

2026 NYSCA/NYFA Artist Fellowship Application Tips

Before you begin, be sure to read the Application Guidelines and Discipline Specific Guidelines thoroughly! [You can view this year's guidelines here.](#)

Table of Contents

Eligibility Checklist	1
Work Sample Checklist	2
Visual Arts Work Samples	2
Literary Work Samples	2
Media Work Samples	3
Support Statement Checklist	3
Top Reads Before Submitting Your Application	4

Eligibility Checklist

Ensure you and any of your collaborators meet all Eligibility requirements:

- You are at least 25 years or older by the application deadline.
- You are a current resident of New York State and/or one of the Tribal Nations located therein.
- You have maintained New York State residency, and/or residency in one of the Tribal Nations located therein for the past two consecutive years: all of 2024 & 2025.
- You have not received a NYSCA/NYFA Artist Fellowship in the last five years, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025.
- If you are a past NYSCA/NYFA Artist Fellow, none of the work samples you have submitted have previously been awarded for a NYSCA/NYFA Artist Fellowship
- You are not currently enrolled in a degree-seeking program of any kind.
- You are the originator of the artwork submitted.
- If you are applying as a collaboration (up to 3 artists working together on a regular basis) all names are listed in your application form.
- If you have applied in more than 1 category (applicants can apply in up to 2 categories each cycle), you have indicated this in your application form.

- You are not a NYFA employee, a member of the NYFA Board of Trustees or Artists' Advisory Committee, an immediate family member of any of the above, or an immediate family member of a 2026 panelist.
-

Work Sample Checklist

Before providing any Work Samples, keep the following in mind:

- Your name is not present anywhere in your descriptions or file names as the first round of review is an anonymous round
- Your files are uploaded in the order you want them to be reviewed
- You've added descriptions to your work samples where necessary in your application

Visual Arts Work Samples

Disciplines: Architecture/Environmental Structures/Design, Craft/Sculpture, Interdisciplinary Work, Painting, Photography, Printmaking/Drawing/Book Arts

Before you upload your VISUAL ARTS Work Samples ensure that:

- Image files are .jpg, .jpeg, or a PDF file
- Your images are not pixelated, and they are in focus
- All of your work sample files are less than 4MB
- Any detail images are clearly labeled as "detail" in the title of the image

Literary Work Samples

Disciplines: Fiction, Nonfiction Literature, Playwriting/Screenwriting, Poetry

Before you upload your LITERARY Work Samples, ensure that:

- Your work sample file is a .pdf
- You have included up to 20 pages, 12 point font, double spaced (poetry submission can be spaced at the artist's discretion)
- You have included one title page with the title of the work and the date of completion
- You have not included any scanned excerpts from books or periodicals in published form
- Your manuscript is in English

- Ensure that the work you have selected is your strongest, remembering you don't need to include all 20 pages if your work is represented with fewer
- Do not** include a Résumé or CV in your .pdf

Media Work Samples

Disciplines: Choreography, Digital/Electronic Arts, Folk/Traditional Arts, Interdisciplinary Work, Music/Sound, Video/Film

Before you upload your MEDIA Work Samples, ensure that:

- Image files are .jpg or .jpeg
 - Video links and passwords (if applicable) should remain accessible until Summer 2026
 - Your images are not pixelated, and they are in focus
 - All of your images work sample files are less than 4MB
 - Any detail images are clearly labeled as "detail" in the title of the image
-

Support Statement Checklist

When providing your SUPPORT STATEMENTS (*Artist Statement, Synopsis, Character Sheet, etc.*), review your application to ensure:

- Your artist statement is concise, referencing only the work in your application
- You use simple clear language, with concrete descriptions
- You avoid quoting or referencing other artists by name
- You do not use speculative language such as "I am trying to, or I seek to..." but rather, "I am."
- You describe how your work would be produced in its intended medium
- You explain whether your work should be viewed or interacted with in a certain way.
- If your work uses specialty equipment, explain why and how it was used
- If need be, you have itemized each work or group of works to better explain your work samples
- You have explained the work samples submitted and contextualized their placement within your larger work
- Your synopsis does not repeat your artist statement

- If you submit a Cultural Statement:** This statement should outline how your work is connected to a cultural community. You should only use this statement if you feel it is integral to the interpretation of the work.
-

Top Reads Before Submitting Your Application

[How to Write a Strong Application](#)

Submitting an application for a NYSCA/NYFA Artist Fellowship for the first time can be challenging. Read this post for tips that will make your application process smoother.

[The Artist Statement: 5 Do's and Dont's](#)

An Artist Statement is unique to every artist. Read this post for tips on what to consider or avoid when crafting your Artist Statement.