

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. Students enrolled in a degree- or certificate-granting program are ineligible to 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, but only one should submit a complete set of 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 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: A panel of nationally recognized artists and arts professionals meet to evaluate and score applications in each Individual Excellence Awards discipline. Panel meetings are open to the public 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., 2017, 2019), applications are accepted in **choreography, criticism, fiction/non-fiction, music composition, playwriting/screenplays, and poetry.**

In even-numbered calendar years (e.g., 2016, 2018), applications are accepted in **crafts, design arts/illustration, interdisciplinary/collaborative & performance art, media arts, photography, visual arts 2D, and visual arts 3D.**

STAFF CONTACT

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At the panel meeting, panelists review materials from each applicant and discuss how well each application satisfies the program's evaluation criteria. Preliminary scoring rounds narrow the pool of applications, as panelists decide whether artistic work is 1) exemplary, 2) worthy of further consideration, 3) or not competitive. In later rounds, a more in-depth discussion takes place regarding the strongest remaining applications. After all work has been reviewed, panelists make funding 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. Any one or a combination of these criteria is sufficient to justify an award recommendation:

1. Exemplifies the highest level of achievement in a discipline
2. Outstanding technical proficiency or craftsmanship
3. Innovation in style and/or concept
4. Body of work is consistently high in quality
5. Creative and inventive use of the medium
6. Compares favorably to other work in the field, either regionally or nationally
7. Advances an art form
8. Artist narrative provides context for the body of work
9. 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: January 1 – June 30	
Application Available In ARTIE	June 1
Application Deadline	September 1
Panel Meetings	Late November/Early December
Grant Award Notification	Early January
Grant Award Ratification by OAC Board	February/March
Grant Award Announcement to Media	March/April
Signed Grant Agreement Deadline	April 30
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.

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, interdisciplinary/collaborative & performance art, and media disciplines. Panelists will initially review 5-10 minutes of your sample during the first round; keep this in mind as you select and cue materials. Panelists have discretion in deciding which additional work to view for applicants voted into subsequent review rounds.

If submitting digital images, see ARTIE Support Materials tab for details.

Choreography

1. Two complete work samples, completed within the last five years, in separate uploaded files
2. One 10-minute sample, consisting of excerpts from each of the two complete works, in a separate uploaded file

Music Composition

1. Two complete work samples, completed within the last three years, in separate uploaded files
2. One 10-minute sample consisting of excerpts from each of the two complete works in a separate file
3. Score or lead sheet for each composition. Please add your application number only to the outside cover of each score or lead sheet; your name should not appear anywhere in the score or lead sheet. Indicate exactly where on the score the sample begins and ends, or list tracks. A computer rendering must be included for computer-generated work, uploaded to ARTIE.

Interdisciplinary/Collaborative & Performance Art applications are accepted from two artists from different disciplines who have worked together to create a single work of art (e.g., a composer and choreographer, a installation artist and audio artist, etc.)

1. Two to three work samples, 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 an uploaded file. 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
2. One 10-minute sample consisting of excerpts from each work submitted, in a separate uploaded file

Film

1. Two completed works samples, one completed within the last three years, and one within the last five years, in separate uploaded files
2. One 10-minute sample consisting of excerpts from each work submitted, in a separate uploaded file

Video

2. Two complete work samples, completed within the last three years, in separate uploaded files
3. One 10-minute sample consisting of excerpts from each work submitted, in a separate uploaded file

Media Installation

1. One or two complete works, completed within the last three years, which may be a combination of 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

1. Nine to 12 digital images of at least nine different works must be uploaded (see ARTIE Support Materials tab for details). All work must have been completed within the last three years.

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

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 to ARTIE.

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.

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 analysis are not accepted.