

## **2019 Artist Fellowship Application Guidelines (Cycle 2)**

In 2016, Erie Arts & Culture made a commitment to make 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 funding, specifically unrestricted funding, that could be used by artists to delve deeper into their creative processes and assist them in their pursuit of artistic development and growth.

Since then, the agency has awarded three fellowships annually – two to emerging artists and one to an established artist. Initial eligibility requirements mandated that applicants must be 25 years of age or older and be a resident of Erie County for at least two consecutive years prior to applying. Eligible disciplines also rotated on a two year cycle between Visual/Media Arts and Performing/Language Arts.

Erie Arts & Culture’s Grantmaking Committee is responsible for overseeing the Artist Fellowship program. In 2019, the Committee reviewed the program’s eligibility requirement through the lens of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. It was determined that eligibility requirements would be revised for the 2020 fellowships.

To partially address this issue in 2019, Erie Arts & Culture’s Board of Trustees approved the award of an additional Emerging Artist Fellowship in the present year. Emerging artists 19 years of age or older of any artistic discipline are eligible to apply. The only residency requirement is that artists demonstrate their commitment to living and working in Erie County as part of their application.

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, belief affiliation or ability/disability.

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### **Emerging Artist Fellowship (\$2,500)**

The Emerging Artist Fellowships are \$2,500 cash awards made over a 12-month period to individual artists living and working in Erie County, PA for unrestricted use. Emerging Artists Fellowships are intended to expand an artist’s vision or voice by identifying a specific idea or investigation that will be targeted during the term of the fellowship.

***Within 30 days of the end of the fellowship period, artists will submit to Erie Arts & Culture a final report which is to include a two-page summary of the fellowship and documentation (i.e. photographs or video). The artists will also be asked to present a summary of their fellowship at one of Erie Arts & Culture’s events.***

## Who can apply?

To be eligible for the award, applicants must be 19 years old or older, and be a current resident of Erie County, PA. Applicants must neither be enrolled in a graduate or undergraduate degree program of any kind at the time of the application deadline nor may they be a member of Erie Arts & Culture's board of directors, subcommittees or staff, or be an immediate relative of a member of Erie Arts & Culture's board of directors, subcommittees or staff.

## What is the deadline to apply?

Applications must be submitted online **by 11:30 pm September 6, 2019**. No applications will be accepted after the deadline. Artist Fellowship awards will be announced by November 30, 2019.

## How do I apply?

1. All applications and support materials must be uploaded and submitted via the online application at <https://erieartsculture.submittable.com>. The link to the online application can also be found on [www.erieartsandculture.org](http://www.erieartsandculture.org). 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](http://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 Melinda Meyer, Program Director at (814) 452-3427 or [melinda@erieartsandculture.org](mailto:melinda@erieartsandculture.org).



## 2019 Artist Fellowship Application (Online)

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE:** Applications must be submitted online at <https://erieartsculture.submittable.com> by 11:30 pm September 6, 2019 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) \_\_\_\_\_

### 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 19 years of age or older.  Yes  No

Applicant does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, religion, national origin, handicap, sexual orientation, marital status, gender or gender identity in any activities receiving public funds.  Yes  No

Applicant is not currently enrolled in a graduate or undergraduate degree program 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 directors, subcommittees or staff, or be an immediate relative of a member of Erie Arts & Culture's board of directors, subcommittees or staff.  Yes  No

All activity related to the fellowship will occur between December 1, 2019 and November 30, 2020.  Yes  No

### Applicant Certification

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant Electronic Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# Narrative

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## **1. Artist Biography/Resume (Required)\***

In the space provided, detail your achievements and work performed. (500 word maximum)

\*If the application is being submitted by a collaboration of artists (up to three), please include Artist Biographies/Resumes for the one or two additional artists in the Supplemental Materials section of the grant application. Only one set of statements and work sample(s), however, is required for the collective application.

## **2. Artist Statement (Required)**

Explain what you create, how and why you create it, and how you understand the meaning of your work. As you craft your response, consider what influences you the most, how does your art relate to the art of your contemporaries, and what do you want others to understand about your art. (350 word maximum)

## **3. Work Statement (Required)**

Explain your artistic practice as exemplified in your work samples. This statement could give more context to the conceptual underpinning of the work or focus on the processes involved. As you craft your response, consider what are the origins of this work, how was the work created, and how does this work represent the primary concerns and intentions of your artistic practice. It is important that you are clear and concise in your writing. (350 word maximum)

## **4. Technical Statement (Optional)**

In addition to the Work Statement, you may provide a brief Technical Statement describing the relationship of the work samples to your overall work. You may use this supplemental statement to highlight key technical aspects of the work that may further orient the panelists to the context, concept, and execution of work samples. (350 word maximum)

## **5. Descriptions of Work Samples (Required)**

Please provide descriptions with your submitted work samples including the title of the piece, date the work was performed/produced/published, credits\*, dimensions (for pieces where size is relevant) and any other additional information (location, created/performed for, etc). (500 word maximum)

\*If another artist was involved in the creation of your work sample, please identify the collaborating artist.

## **6. Work Samples (Required)**

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; select work(s) that represent a strong stylistic presence, voice, or theme. Show the panel the depth rather than breadth of your work, and include a sample of 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.

### **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.*



## 2019 Artist Fellowships FAQs (Cycle 2)

### What is an Artist Fellowship?

Artist Fellowships are available to artists working in any discipline over a one-year period, are \$2,500-\$6,000 cash awards made to individual originating artists living and working in Erie County, Pennsylvania for unrestricted use. Artist Fellowships are not project grants but are intended to fund an artist's vision or voice, regardless of the level of his or her artistic development.

### 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 selections 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 Erie County, PA artists of diverse cultural, sexual, and ethnic backgrounds. Erie Arts & Culture does not discriminate based on the gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, belief affiliation or ability/disability of artists, 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 Grantmaking Committee, Arts Education Committee, arts and cultural organizations, and suggestions from practicing artists. Panelists are chosen for their professional experience, expertise in an artistic discipline, knowledge of the community, and ability to objectively review grant materials. Applicants may participate in this process by suggesting themselves or others as panel candidates to program staff. NOTE: Panelists change each year.

### What are the eligibility requirements for applying?

To be eligible for the award, applicants must be 19 years old or older, and be a current resident of Erie County, PA. Applicants must neither be enrolled in a graduate or undergraduate degree program of any kind at the time of the application deadline nor may they be a member of Erie Arts & Culture's board of directors, subcommittees or staff, or be an immediate relative of a member of Erie Arts & Culture's board of directors, subcommittees or staff.

## 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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **If I work with another artist, how do I apply?**

Collaborating artists should apply together. A collaboration is defined as up to three artists who can clearly demonstrate an ongoing collaborative career. Collaborators only need to establish one online account, wherein each artist will provide his/her biographical information. However, only one set of statements and work sample(s) is required for the collective application. Should a collaborative application receive an award, the grant will be divided evenly between the collaborating artists. All individual applicants must clearly state their roles and must meet eligibility requirements.

### **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. Regardless of your field of study, no matriculated students are allowed to apply for a Fellowship.

### **When are the fellowships announced?**

All applicants will be notified of the final decision for an award in fall 2019. The names of all Fellows will then be announced publicly and listed online at [www.erieartsandculture.org](http://www.erieartsandculture.org).

### **If I receive an award, what must I do?**

You will be asked to sign a grant 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 year, each artist will submit to Erie Arts & Culture a final report which is to include a two-page summary of the fellowship and documentation (ie. photographs or video). They will also be asked to “present” a summary of their fellowship experience.

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 30, 2019 whether or not they have received Fellowships. If you have not received a notification by then, please contact us.