

Individual Artist Fellowship Awards

Recognition and acknowledgement of outstanding professional Tennessee artists who, through their work add to the cultural vitality of the state.

Fellowships provide those individuals who by education, experience, or natural talent engage in a particular art form or discipline, and live and work in Tennessee. To qualify, an artist must be financially compensated for his or her work, and this compensation must be a significant source of support for their livelihood.

No matching funds are required and no specific project has to be carried out with the funds. The Commission anticipates that **each fellowship will be awarded \$5,000**. In a year, the Tennessee Arts Commission may award up to two (2) fellowships each in Craft, Media, Visual Art, Dance, Music, and Theater, as well as three (3) in the Literary category.

The following is provided as reference. FY2021 Guidelines will be published by October 15, 2019

Accepted categories for FY 2020:

- **Visual Art:** Two-Dimensional Work
- **Craft**
- **Media:** Film or Photography
- **Dance:** Solo Dance Performance or Choreography
- **Music:** Composition
- **Theater:** Acting
- **Literary Arts:** Fiction, Creative Nonfiction or Poetry

Individual Artist Fellowships (IAF) Fiscal Year 2020 Guidelines

- The Individual Artist Fellowship (IAF) provides monetary awards to outstanding professional artists (i.e. those individuals who by education, experience, or natural talent engage in a particular art form or discipline) who live and work in Tennessee. To qualify, an artist must be financially compensated for his or her work, and this compensation must be a significant source of support for their livelihood.
- No matching funds are required, and no specific project has to be carried out with the funds.
- The Commission anticipates that each fellowship will be awarded \$5,000.
- In the coming year, the Commission may award up to two fellowships each in Craft, Media, Two-Dimensional Visual Art, Dance, Music, and Theater, as well as three in Literary Arts.

Eligibility

- Fellowship applicants must be professional practicing artists of exceptional talent working in their chosen discipline.
- Fellowship applicants must be at least 18 years of age and be legal residents of Tennessee with a Tennessee mailing address.
- Applicants must have resided in Tennessee for the past three consecutive years.
- Proof of residency will require a valid Tennessee voter registration card or a legal Tennessee driver's license.
- Applicants may be requested to submit a copy of their most recently filed Federal Income Tax Form 1040 if there is a question concerning legal residency.
- Individuals may apply in only one fellowship category each fiscal year.
- Those **not** eligible to apply include: past fellowship and partial fellowship recipients, minors (individuals under 18 years of age), full-time students (elementary, secondary, college, or university), full-time State of Tennessee employees (other than instructors on the faculties of state-supported educational institutions), Commission or staff members or members of their families.

Commission Staff Contacts:

- For Literary Arts: [Lee Baird](#), (615) 532-0493
- For Performing Arts: Music, Theater and Dance: [Jared Morrison](#), (615) 532-9801
- For Visual Arts, Craft and Media: [Krishna Adams](#), (615) 532-9798

Evaluation Criteria

Out of state adjudicators who are professionals with expertise in your discipline will review all the applications submitted in your category. The primary evaluation criterion is artistic excellence based on work samples you submit with the application. Specific instructions on what and how to submit discipline based supporting and work materials are at the end of this document. In making final recommendations, adjudicators may also take into consideration the artistic statement, and other portions of the application.

Deadline & How to Apply

- [Register](#) to use the new Online Grants System. **You are strongly advised to register well in advance to the application deadline.** Anyone registering close to the deadline date can expect delays in the processing of their grant application. https://tnarts.fluxx.io/user_sessions/new
- Log in to the new [Online Grants System](#).
- Carefully read the IAF guidelines. Links to each of the guidelines can be found in the “Apply for Grants” tab in the left-hand menu. We strongly suggest that you print a copy of the guidelines or have them open in a separate browser tab to have available when filling out the application. If you have questions, please contact the appropriate Commission staff member before beginning an application.
- Use the “People” tab on the left-hand menu to accurately complete your “People” profile. This information will also be used in the review of the application. To edit your profile, click the “Edit” button at the top of the screen.
- When the “People” profile is complete select the “Apply for Grants” tab and choose the IAF application link.
- Complete all of the application fields.
- Create and upload required attachments.
- Submit by **Monday, January 28, 2019, by 11:59 p.m. (CST).**
- **NOTE:** The forms in the portal do not auto-save. Always click the “Save” button before navigating away from the form you are editing to save your work.
- Beware that clicking the back navigation button on your web browser will exit you from the system and you will lose your work.

Required Documents

- You will be prompted to create and upload the following documents in the “Required Documents” section of your IAF Application in the system.
- A current professional **artist resume** (including publication history for literary applications).
- **Proof of TN Residency.** A copy of applicant’s Tennessee voter registration card, or a legal and valid Tennessee driver’s license.

Additional Discipline-Specific Requirements

You will **NOT** be prompted to upload these documents in the system, but these documents are required based on artistic discipline. Upload files directly into the System’s “Documents” section by clicking the plus sign and attaching files. You may also paste links to websites that house your work samples, such as YouTube.com or Vimeo.com, into the “Work Sample Link(s)” text box. See below for discipline-specific requirements.

Craft: Submit ten digital images of recent work (created within the past three years) formatted as jpeg files. Images should be between 1-4 MB in size and labeled in numerical order and with the title of the piece.

Film Artists: Submit at least three of your most recent works that have been created in the past three years. The work samples provided should reflect applicant’s individual artistic expression rather than work produced for commercial production purposes. The entire length of the films combined can be no longer than 20 minutes.

Photographers: Submit ten digital images of recent work created within the past three years, formatted as jpeg files. Images should be between 1-4 MB in size and labeled in numerical order and with the title of the piece.

Visual Arts: Two-Dimensional Work: Submit 10 digital images of recent work (created within the past three years) formatted as jpeg files. Images should be between 1-4 MB in size and labeled in numerical order and with the title.



The Tennessee Arts Commission is hosting a series of grant workshops across TN. Led by the Commission's program directors, the workshops cover what's new for the next fiscal year, an overview of grant opportunities and online application process. Additionally, staff will address strategies for developing competitive applications, the review process, information on how to manage a grant award. Potential and current constituents, nonprofit organizations, local government agencies, Tennessee teachers and artists are encouraged to attend the workshops, which will be adaptive to each attendee's needs. The workshops are open to all.

**RSVP at <https://tnartscommission.org/grant-opportunities/join-us-at-a-grants-workshop/>
to sign up for the workshop(s) you would like to attend.**

Morristown

Thursday, September 26, 2019, 2:00 p.m. CST
Rose Center Council for the Arts
442 West Second North Street, Morristown, 37816

Johnson City

Friday, September 27, 2019, 9:00 a.m. EST
First TN Development District
3211 N. Roan Street, Johnson City, 37601

Knoxville

Friday, September 27, 2019, 2:00 p.m. EST
Knoxville Museum of Art
1050 World's Fair Park Drive, Knoxville, 37916

Mt. Pleasant

Monday, September 30, 2019, 10:00 a.m. CST
South Central Development District
101 Sam Watkins Blvd, Mt. Pleasant, 38474

Murfreesboro

Monday, October 7, 2019, 10:00 a.m. CST
Center for the Arts
110 W College Street, Murfreesboro, TN 37130

Nashville

Monday, October 28, 2019, 9:00 a.m. CST
Tennessee State Museum
1000 Rosa L Parks Blvd., Nashville, TN 37208

Lafayette

Friday, November 1, 11:00 a.m. CST
Gallery 102
102 Public Square, Lafayette, 37083

Wartburg

Monday, November 4, 12:30 p.m. EST
American Legion
202 S Kingston Street, Wartburg, 37887

Athens

Monday, November 4, 4:00 p.m. EST
Athens Area Council for the Arts
320 N White Street, Athens, 37303

Chattanooga

Tuesday, November 5, 8:30 a.m. EST
Bessie Smith Cultural Center
200 E M L King Boulevard, Chattanooga, 37403

Altamont

Tuesday 2pm, November 5, 2:00 p.m. EST
Altamont Community Center
Old Parker Road, Altamont 37301

Martin

Wednesday, November 13, 11:00 a.m. CST
Northwest Tennessee Development District
124 Weldon Drive, Martin, 38237

Jackson

Wednesday, November 13, 3:30 p.m. CST
Ned McWherter Cultural Arts Center
314 E. Main Street, Jackson, 38301

Memphis

Thursday, November 14, 8:30 a.m. CST
Memphis College of Art
1930 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, 38104

Selmer

Thursday 1pm, November 14, 1:00 p.m. CST
McNairy County Visitors and Cultural Center (Latta)
205 West Court Avenue, Selmer, 38375

Tennessee Arts Commission
www.tnartscommission.org