2019 Artist Fellowship Application Writing Workshop

Monday, July 30, 2018
Tuesday, August 07, 2018
Monday, August 20, 2018
Regional Arts Commission (RAC)

ABOUT:

The Regional Arts Commission (RAC) is at the forefront of efforts to transform St. Louis into a more vibrant, creative and economically thriving community by elevating the vitality, value and visibility of the arts.

Grants:

- Organizations
  - General Operating Support
  - Program Support
- Individual Artists
  - Artist Fellowship
  - Artist Support
Artist Fellowship

Purpose:

• To foster and invest in the careers of St. Louis artists of all disciplines by providing funds to allow for more time and space to study, reflect, experiment, explore, practice, and create.

• To advance the individual artist’s creative journey.

• To recognize artistic excellence and honor the work of seasoned artists, advance the work of mid-career artists and nurture the work of developing artists.
What’s New:

• New Grant Application Website: grants.racstl.org

• Policy Changes:
  ◦ The reapplication period has been established as 10 years.
  ◦ Applicants must be in good standing with RAC, with no delinquent reports or required grant documentation.

• New Review Criteria:
  ◦ How has the artist’s work or practice contributed to the vibrancy and advancement of the St. Louis region?
Artist Fellowship

Details:

An award of $20,000 to 10 individual artists in any discipline.*

- Architecture
- Design
- Music
- Craft and Traditional Arts
- Literature
- Theatre Arts
- Dance
- Media Arts
- Visual Arts

*The purpose of the disciplines is to select the appropriate readers for the applications, and to ensure diversity within our grantee pool. Multi-disciplinary artists are encouraged to apply, and are asked to select and apply in one primary discipline.
Eligibility

Any individual artist who:

- **Is** 25 years or older

- **Is NOT** enrolled as a full-time undergraduate or graduate student and has no plans to enroll in a full time undergraduate or graduate program in the next 15 months.

- **Is** a current resident of St. Louis City or County and has maintained primary residence in St. Louis City or County for at least one year (documentation required).

- **Has** created and presented their own original works to, or performed for the public in the past three years (documentation required).

- **Has NOT** received an Artist Fellowship in the past 10 years.

- **Is** in good standing with RAC, with no delinquent reports or required grant documentation.
Restrictions

- Any non-current Artist Support Grant must be completed and required reports submitted before applying for an Artist Fellowship.

- Artists who are granted Artist Fellowships must remain residents of the St. Louis region for the duration of the Artist Fellowship period (12 months).

- Artists who are granted an Artist Fellowship must wait one full calendar year after the fellowship period has ended to apply for the Artist Support Grant.

- Artists may apply for and receive an Artist Fellowship every 10 years, not to exceed 3 lifetime Artist Fellowship Awards.

- Organizations are ineligible to apply.
Grant Schedule – Key Dates

Application Opens
Tuesday, July 17, 2018

Application Deadline
Thursday, August 30, 2018

Notification of 1st Round Status via email
Friday, October 5, 2018

Award Notifications via email
Friday, December 14, 2018

Artist Fellowship Year Start
Tuesday, January 01, 2019

2019 Artist Fellows Publicly Announced
January 2019
Application Review Process

- Staff reviews all applications for eligibility.
- Discipline Readers read and rate applications using 5 review criteria.
  - The top rated applications from each discipline will move to the next stage of review, typically between 25 - 35.
- The Citizen Review Panel reviews the top rated applications regardless of discipline and recommends 10 applicants.
- The Grants Committee reviews the recommendations and the full Commission approves the 10 Artist Fellowship recipients.
Discipline Readers

Who is rating your Artist Fellowship application?

Once applications are reviewed by staff to confirm eligibility, eligible applications are read by two discipline readers from the appropriate artistic disciplines from the following groups:

- Members of the St. Louis arts community
- Members of the national arts community
Citizen Review Panelists

Who is reviewing Artist Fellowship applications in the second round?

After the discipline readers have read and rated the applications, the top-rated applications from each discipline are reviewed by a Citizen Review Panel. The Citizen Review Panel is made up of:

- 4 St. Louis art and culture, and community experts
- 3 RAC Commissioners
Application Outline:

- **Basic Information**: This task will ask you for basic identifying information.

- **Artist Fellowship Narrative Questions**: These two tasks will ask you 3 strategic questions about you. It is an opportunity for the readers to get to know you.

- **Demographic Information**: This information helps RAC learn more about who we serve. Your personal demographic information will not be shared with RAC application reviewers, and is not visible to grant readers.

- **Detailed Résumé/Curriculum Vitae**: Must be in a PDF format.

- **Documentation of Your Work**: Images, video, audio of, programs from, and/or invitations to your past significant artistic performances or exhibitions, or publication documentation.
Narrative Questions

- **Narrative Part 1 – Reviewed at all stages**
  - Please provide an Artist’s Statement.
  - Please provide a description of how receiving an Artist Fellowship would benefit you creatively and professionally as an artist at this time in your career.

- **Narrative Part 2 – Reviewed by Citizen Review Panel Only**
  - Please detail the ways in which your work or practice contributes to the vibrancy and advancement of the St. Louis region.
Review Criteria

1. Artistic Excellence
2. Benefit of Artist Fellowship to Artistic Practice
3. Income as a Working or Teaching Artist
4. History of Creating Art and Presenting to the Public
5. Artistic Education
6. St. Louis Community Impact

NOTE: Criteria 1-5 will be used by discipline readers. Criteria 1, 2 and 6 will be used by Citizen Review Panelists.
Artistic Excellence

- Artist's statement and support materials demonstrate creative accomplishment and excellent work.
  - Artist’s Statement
  - Documentation of your Work
    - Work Samples or Website
  - Résumé or C.V.
    - Awards, Accolades, or other Recognitions
Benefit of Artist Fellowship to Artistic Practice

- Application demonstrates how the Artist Fellowship will benefit and advance the artist creatively and professionally.
  - Narrative
  - Résumé
Income as a Working or Teaching Artist

- Demonstrable history of deriving income from skills as a working or teaching artist.
  - Narrative
  - Résumé
History of Creating Art & Presenting to the Public

- History of active engagement in creating artwork and presenting it to the public.
  - Documentation of your work
    - Work Samples
    - Website
  - Narratives
  - Résumé or C.V.
Artistic Education

- Artistic education or training, formal or informal.
  - Narrative
  - Résumé
St. Louis Community Impact (New)

- How has the artist’s work or practice contributed to the vibrancy and advancement of the St. Louis region?
  - What impact have you, as an artist, had on the St. Louis community?
  - If awarded an Artist Fellowship, how will it affect your impact?
What Makes a Strong Proposal?

- Narrative contains a clear and succinct:
  - Description of your practice
  - Communication of your career goals
  - Communication about your goals for St. Louis and the ways that they are reflected in your practice/work.

- Strong, clear, and relevant documentation.

- Don’t make assumptions about the reader’s knowledge of your specific niche, explain your artistic practice.
Strong Proposal: Narrative

- Clear description of your practice and career goals
- Solid Artist’s Statement.
- Clearly detail the ways in which your work or practice contributes to the vibrancy and advancement of the St. Louis region. Explain issues that are being addressed, even if they seem obvious.
- Clearly describe the way that receiving an Artist Fellowship would benefit you creatively and professionally as an artist at this time in your career.
Strong Proposal: Documentation (1 of 2)

- Space to upload or link to various types of image, video and audio files. Full lists available in Application Tutorial or Individual Artist Grants Guide

- Strong, clear and relevant documentation
  - High quality files (images, video and sound)
  - Self-edit: put your best foot forward
    - Can readers understand what they’re seeing/hearing/watching/reading without too much explanation?
    - Will they have questions (remember that you won’t be there to answer)?
    - Is each file revealing new information?
    - PDFs recommended for groups of images
Files that are named with artwork’s title, date and materials provide a much clearer snapshot of the applicant’s career and practice than those without this information.

Example: Cloud Gate-2006-Stainless Steel
Strong Proposal: Don’t Make Assumptions

- Don’t assume the Discipline Readers and Citizen Review Panelists have knowledge of your specific niche.
  - Spend time introducing your work to the readers.
  - Utilize as many of the 5 W’s + H as necessary.
    - (who, what, when, where, why & how)
  - Clearly connect your goals to your artistic practice or career
  - If your work addresses a specific St. Louis issue, succinctly explain the issue to the reader.
Grant Schedule – All Dates

**Application Opens**

**Application Deadline**

Discipline Reader - *Reading Period*

Notification of Advancement *via email*

Citizen Review Panelist - *Review Period*

Citizen Review Panel Meeting

Full Commission Vote on Awards

Award Announcements *via email*

**Artist Fellowship Year Start**

2019 Artist Fellows Publicly Announced

**Tuesday, July 17, 2018**

**Thursday, August 30, 2018**

September – October 2018

Friday, October 5, 2018

October – November 2018

Second week in November

Thursday, December 13, 2018

Friday, December 14, 2018

**Tuesday, January 01, 2019**

January 2019
Application Tutorial:

For more information about the Artist Fellowship, please see the Artist Grants Guide (PDF).

For more details instructions on how to use RAC’s new grant application website and technical instructions on how to complete the application, please see Individual Artists Applications Walkthrough.

If you have questions regarding the Artist Fellowship application, please contact Yetunde Janski-Ogunfidodo, 314.863.5811 ext. 1009.
Creating an Account/Logging in:

Visit grants.racstl.org to create an account.*

Scroll down and locate the gray Sign Up button.

Complete the form on the next page.

Check your email! You’ll need to confirm registration before moving forward.

*Note for applicants who applied in 2016 or earlier: grants.racstl.org is a completely new system launched in June 2017. All applicants will have to create a new account after June 2017, even if you had an account in the old “eGrant” system.
Once signed in, RAC’s grant application website displays tasks to lead you through opening an submitting your application. Click Start to begin any task.

Before you begin your application, you’ll need to complete a quick “Applicant Setup” task to give us a little more information about yourself, and collect information on your eligibility.
Applicant Setup II:

The first task will also ask you to provide more information about yourself, and will ask a few questions to help the system determine your eligibility for current applications. The first task should only take a few minutes to complete.

Click **Next** at the bottom of each page to continue through and complete the task.
Starting an Application:

Scroll down the same page (the “home” page), and you’ll see a new section called **Your Applications**.

At first, you’ll see “No applications found.” It’s normal, as you haven’t started an application yet.

Click the green **View Applications** button to continue and see what applications you are eligible to apply for.

...scroll down to here. **Click View Applications**
Starting an Application II:

On the next page, you can see any current and upcoming applications you are eligible for, based on the information you provided in the Applicant Setup form.

Applications with a green **Apply Now** button are open. Applications that say “No longer available” will open in the future, and the tentative open dates are displayed under “Deadline.”

Click **Apply Now** and your application will activate.
Starting an Application III:

If you applied last year, you’ll see your previous year’s application.

Details will list it as “Previous Year’s Application” though the deadline will match that of this year’s application.

Click the green View Applications button to continue and open a new application.
Starting an Application IV:

On this page, the Artist Fellowship Application will show that you have one remaining application.

Click the green Create Applications button and your new Artist Fellowship application will activate.

Click Create Applications to start a new application.
Starting an Application V:

Your new homepage will show both applications, but only one will say Past Year’s Application.
Artist Support Grant

**Purpose:**
To provide direct funds for an individual artist’s projects, needs, or creative opportunities in all artistic disciplines.

**Details:**
Any amount between $500 and $3,000 for individual artists. Approx. $75k available each round.

**Dates:**
Open: Monday, August 6 – Thursday, September 20
Workshops: Monday, August 13; Tuesday, August 28; Monday, September 10
Add your upcoming events to the RAC Arts & Culture Events Calendar, the most comprehensive arts and culture calendar in the region. Just register online as an event contributor and start adding your events today!

Add an event

Register to become an event contributor

Check out our tutorial
RAC’s STL Arts Events Calendar

Step 1) Register to become an event contributor. Registration approval may take up to 5 business days.

Step 2) Login to your account using your event contributor information to add your events. Event approval may take up to 5 business days.

racstl.org/experience-art/event-login
Local Resources

VLAA: Volunteer Lawyers and Accountants for the Arts:
• https://vlaa.org
• vlaa@stlrac.org

MAPS: Midwest Artist Project Services:
• http://midwestarts.org/
• info@midwestarts.org
Questions?