



## 2026 NYSCA/NYFA Artist Fellowship Nonfiction Literature Guidelines

**Application Deadline: Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at 5:00 PM ET**

NYFA only accepts applications submitted online at [apply.nyfa.org/submit](https://apply.nyfa.org/submit)

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The NYSCA/NYFA Artist Fellowship is an \$8,000 unrestricted cash grant available to artists living in New York State and/or one of the Tribal Nations located therein.

Questions? Check out the [NYSCA/NYFA Artist Fellowship homepage](#) for more information!

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## GRANT TIMELINE

**Applications Open:** Tuesday, December 2, 2025 at 10:00 AM ET

**Applications Close:** Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at 5:00 PM ET\*

**Applicant Notifications:** Summer 2026

*\*Please note that the application form on Submittable will automatically close & stop accepting applications at this time.*

## WHO CAN APPLY

Applicants must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- **25 years or older** by the application deadline date
- **Current residents of New York State** and/or one of the Tribal Nations located in New York State
- Must have maintained New York State residency, and/or residency in one of the Tribal Nations located therein, for at least the **last two consecutive years (2024 & 2025)**
- Not enrolled in a degree-seeking program of any kind
- Are the **originators of the work**, i.e. choreographers or playwrights, not interpretive artists such as dancers or actors
- Did not receive a NYSCA/NYFA Artist Fellowship in any discipline in the past five years: 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025.
- Cannot submit any work samples that have been previously awarded a NYSCA/NYFA Artist Fellowship
- While collaborating artists are eligible to apply, the total number of artists cannot exceed **three individuals** (this includes the submitter). Each artist applying must all meet the eligibility criteria for this award. Artists applying as a collaboration cannot apply separately as an individual in the same year
- Applicants can apply in a maximum of 2 categories each cycle
- Are not a current NYFA employee or have been in the last 12 months, a member of the NYFA Board of Trustees or Artists' Advisory Committee, 2026 panelist, or an immediate family member of any of the above.
- Artists that have been awarded five NYSCA/NYFA Artist Fellowships receive Emeritus status and are no longer eligible for the award



## DISCIPLINE DESCRIPTION

This category accepts work in all varieties and genres of nonfiction literary prose, including essays, criticism, journalism, autobiography, monographs, memoir, creative non-fiction, and experimental forms.

## WORK SAMPLES

Work samples are a representation of your artistic work. This is the most important part of your application, as it will be the primary point of review. Keep in mind the panel reviews a large volume of material in quick succession; therefore, it is very important that you present your work clearly. **This is not a project grant;** therefore you should be submitting work that is completed, or is a completed piece of an ongoing/continuing body of work.

**TIP:** Work samples produced in the past five years are highly recommended. If you submit older work samples, consider providing an explanation as to why you chose the older work samples in the metadata section.

## What to Submit

### Manuscript

**Applicants must submit 1 manuscript,** up to 20 pages in maximum length, plus an additional title page (21 total pages).

- **Format Accepted**
  - PDF Only
  - Language: English
  - 12pt font, double-spaced
  - The title page should include the title of the piece and the date of completion.
- Your manuscript can consist of a singular body of work or multiple bodies of work.
- If your work sample includes a combination of excerpts from larger works, you are strongly advised to include substantial portions from each larger work, rather than small fragments.



- **Do not include publication and/or production information anywhere on your manuscript.** Materials can be previously published or not. If published, scanned excerpts from books or periodicals, in published form, will be ineligible.
- Do not include your artistic résumé in your PDF.
- Manuscripts must be in English, or can be translated into English by someone other than the artist.

**Note:** Panelists are instructed not to review any materials beyond the maximum number of pages allowed (21 pages, including the title page).

### Synopsis

**(Required, 150-Words Max.):** Provide a synopsis for your work sample.

- The synopsis should offer a clear and concise summary of your manuscript.
- If your manuscript includes multiple works, you can itemize each one and talk about them individually.

## SUPPORT STATEMENTS

Support statements are to be submitted directly to the application form in the corresponding textboxes. We recommend writing your statements in Microsoft Word or Google Docs and pasting them to Submittable. **Document uploads for Support statements will not be accepted.**

### What to Submit

#### Artist Statement

**(Required, 250-Words Max.):** A concise statement giving an overview of your artistic practice.

- This statement should give a brief introduction to ideas, themes, and methods in your practice (i.e. how you make what you make, and/or why you make what you make).
- This statement should also specifically reflect the ideas and inspiration relevant to your submitted work samples.
- Use this statement to highlight your role in creating/executing the work, as well as describing the key technical aspects of the work.
- **This is not an Artist Bio.**



### **Cultural Statement**

**(Optional, 250-Words Max.):** A supplemental statement that describes how your work is related to and/or rooted in a specific cultural practice, tradition, or community. This statement can also offer an opportunity to describe how your artistic work relates to or stems from your culturally-specific lived experience(s).

## **EVALUATION PROCESS**

Applications are reviewed over the course of 3 elimination rounds.

**Rounds 1 & 2:** The panel will carefully review and score assigned applications independently. The highest scoring applications will move forward into the next round of review.

**Round 3:** The panel will meet as a group and collectively discuss the applications that have made it into this round, and conclude by selecting the Fellows and Finalists.

### **Evaluation Criteria**

Peer review panelists will assess eligible applications according to the following evaluation criteria:

#### **1. Artistic Merit:**

- A competitive application demonstrates excellence in their discipline through strong Work Samples that highlight the applicant's creativity, technical proficiency, and cohesive artistic vision.

#### **2. Clarity and Cohesiveness:**

- A competitive application presents clear, concise, and compelling Support Statements that provide valuable insights into their practice and motivations. The Support Statements should work together with the submitted Work Samples to provide a comprehensive understanding of the applicant's vision and goals.

#### **3. Originality and Innovation:**

- A competitive application showcases innovative methods, ideas, and/or concepts that makes their work stand out within the discipline. Panelists will assess the uniqueness and originality of an applicant's approach, including the quality of execution, innovation in materials or techniques, and the overall impact of your work. Applicants may also demonstrate innovation through place-based work



that is informed by or responsive to a specific location, community, or environment.

### **Funding Priority**

As part of the evaluation process, the NYSCA/NYFA Artist Fellowship prioritizes applications from New York State residents who live outside of the New York City metropolitan area. While this prioritization is considered within each round of review, it does not guarantee any specific outcomes regarding who will ultimately be awarded a fellowship.

## **HOW TO APPLY**

We only accept applications via Submittable. First-time users will need to register with Submittable to access the application portal.

### [APPLY HERE](#)

Applications submitted after the deadline will not be accepted and no exceptions will be made. We strongly recommend that applicants complete their applications in advance of the deadline to allow time for work samples to upload and to avoid potential technical problems.

Applicants will receive an automatic response from Submittable once their application has been successfully received.

### **Info Sessions**

Links to recorded information sessions and live info session registrations can be found on the [NYSCA/NYFA Artist Fellowship homepage](#).

**Once submitted, you will no longer be able to make changes to your application!**

Application **Deadline:**  
**Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at 5:00 PM ET**

*NYSCA/NYFA Artist Fellowships are made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.*