

# Individual Excellence Awards: Frequently Asked Questions

- **How do I apply?**

Go to: [ohioartscouncil.smartsimple.com](https://ohioartscouncil.smartsimple.com) and register as an individual.

- **Can I submit multiple applications?**

You may only submit one application per year. There is one unique exception: If you are submitting to arts criticism in the literature (odd-numbered) year, then you may submit one application in criticism and one in another discipline, if they are two separate bodies of work. If recommended for an award in both disciplines, only one award will be approved and awarded.

- **What is the difference between the Narrative Statement and the Philosophy Statement?**

The Narrative Statement is a formal description of the body of work you are submitting. It should explain what panelists are seeing in the documentation of your work. It may include parts of your process, materials, installation, and setting. It is best written in paragraphs with references to specific works by image numbers or titles.

The Philosophy Statement is a description of the ideological content of the work. It should describe why you created the work and provide context. You may choose to include details about how your submission falls within your larger body of work.

Neither statement should contain biographical information, so that all applications can be reviewed anonymously.

- **Do I need to submit 12 images?**

You may submit between 9-12 digital images of your work, with a minimum of nine works to be submitted. It is better to have a strong body of work with fewer images, rather than work that is not cohesive. Accordingly, submitting work that is not related to the other work just to fill the 12 image maximum is not suggested.

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- **How do I know which discipline to apply under?**

When reviewing your body of work, determine what the majority medium is within your 9-12 images. For example, if you have nine sculptures and three wall-hung pieces, you should apply to visual arts 3D.

If your work contains elements of craft and sculpture, you should determine which classification you feel is a better characterization of your work as an artist. Additionally, you may want to consider whether it would be most beneficial to have the work reviewed by a panel of craft experts or a panel of sculpture experts.

If your artwork includes installation with audio, video, or movement, you should submit your work under the interdisciplinary category. This category will allow you to upload a variety of support materials and file types to represent all aspects of your work.

If you still are not sure, contact us (Chaz O'Neil at [chaz.oneil@oac.ohio.gov](mailto:chaz.oneil@oac.ohio.gov) or Kathy Signorino at [kathy.signorino@oac.ohio.gov](mailto:kathy.signorino@oac.ohio.gov)) and we can recommend which discipline best represents your work.

- **Do my digital images need to be in a particular order?**

We recommend that you organize your images in a way that shows clear connections between the works you are submitting. They do not need to be in chronological order.

If you are a visual artist and you want to include detail images of your work, please include them to the right of the related artwork as you upload your images. Also note that images are displayed in groupings of three, so you may want to consider how they relate. Always try to lead and end with your strongest work.

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- **How Important is documentation quality?**

Good documentation is important for panel review to get the best sense of the work you are submitting. Occasionally, works of art produced or displayed in “non-traditional” settings present challenges with documentation. Because panelists are also artists, they may understand these challenges, but ultimately, if they can’t get a good sense of the artwork, it is less likely to stand out from the pool of applicants. Consider proper lighting, cropping, and focus. Be sure to provide correct dimensions and offer detail views if necessary.

*Note: Digital images should be in .jpg format, 72 or 300 dpi, and no bigger than 2MB per image.*

- **Can I submit two different types of media under one category?**

As long as the work is cohesive, with clear connections in processes, production, or ideas, the work can be submitted together. For example, a 2D artist who has both oil paintings and artwork made from cut paper can submit these together as long as they clearly illustrate a commitment to a common theme. Submitting a series of abstract prints along with traditional landscape paintings would not qualify as a cohesive body of work.

- **What qualifies as a “body of artwork”?**

A body of artwork is a series of works that are related either through material or concept. Panelists like to see clear commitment to an idea or material exploration. Use the Narrative and Philosophy Statements to help make these connections if you think it might not be immediately understood through your supplemental materials.

- **What if I want to submit a video or audio file that exceeds the 2GB limit on ARTIE?**

Enter the URL link to the video or audio file on a sharing platform such as Vimeo or YouTube in the box in the ARTIE application. **Your name MUST NOT appear on this site, or any other biographical information.**

- **Can I submit work that I created while working for a company or business?**

If you have the rights to ownership of the work and have not made any agreements to waive those rights, the work can be submitted. If you feel you own the creative product, even if it was created for a client, the work is eligible for consideration.

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- **Can I include work that was made while I was a student, if I am not a student at the time of application?**

Yes, you may submit work made while you were a student, but you must not be a student at the time of application or at any time during the grant cycle.

- **What if I cannot remember my application number?**

First, log into ARTIE. Then, click on “Open an Active Application.” The application number will be listed next to the Individual Excellence Award title. If you are still unable to locate your application number, contact us and we can help. Looking for a past award? Click on “View Current/Past Awards” to see a list of your past OAC awards.

- **Are there limitations on how the award money can be spent?**

You can use the funds in whatever way would best support your artmaking, including studio rent, supplies, equipment, childcare, etc. However, you must remain a resident of the state of Ohio during the grant year and may not use the funds to continue your education in a degree-granting program.

- **I received an Individual Excellence Award in the previous grant cycle, can I apply this year?**

If you were awarded an Individual Excellence Award in the previous FY you may NOT apply, but if you received an award in a visual year, then “sat out” the literature year, you would be able to apply in the next visual year with new work that did not previously receive funding.

- **How do I apply as a collaboration?**

Collaborative artists must each submit an application with the same narrative on each application, **but only one** will submit the complete set of required support materials. In the “Application Information” tab, each artist will name their collaborator. If awarded, the funds are split. Only two artists may apply in a collaboration.