

New York State Council on the Arts

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Visual Arts

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Information Outlined Below:

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- Exhibitions & Installations

For complete instructions on how to apply to NYSCA's FY2017 Grant Program, please [click here](#).

Program Goals

Visual Arts (VAP) offers support to a wide range of contemporary art activity for the benefit of the public and the advancement of the field. Visual Arts considers living artists to be of primary importance to the visual arts field and directs the majority of its funding to organizations that present visual artists who reside in New York State. Supported activities may include exhibitions, installations, workspace facilities, residencies, publications and critical writing.

The goals of Visual Arts are to:

Assist New York State visual artists in their efforts to create, present and exhibit new work.

- Interpret the work of contemporary visual artists to the public.
- Encourage dialogue and critical commentary about the visual arts.
- Present high-quality contemporary work that expands traditional parameters and reflects the diverse ethnic and cultural profile of the state.

Individual visual artists are not directly funded through this program area. Information on artist fellowships is available at the [New York Foundation for the Arts \(www.nyfa.org\)](http://www.nyfa.org).

The NYSCA grant program strives to make investments of public funds that serve all communities and people that comprise New York State's citizens and visitors. NYSCA strongly supports, values and encourages the sustained and concerted efforts of non-profit art, culture and heritage organizations to be inclusive and have its workforce, artists and programmatic offerings reflect New York State's diversity of people, geography and artistic interests.

New applicants are encouraged to contact VAP staff in advance of the application deadline.

Program Information

Prerequisites

- Direct payment of fees to artists is required for all activities that include artists.
- New York State-based artists must be included in the ongoing programming.
- Organizations cannot require or request artists to pay a fee for participation in projects funded by NYSCA.
- Applicant organization must employ at least one paid staff member.
- Commissions on sales of art in projects funded by NYSCA cannot exceed 30% of the sale price.
- Projects and exhibitions featuring membership, board members, staff, faculty, or enrolled students are not eligible.
- Events such as festivals and open studios are not eligible for funding.

IMPORTANT NOTE: For the purpose of this grant opportunity, Visual Arts does not include time-based media art works such as moving image, video, sound art, gaming and film. For example, VAP supports work such as sculpture, painting, drawing, printmaking and photography. For applicants seeking support in the time-based media arts, please see NYSCA Electronic Media and Film Program grant opportunities.

For Visual Art organizations that present more than one artistic discipline or cross-discipline work in an Exhibition or Workspace request, applicants must apply for the Visual Art component only, as referenced above. Time-based and moving image technology art works, as project, exhibition or workspace components will not be considered eligible.

Types of Support Available:

Applicants may make a total of two requests Council-wide, except in categories exempt from the two-limit request (see below). Applicants wishing to make two requests in the Visual Arts project categories in FY17 should first speak to Program staff regarding eligibility for General Operating Support.

General Operating Support is provided for organizations whose primary mission is Visual Arts-based. General Support applicants may not apply in the project categories below, and are limited to one additional request Council-wide.

Project Support is provided for the following categories:

- Exhibitions & Installations
- Project Support
- Workspace Facilities

Regrants and Partnerships Support is made by invitation from the Council only, and is *exempt* from the Council-wide two-request limit.

Eligibility to Apply for other NYSCA Support and Exemptions from the Two-Request Limit:

Organizations applying for or receiving General Support from NYSCA may also apply for Project Support in one other program. Sponsored applicants and those funded under the following programs are exempt from the two-request limit:

Architecture and Design Program - *Independent Projects category*

Dance Program – *Rehearsal Space and Residencies category*

Electronic Media & Film Program –*Art & Technology Initiatives (see Workspace category)*

Facilities Program - *All categories*

Folk Arts Program - *Apprenticeships category*

Folk Arts Program - *Regional and County Folk Arts Programs category*

Individual Artists Program – *All categories*

Literature Program –*Translation category*

Regional Economic Development Program – *All categories*

State and Local Partnership Program - *Decentralization category*

All Programs - *Regrants and Partnerships category*

Evaluative Criteria

Grant requests are evaluated in accordance with agency-wide [criteria](#).

Program Questions

*All applicants to the Visual Arts Program
must complete the following questions*

Managerial/Fiscal

1. Board and Staff

Describe the board composition, including their involvement in organizational management, fundraising and program oversight. Include the range of professional expertise of the board members.

2. Finances

Describe the plan for meeting annual organizational income goals and expenses. Describe how project expenses will be met. Describe contingency plans for any shortfall in income that might occur, for the organization and for projects.

Remember to include any financial notes in the Project Budget area.

3. Describe artist fees, support and artist subsidies for participating artists across all programs involving visual artists. Briefly describe any rights or contracts with the artist.

Marketing, Outreach and Promotion

4. Describe the promotion and marketing plan appropriate to your request, including print and electronic media. What measures are taken to diversify and broaden public and artist participation.

5. If applicable, describe the content and presentation format of any documentation or publication stemming from this project and/or programming. Include the plan for distribution, contributors and other useful information regarding the scope and purpose of this publication.

Service to the Public

6. Describe the benefit, value or significance of the organization and/or project to the cultural community and general public. If applicable, describe the specific community served by this organization. How does this project serve participating artists and the artist community?

7. Describe any partnerships or collaborations the organization may have with other cultural organizations partners, including local businesses.

Category Specific Information & Questions:

*Applicants are also required to complete those questions that
correspond to the category for which they are applying.*

All applicants must complete Program Specific and Category Specific questions.

Exhibitions and Installations

This category provides support to organizations that offer exhibitions and installations of original work by living artists. A minimum of four exhibitions, scheduled during the applicant's request year, is required. Exhibitions must demonstrate a sound intellectual premise and advance the public's understanding of contemporary art practices. Material that provides a curatorial explanation of each exhibition is required of all applicants. Visual Arts encourages professional curatorial practice - staff or guest curators should not include their own work in the proposed exhibitions.

Funds are available for fees to participating artists, curators and essayists, the purchase of materials, and catalogue expenses. The applicant organization, not the artists, is responsible for all shipping, preparatory expenses of artwork, press and publicity costs.

Exhibitions & Installations requests will be no less than \$5,000 and will not exceed 50% of the project budget.

Prerequisites for Exhibitions & Installations also include:

- A minimum of four exhibitions, scheduled during the applicant's request year, is required.
- Direct payment of fees to artists is required for all activities that include artists.
- Requests for both solo and group exhibitions are eligible. The exhibition space must be separate and distinct from other areas in the facility.

Sponsored Projects are Not Eligible for Support in this Category.

Exhibitions and Installations Questions

Artistic / Programmatic

1. Exhibition Plans

Describe the four or more proposed exhibitions; who, what, when, where and how the exhibition will take place. What are NYSCA funds requested for? Be specific. Describe the participating artists, and how they were/will be chosen How does this project relate to other programs in the organization and to the organization's mission? Please provide the organizational URL.

2. Curatorial Overview

Describe the curatorial vision for this series and the range of visual art that will be presented. Are there outside curators and if yes, how were the curators selected? If this is an open call to artists, describe the selection process.

3. Exhibition Space

Describe the physical environment and technical capacity of the staff and proposed exhibition space(s). Remember to provide support materials that visually illustrate the exhibition area.

4. Public Interpretation

How does this program deepen public appreciation for and advance understanding of contemporary visual arts practices? What tools, technology or methods are being used to provide a curatorial explanation of each exhibition?

Support Materials

Support Materials must be submitted by uploading each into the Pre-Submission Upload menu in the Grants Gateway Grant Opportunity Portal.

Acceptable file types: Adobe Acrobat PDFs, Microsoft Word DOC or DOCX, Microsoft PowerPoint PPT or PPTX. To submit URLs, please create a Word or PDF file with a list of URLs with any notes or description. URLs cannot be password protected and must remain live until December 31, 2016. NYSCA is not responsible for any broken, inactive or password protected links.

In the event that an applicant fails to submit one or more of the following required materials, the application will not be eligible for review. For a more detailed description of how to submit your support materials for this application, please click [here](#) for more information.

Program Support Materials

*All applicants to the Visual Arts Program
must submit the following support materials.*

1. *Résumés or biographical statements* of up to 3 key staff, maximum of 1 page each.
 2. *Up to 5 representative marketing materials* (sample programs, flyers, catalogs or brochures) that reflect activity for the past year. Do not include press coverage, reviews or notices.
 3. *Website, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and other social media links.* We also reserve the right to review any/all of these online sources as part of your application.
 4. Up to 15 images best representing the request(s); including images of current year exhibitions, projects and/or workspace; where applicable, label each image with the artists' name, title of work, date, materials and dimensions ; also include images of the gallery/exhibition space.
 5. Submit a list of related planned activities such as workshops, talks, lectures, and/or related films.
 6. For the Workspace category, evaluation forms, designed by applicant organizations and completed by participating artists, are required as support material.
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