a current resident of Erie County, PA.	Yes	No
Applicant is 18 years of age or older.	Yes	No
Applicant acknowledges that the funds will not be used to support any individual or entity that discriminates based on age, race, color, religion, national origin, handicap, sexual orientation, marital status, gender or gender identity.	Yes	No
Applicant is not currently enrolled as a full-time student of any kind at the time of the application deadline.	Yes	No
Applicant is in good standing in accordance with Erie Arts & Culture (has provided all contract requirements to date).	Yes	No
Applicant is not 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.	Yes	No
All fellowship funds will be expended between October 1, 2021 and September 30, 2021.	Yes	No

APPLICANT CERTIFICATION

I certify that the information contained herein and in all attachments and supporting material is true and correct.

NARRATIVE

1. Artist Biography (Required) (500 word maximum)

A biography serves as a point of reference for those interested in knowing more about you. It should be written in the third person and generally be two to four paragraphs in length. While you may want to customize your bio for special situations, it is a good idea to have one all-purpose bio prepared for general use. In a succinct way, your bio should address your artistic background, including where you went to school, formal exhibitions, and other pertinent details.

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.

2. Artist Statement (Required) (750 word maximum)

A well-composed artist statement connects the reader to you and your body of work. Unlike your bio, your artist statement should be written in the first person. When drafting your artist statement, you should write with clarity, brevity, and focus. The narrative of your artist statement should cover three main points:

- 1) Why you create your art and what it means to you.
- 2) What your art signifies and what you are trying to express through your work.
- 3) The process by which you make your art and what materials you use when making it.

Know your audience when writing your artist statement. Having an extensive background or formal education in the arts is not a prerequisite to appreciating or supporting the arts. Because of that, how you describe yourself, your process, and your body of work should be written in accessible language and in terms that are relatable.

3. Curriculum Vitae (Required)

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.

4. Work Samples (Required)

A work sample is intended to provide individuals with condensed examples of your best work. It is not intended to function as a comprehensive representation of your work. Instead, it's an abridged introduction to your skill level and provides evidence of what you are capable of accomplishing.

When including photographs or videos of your work, select content that is high-resolution and/or high-definition. With photos and videos, be mindful of your backgrounds. In many circumstances, neutral backgrounds (white, black, and gray) are best. Additionally, pay attention to lighting. Make certain that lighting is even and there are no hot spots, dark corners, or shiny glares present. If you are including audio recordings in your work sample, make certain to select high-fidelity files.

5. Description and Statement of Work Samples (Required) (750 word maximum)

When providing context to your work samples, include why each sample was selected and what discipline or medium is being represented. Also, include the date the work was created and if any collaborators were involved. As you craft your response, consider what are the origins of this work, how was the work created, and how does

WORK SAMPLE FORMAT

PDF:

Maximum file size is 10MB
Up to ten (10) PDFs may be uploaded

IMAGES:

Must be .jpg files and in the RGB color space.
The recommended size for images is 1240x1240 pixels
Up to ten (10) images may be uploaded

AUDIO:

Must be .mp3 files
Maximum file size is 10MB
Up to two (2) audio files may be uploaded

VIDEO:

Must be one of the following formats: **.mov, .mp4, .mpg, .avi**
Maximum file size is 50MB
Recommended size for video is a width of 480 pixels or more
Up to two (2) video files may be uploaded
Files should be numbered in the order you would like them to be reviewed and labeled with your last name, e.g. **Smith01.jpg, Smith02.jpg, Smith03.jpg.**