

New York State Council on the Arts

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Visual Arts

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Information Outlined Below:

Program Goals

Program Information & Questions

Category Information & Questions

- Workspace Facilities

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.

Workspace

Support is available for ongoing professional workspace facilities that provide New York - based visual artists with a work environment that enables artists to advance their work and to have the time to focus on the creative process, and to experiment with new materials and techniques. The goals of this category are to assure that artists can interchange with mentors and peers, and interact with the local community

Priorities include artist interact with the local community and interchange with mentors and peers. Special consideration is given to organizations offering opportunities to artists at any stage of their career who have not received exposure or recognition for their work.

Organizations that schedule short-term use of facilities (less than one month) must demonstrate ongoing usage of the service to a greater number of artists. Organizations offering yearlong access may reasonably serve a smaller number of artists.

Funds are available for direct payment of fees to artists, ongoing availability of technical expertise, and for residency materials used by artists.

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

Sponsored Projects are Not Eligible for Support in this Category.

Prerequisites for Workspace Facilities also include:

- Direct payment of fees to artists is required.
- Access to technical staff and use of equipment, and access to other discipline-specific resources are required.
- Transportation needs and housing costs must be provided by the applicant organization when selected artists are not within commuting distance.

Workspace Questions

1. Program Overview

Describe the proposed project; include scope and focus of the workspace program, how many artists participate annually, duration of the opportunity, fees, and support services provided to participants. Describe any obligations that artists may have to the organization as part of the workspace residency. What are NYSCA funds requested for? Be specific.

2. Facilities Overview

Describe the workspace facilities and equipment layout, type and/or variety of equipment available. What are the working hours for artists and how is technical assistance made available during those times? What other organizational activities take place in the space during these hours? Remember to include support materials that visually illustrate the workspace.

3. Technical Support

Why is this program and work environment attractive to artists? Describe the specific expertise provided by on-site technical assistant/s that is available to artists. What level of Internet capacity does this facility or workspace have, that artists have access to?

4. Evaluation

How have you incorporated feedback from past participants in the design of the workspace program? Give examples of recommendations that have led to any recent improvements.

5. Artist Selection

Describe the process by which artists are chosen to use the workspace. If an open call was issued, how many applications were received? How many New York State artists were selected? How does this response compare to previous years?

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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