



Important!

Erie Arts & Culture is accepting applications in the **Visual and Media Arts** categories only for the 2019 Artist Fellowship cycle.

See below for the list of disciplines that are categorized as Visual and Media Arts.

Artist Fellowships FAQs

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 25 years old or older, and be a current resident of Erie County, PA for at least the two consecutive years prior to the application deadline. 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 select which Artist Fellowship to apply to?

Three Artist Fellowships will be awarded in the 2019 cycle. One \$6,000 fellowship will be awarded to an Established Artist, and two \$2,500 fellowships will be awarded to Emerging Artists. The following definitions are intended to assist you in selecting which fellowship opportunity to apply for.

Emerging Artists are creators in the early stages of their careers and have "voices" that reveal significant potential. They have some evidence of professional achievement but have not yet established solid reputations as artists within their discipline. They have rigorous approaches to creation and production and created modest independent bodies of work. The fellowship would move their work to the next level.

Established Artists are creators in a more advanced stage in their career. They have created extensive bodies of independent work and reached advanced levels of achievement by sustaining recognized contributions to their disciplines in Erie County, PA or beyond. The fellowship would provide recognition and honor their achievements.

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

Erie Arts & Culture is accepting applications in the Visual and Media Arts categories only for the 2019 Artist Fellowship cycle.

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 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.

If I receive an award, what must I do?

Fellowship awardees must first verify they are a resident of Erie County, PA. Once a recipient has received notification of their award, they are required to submit documentation verifying their residence status for the years 2018 and 2019. Acceptable documents include tax forms, phone bills, utility bills, bank statements, etc.

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 in fall 2019 whether or not they have received Fellowships. If you have not received a notification by the late fall, please contact us.