

# Mississippi Arts Commission - Artist Fellowship Guidelines

## Fiscal Year 2015

Next application deadline: Monday, March 3, 2014

Please Note: Visual and Literary artists must submit their applications through the eGRANT system. Other artists are encouraged to utilize eGRANT for their submission. Applications for other art forms may be submitted through eGRANT, postal mail, or delivered by hand to MAC's office by the due date. Faxed or emailed applications are not accepted.

Please submit Artist Fellowship applications **no earlier** than 30 days prior to the March 3<sup>rd</sup> deadline. Applications received prior to this date will be returned.

### Overview

MAC's Artist Fellowship program is focused on honoring Mississippi artists who demonstrate the ability to create exemplary work in their chosen field. The agency awards fellowships of up to \$5,000 in several categories each year. The program does not require a cash match. Professional artists living and working in the state are eligible to apply.

The Artist Fellowship program is highly competitive - only a small number of the total applicants each year receive an award. Applicants who are not awarded a fellowship may re-apply the following year. They also can receive written feedback from the review panel on their application.

Artists who receive a fellowship from MAC are ineligible to re-apply for five years. For example, a Fellowship recipient who receives a grant in Fiscal Year 2015 (to be awarded on July 1, 2014) will not be eligible to re-apply until Fiscal Year 2020 (anticipated deadline: March 1, 2019). Artist Fellowship recipients are not eligible to receive an Artist Minigrant during the same fiscal year of their Fellowship award.

Artist Fellowships are awards of merit. MAC expects the recipients to dedicate the funds towards expanding their ability to create new work. Fellowship recipients are required to document how they used Fellowship funds in their final report. Fellowship funds may not be used to support academic research or study toward an academic or professional degree.

Please note: Fellowship grants are reported as income for the recipients. MAC is required to report the grants to the IRS and issues tax documents (a 1099 form) to each Fellowship recipient.

### Who May Apply

You may apply for an Artist Fellowship if you are a professional artist producing work of high artistic quality. Individuals are considered to be at the professional level if they:

- earn at least part of their annual income in their artistic disciplines,
- consider their artistic endeavors as a career,
- maintain a high level of artistic quality, and
- make a significant time investment in their artistic disciplines through practice, performance and production;

In addition the applicant must be:

- over 18 years of age;
- not a full-time student; and
- a permanent, legal resident of Mississippi at the time of application and throughout the grant period. Applicants may be required to show proof of residence.

### **Artist Fellowship Categories**

Applicants should select the appropriate category listed below. Under MAC's current plan, certain artistic disciplines alternate every other year. For the coming fiscal year (July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015) MAC will be accepting applications in the following categories:

- Folk Arts: Traditional, community-based visual art forms such as basketmaking, woodcarving and quilting (staff contact: TBD, call 601-359-6030 with questions)
- Literary Arts: Fiction and Poetry (staff contact: Diane Williams, 601-359-6529 or [dwilliams@arts.ms.gov](mailto:dwilliams@arts.ms.gov))
- Media Arts: Film and video (staff contact: Diane Williams, 601-359-6529 or [dwilliams@arts.ms.gov](mailto:dwilliams@arts.ms.gov))
- Performing Arts: Music composition, choreography or interdisciplinary arts (staff contact: Allison Winstead, 601-359-6546 or [awinstead@arts.ms.gov](mailto:awinstead@arts.ms.gov))
- Visual Arts: and Design Arts: includes painting, sculpture, works on paper, photography, architectural design, fashion design, graphic design, and landscape architecture (staff contact: Kim Whitt, 601-359-6037 or [kwhitt@arts.ms.gov](mailto:kwhitt@arts.ms.gov))

During the next fiscal year (July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016), MAC anticipates accepting applications (deadline: March 2, 2015) in the following categories:

- Crafts: includes clay, fiber, glass, leather, metal, paper, wood, and mixed media
- Folk Arts: performing arts traditions such as blues guitar, old-time fiddling and traditional dance
- Literary Arts: creative nonfiction, playwriting and screenwriting
- Performing Arts: for music, theater, storytelling and dance performance
- Visual Arts: painting, sculpture, works on paper, and photography

### **Review Criteria for Design, Literary, Media, Performing, & Visual Arts**

MAC reviews Artist Fellowships through a "blind" panel process. The review panel does not know the names of the applicants nor receives information about their academic or professional achievements. The panel's discussion and feedback is focused solely on the artistic excellence of the submitted work samples. They score the applications using a 100-point scale. Artist Fellowship review panels determine an applicant's artistic excellence by reviewing the following three components:

- Originality and vision of the work

- Technical skill and mastery of the artistic discipline
- Technique or process used to create the work.

## **How to Apply: Design, Literary, Media, Performing and Visual Arts**

**Please note:** Visual and Literary artists must submit their Artist Fellowship application materials through MAC's eGRANT electronic grant system.

Please submit the following documents for your application file. The review panel will not see these documents. However, they are required to document your status as a professional artist and gather required information for reporting purposes:

- Artist Fellowship Application Form
- A biographical description (up to two pages) in which you discuss your development as an artist
- Your current artistic resumé. This document should detail your work as a professional artist only. Please include information on any (arts-related) college-level study or other advanced artistic training that you have completed. Do not include information about your non-arts work.

In addition, submit the following items for the review panel:

- Appropriate work samples (see descriptions of the work sample format for each discipline listed below). Your work samples must have been completed within the last three years.
- A list that describes the submitted work samples. These descriptions should include the titles and completion dates of each work sample. If appropriate for the art form, please also include the medium and the approximate dimensions of each work. **DO NOT** include your name or any publication or exhibition information about the samples.
- An artist's statement (no more than 500 words) which provides insight on your work samples. Describe your vision and creative process. Please also include any relevant details on special processes or techniques you utilized to create the work. The statement should be written in first person and present tense. Do not include any biographical information or professional achievements in the statement.

## **Review Criteria for Folk Arts**

Applicants in the Folk Arts Fellowship category are also reviewed through a "blind" process, but the panel receives the applicants' biographical descriptions. This allows them to gain an understanding of the applicant's connection to their artistic tradition.

The Folk Art Fellowship review panel evaluates the applications using the following criteria:

- Mastery of the artistic discipline (30 points)
- Traditionality of art work (30 points)
- Potential for creating new work of even higher quality during the grant period (40 points)

## How to Apply: Folk Arts

Please submit one original and one collated copy of the following items in the order listed:

- Artist Fellowship Application Form
- Narrative (two-page maximum) in which you discuss your development as an artist, emphasizing how you learned your artform. Make sure to relate the description of this development to the work samples that you submit (your name should not appear on or within the narrative)
- Your current artistic resumé (this document should detail your work as a professional artist only. Do not include information about your non-arts work.)
- Appropriate work samples (see the required formats listed below. Your samples must have been completed within the last three years.)
- A list describing the submitted work samples. These descriptions should include the titles and completion dates of each sample. If appropriate for the art form, please also include the medium and the approximate dimensions of each work. Do not include your name or any publication or exhibition information about the works in the list.
- An artist's statement (no more than 500 words) which provides insight on your work samples. Describe your vision and creative process. Please also include any relevant details on special processes or techniques you utilized to create the work. The statement should be written in first person and present tense. Do not include any biographical information or professional achievements in the statement.

## Work Sample Formats

Work samples are the most important component of an Artist Fellowship application. Submitted samples that do not meet the following guidelines will not be considered in the review process:

- Folk Arts:  
One set of digital images that feature six different samples of work completed within the last three years. The images should be saved in JPEG format at 72dpi, with no image wider than 1600 pixels. They should be saved on a CD-R disc with each image numbered to correspond with the work sample listing. Only the required images should be included on the CD-R. They should not be saved as part of a presentation program file (like PowerPoint). **Note:** Visual Folk Arts applicants can submit their applications through the eGRANT system. They should choose “Visual Arts” category on the first page of the application to allow their JPEG images to be attached to the application on the “Work Samples” page.
- Literary Arts: Word-processed samples of your work, 15-20 pages total, completed within the last three years. If your submitted work sample is an excerpt from a longer work, you may include a one-page synopsis of the work as a whole. Published work must be submitted as a typed manuscript rather than published form. The sample must be formatted using a 12-point font size with one-inch margins on all sides of the page. Neither your name nor any publication information should appear on the samples. **Note:** Literary Arts work samples must be saved as a PDF document and submitted through the eGRANT system.

- **Media Arts:** Three copies of a DVD with 5-10 minutes of excerpts from work completed within the last three years. The list of work samples should include, for each excerpt, the title, length, date completed, technique, original format, genre (documentary, experimental, etc.) and the specific role of the applicant in creating the submitted work. Media Arts applicants may apply via eGRANT, but must mail their DVD work samples to MAC.
- **Performing Arts - Music Composition:** Applicants should submit three CDs, containing multiple songs, clearly labeled with the song titles only. The list of work samples should include the names of the performers (except for applicant), instruments, title, duration, the role of the applicant for each work and the date completed. In addition, submit **two** copies of the work sample scores, up to 30 pages. Scores should be titled and orchestrated, including the date of composition. For compositions for which there is no score, submit two copies of a description of equipment and techniques used.
- **Performing Arts – Choreography:** Applicants should submit three copies of a DVD containing one complete work or several shorter works, clearly labeled with the titles only. The list of work samples should include the names of the performers (except for applicant), title, duration, the role of the applicant in each work and the date and location of the recording.
- **Performing Arts - Interdisciplinary Arts:** Applicants should submit three copies on DVD or CD containing two or three works. The list of work samples should include the names of the artists involved (other than the applicant), title, date, duration, the role of the applicant for each work, a brief description of the work, and the date of recording.
- **Visual and Design Arts:** One set of digital images that feature six different samples of work completed within the last three years. The images should be saved in JPEG format at 72dpi, with no image wider than 1600 pixels. **Note:** Visual artists must submit their images through the eGRANT system.

## **Return of Work Samples**

For applicants submitting work samples through the mail, please notate on the disc case whether or not you would like it returned. Applicants who want their work samples returned by mail must send a self-addressed mailer with sufficient postage attached to it. Work samples may also be picked up July 1st through 31st at MAC's office during regular business hours. Please make arrangements with the program director managing your application before visiting MAC's office. All work samples will be discarded after July 31st if no instructions are given for their return.

## **Application Timeline**

**March 3, 2014** – Artist Fellowship application deadline

**April 2014**– Review of applications by the grant panel (the specific panel date will be available by mid-March. Applicants are allowed to attend panels.)

**June 2014**– MAC Board meets and makes final funding decisions on all applications

**July 1, 2014** – Applicants are notified whether their application was funded or not. No information on the grants (including whether or not an applicant will be receiving an award or the amount of the award) will be available from MAC prior to this date.