

INDIVIDUAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Recognizing Individual Artistic Achievement



The Individual Excellence Awards program recognizes outstanding accomplishments by artists in a variety of disciplines. Awards give artists the resources to experiment and explore their art forms, develop skills and advance their careers, and receive affirmation and acknowledgment for outstanding work. Competitive applications focused on the merit of past artistic work, combined with an open panel review conducted by nationally recognized professionals, ensure that only the most exceptional individuals receive funding.

GRANT AWARDS: Individual Excellence Awards are \$5,000.

ELIGIBILITY: Creative artists who are residents of Ohio may apply to this program. Applicants must have lived in Ohio for one year prior to the September 1 deadline, and must remain in the state throughout the grant period. Artists may submit only one application per calendar year, unless applying in the Criticism discipline, in which a second application for a separate body of work may be submitted.

Past Individual Excellence Award recipients are not eligible to apply at the next calendar deadline. Past work that resulted in an Individual Excellence Award may not be resubmitted at future deadlines; resubmission of funded work will result in disqualification from the review process. Applicants must be at least eighteen years of age. Students attending high school or students pursuing undergraduate or graduate degrees at the time of application may not apply.

NOTE: Up to two artists who worked together to create a body of work, and who plan to continue working together, may apply collaboratively, with each artist retaining creative ownership of the completed artwork. If awarded an Individual Excellence Award, the collaborative applicants split the award equally. Collaborative artists must each submit an application with the same narrative on each application, and each must submit the same required support materials.

HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS: Individual Excellence Awards recognize the exceptional merit of an Ohio artist's past body of work. Awards celebrate the creativity and imagination that exemplify the highest level of achievement in a particular artistic discipline. Awards may be used for a variety of expenses related to an artist's growth and development. Awards may not be used for enrolling in or continuing a degree-granting program, and recipients must remain in the state during the grant year.

HOW TO APPLY: Individual Excellence Awards program applications must be submitted via the [ARTIE](#) system. Please refer to [ARTIE: Individual Artist Grant Applications](#) for a description of the process.

EVALUATION AND SCORING: Applications are reviewed through an anonymous review process. A panel of nationally recognized artists and arts professionals meet virtually to evaluate and score applications in each Individual Excellence Awards discipline. Virtual panel meetings are open to the public and audio-streamed online, and applicants are encouraged to attend. Visit the calendar on the OAC's [Grants](#) page for meeting details and instructions for participating.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: September 1 (annually)

In odd-numbered calendar years (e.g., 2019, 2021), applications are accepted in **choreography; criticism; fiction/non-fiction; music composition; playwrighting/screenplays; and poetry.**

In even-numbered calendar years (e.g., 2018, 2020), applications are accepted in **crafts; design arts/illustration; interdisciplinary/performance art; media arts; photography; visual arts 2D; and visual arts 3D.**

STAFF CONTACT

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At the virtual panel meeting, panelists discuss how well each application satisfies the program's evaluation criteria, highlighting strengths and weaknesses of the support materials/art works and narrative statements. Panelists use a simple scoring system to evaluate and score applications, with each of seven criteria rated as: 1) not competitive, 2) adequate to strong, or 3) exemplary. Following each meeting, OAC staff average each panel's scores to determine funding award recommendations. The OAC Board is the only body authorized to make final funding decisions and must approve grant awards.

REVIEW CRITERIA: Panelists use the following criteria (presented in no particular order) to make funding recommendations:

1. Exemplifies the highest level of achievement in a discipline
2. Outstanding technical proficiency or craftsmanship
3. Body of work is consistently high in quality
4. Creative or inventive use of the medium that advances the art form
5. Compares favorably to other work in the field, either regionally or nationally
6. Artist narrative provides context for the body of work
7. Audiovisual materials are relevant and of high quality

TIMELINE: The following timeline outlines the Individual Excellence Awards grant lifecycle. Any deadline falling on a Saturday, Sunday, or state holiday, is extended until the next business day.

| GRANT PERIOD: February 1 – November 30 | |
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| Application Available In ARTIE | June 1 |
| Application Deadline | September 1 |
| Panel Meetings | Late November/Early December |
| Grant Award Notification | Late December/Early January |
| Grant Award Ratification by OAC Board | January |
| Grant Award Announcement to Media | January |
| Signed Grant Agreement Deadline | February 28 |
| Final Report Deadline | December 31 |

SUPPORT MATERIALS: Support materials are a critical part of each Individual Excellence Awards application. Materials are submitted electronically to the ARTIE system with your completed application by the program deadline date. NOTE: Due to the anonymous nature of the review process, applicants MUST remove any instance of their name and all biographical information from both submitted work AND narrative statement.

DISCIPLINE-SPECIFIC SUPPORT MATERIALS:

NOTE: Screening notes may be included with the support materials to aid the presentation of the materials for applications in choreography, music composition, and media disciplines.

If submitting digital images or work samples, see the ARTIE Support Materials tab for details.

Choreography

1. Two complete works, completed within the last five years, in separate uploaded files

Music Composition

1. Two complete works, completed within the last three years, in separate uploaded files
2. Score or lead sheet for each composition in a separate uploaded file. Your name should not appear anywhere in the score or lead sheet. A computer rendering must be included for computer-generated work, uploaded to ARTIE (For assistance with oversized, please contact an OAC Artist Programs staff member directly).

Interdisciplinary/Performance Art (concept-based performance art, not performing arts) applications are accepted from a single artist working in multiple disciplines on a single body of work (e.g., installation-based work including sculptural elements as well as sound, video or movement).

1. Two to three works, completed in the past three years, which may be a combination of up to 12 digital images, audio or visual work samples, manuscripts, or scenarios, in separate uploaded files. If movement is an important part of a work, include appropriate documentation.

Media Arts applications come from artists working in film, video, audio, media installations, and new technologies (computer-based work) that have primary responsibility for the finished project and are the originators of the artistic concept of the work.

Audio Art

1. Two to three complete work samples, completed within the last three years, in separate uploaded files

Film

1. Two completed works, one completed within the last three years, and one within the last five years, in separate uploaded files

Video

1. Two complete works, completed within the last three years, in separate uploaded files

Media Installation

1. One or two complete works, completed within the last three years, which may be a combination of up to 12 digital images, audio or visual work samples, and diagrams that best document the work, in separate uploaded files

Crafts, Design Arts/Illustration, Photography, Visual Arts 2D, and Visual Arts 3D

Nine to 12 digital images ONLY of at least nine different works, completed within the last three years, must be uploaded (see ARTIE Support Materials tab for details). No video or audio files are accepted in these disciplines.

NOTE: Design Arts/Illustration applicants may submit either work that has been produced and constructed, or drawings and proposals for future work in separate uploaded files. Illustrators may submit the publication in which the work has been included in separate uploaded files. Architects, designers, landscape architects, and urban-metropolitan planners may submit clearly identified blueprints, specs, or maquettes in separate uploaded files. Clothing and costume designers may include illustrations and drawings in separate uploaded files.

Fiction/Non-Fiction, Poetry, Playwriting/Screenplays, Criticism

Manuscript format for all literature disciplines:

1. IMPORTANT: Applicant name must not appear within the body of manuscript or on cover sheet.
2. Cover/title page of manuscript must have application number and listing contents of manuscript.
3. Documents should be formatted to print on 8.5" x 11" paper, with 1" margins on all sides, and all fonts used should be no smaller than 11 point.

4. All documents are uploaded in separate files as required by the discipline (see ARTIE Support Materials tab for details).

Fiction/Non-Fiction manuscripts should be 20-30 pages, double-spaced, of either one recent work, a selection of short stories or essays, or a selection of chapters from a larger work completed within the last three years.

Poetry manuscripts should be 10-15 pages, single- or double-spaced, no more than one poem to a page, completed within the last three years.

Playwriting/Screenplay manuscripts may be single- or double-spaced, and should consist of one complete play or two complete one-act plays, completed within the last five years. This discipline has no page limit. Musical theater plays must include one copy each of the libretto, score, book, and audio sample in separate uploaded files.

Criticism manuscripts should be 30-50 pages, single- or double-spaced, completed within the last five years. The category supports critical writing that investigates, evaluates, or analyzes modern and contemporary art activity; manuscripts whose focus is solely historical art analysis are not accepted.