

## 2026 JGS Fellowship for Photography Application Guidelines

**Application Deadline: Tuesday, May 19, 2026 5:00PM ET**

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

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The JGS Fellowship for Photography is a \$8,000 cash grant open to New York State photography artists living and working outside of New York City.

The Fellowship is awarded to five artists working in traditional and experimental photography including light-based work, alternative processes, or any form in which photography or photographic techniques are pivotal, if not exclusive. The support for this funding is provided by The Joy of Giving Something (JGS).

Questions? Check out the [JGS Fellowship for Photography](#) for more information!

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## GRANT TIMELINE

**Application Opens:** Tuesday, March 24, 2026 10:00AM ET  
**Application Closes:** Tuesday, May 19, 2026 at 5:00PM ET\*  
**Applicants Notified:** Summer 2026

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

## WHO CAN APPLY

### Applicants must:

- **Work in photography.** Traditional and experimental photography including light-based work, alternative processes, or any form in which photography or photographic techniques are pivotal, if not exclusive, is eligible.
- Be current **full-time residents of New York State outside of the five boroughs of NYC.**
- Have maintained New York State residency for a **minimum of 12 months** at the time application closes in **one of the following NYS regions:** Western New York, Finger Lakes, Southern Tier, Central New York, North Country, Mohawk Valley, Capital District, Hudson Valley and Long Island.
  - **Residents of New York City are not eligible to apply for this award.**
  - **Eligible counties include:** Albany, Allegany, Broome, Cattaraugus, Cayuga, Chautauqua, Chemung, Chenango, Clinton, Columbia, Cortland, Delaware, Dutchess, Erie, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Genesee, Greene, Hamilton, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Livingston, Madison, Monroe, Montgomery, Nassau, Niagara, Oneida, Onondaga, Ontario, Orange, Orleans, Oswego, Otsego, Putnam, Rensselaer, Rockland, St. Lawrence, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Suffolk, Sullivan, Tioga, Tompkins, Ulster, Warren, Washington, Wayne, Westchester, Wyoming, and Yates.
- **Applicants must be at least 25 years of age** at the time the application closes.
- Applicants cannot be enrolled in a degree-seeking program of any kind.
- Applicants can be past recipients of any NYFA grant or fellowship programs, except past recipients of the JGS Fellowship for Photography.

- Applicants cannot be a NYFA employee, a member of the NYFA Board of Trustees or Artists' Advisory Committee, and/or an immediate family member of any of the above.

## WORK SAMPLES

Work samples are a representation of your artistic work created within the last five years. 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

**Applicants can submit up to 10 digital images total** (submitting no less than 5 images is recommended).

### Images

- **Formats Accepted:**
  - JPG or JPEG
- **Recommended Resolution:**
  - 2000 pixels on the longest side at 72 dpi
- Images of diptychs, installations, and multi-part works are accepted.
- It is strongly recommended that applicants not submit a composite image file of multiple works in an effort to increase the amount of work samples submitted (for example: including 4 image files of 4 separate pieces together in a grid format).
- Example of single image file not accepted:

<b>Work Sample #1</b>	<b>Work Sample #2</b>
<b>Work Sample #3</b>	<b>Work Sample #4</b>

- **Metadata Section in Application:** A metadata section will appear on your application form after each work sample has been uploaded. In this section, you will be able to provide the following information:
  - Title
  - Date of Completion
  - Materials
  - Dimensions
- **Formatting Tips for Images:** When formatting your images, RGB is the recommended color profile for screen viewing. You can use image editing software such as Photoshop, Canva, or Preview to edit, resize, and format your images.

### Work Sample Information

**(Required, 250-Words Max.):** In addition to your submitted images, briefly describe the context, concept, and execution of your work sample(s). If your submitted work samples include multiple works, you can talk about them collectively or itemize each one and talk about them individually.

If relevant, you may also include:

- How your work samples (or a portion of your work samples) represent a larger body of work
- Whether the images document an installation, experience, performance, or time-based piece

- The intended circumstances in which the viewer/audience should experience the work such as instructions for navigating the work, if it's interactive

## SUPPORT STATEMENTS

Written 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.

### 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).

*NYFA regularly revisits its grant guidelines and eligibility requirements to improve clarity and accessibility and reduce unintentional bias. We invite feedback and suggestions that we can consider within the parameters of the program funder's goals and NYFA's required processes.*

## REVIEW 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.

## Evaluation Criteria

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

### 1. Artistic Merit:

- A competitive application demonstrates excellence in photography 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 photography field. 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.

## HOW TO APPLY

### Submit your application

We only accept applications via [Submittable](#). First-time users will need to register with the free Submittable platform to access the application portal.

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 avoid potential technical problems.

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

### Information Sessions

Links to recorded information sessions and live info session registrations can be found on the [JGS Fellowship for Photography homepage](#).

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

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