# INDIVIDUAL ARTIST FELLOWSHIPS
## 2026 Program Rules and Instructions

**Film/Video**
**Digital/Electronic**
**Interdisciplinary**
**Painting**
**Prose**
**Printmaking/Drawing/Book Arts**

Early Bird Deadline:
July 2, 2025, 5:00 PM ET

Final Deadline:
Wednesday, July 16, 2025, 5:00 PM ET

*This document is also available in Spanish.*

Administered by Mid Atlantic Arts

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**ACCESSIBILITY**
If you are in need of accommodation in filing the application, contact Mid Atlantic Arts at:
410-539-6656 x 101 or fellowships@midatlanticarts.org. This publication is available in .PDF
format and as an accessible Word file at www.midatlanticarts.org.

**LAS BASES DE LA CONVOCATORIA FELLOWSHIPS NUEVA JERSEY**
Las bases del programa están disponibles en español: www.midatlanticarts.org. Tenga en
cuenta: las solicitudes deben enviarse en inglés.

**ABOUT THIS PROGRAM**

### New Jersey State Council on the Arts

The New Jersey State Council on the Arts (State Arts Council) is a division of the New Jersey
Department of State, created in 1966 by Public Law Chapter 214 and consists of 17 members,
all appointed by the Governor for terms of three years, and three ex-officio members. Since its
creation, the State Arts Council's volunteer members and professional staff have worked to
improve the quality of life in New Jersey through strategic support for the arts.

With annual appropriations from the State Legislature as well as annual federal grants from the
National Endowment for the Arts, the State Arts Council designs and carries out a dynamic
program of financial and technical support services for New Jersey artists and nonprofit
organizations. For more information about the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, visit:
www.artscouncil.nj.gov.

### Who This Program Serves

The New Jersey Individual Artist Fellowship Program is intended to support New Jersey-based
artists who are actively practicing and sharing their work with the public, professionally or
otherwise. Individual Artist Fellowships are awarded to artists who demonstrate the highest
artistic quality to enable them to advance their practices and pursue their artistic goals.

### Selection Process

Fellows are selected through a competitive evaluation process by independent panels of peer
reviewers. Panelists review the applications anonymously and score the work based solely on
the artistic quality of the work submitted as part of the application. Fellowships are not need-
or project-based.

### Uses for Award Funding

Artists may use Fellowship awards to pursue work in their artistic discipline, including
purchasing supplies, studying in a workshop situation, renting studio space, or otherwise
freeing their time. Fellowship funds may not be used for travel outside of the country, study as
a matriculated student in either a graduate or undergraduate program, or to purchase

permanent equipment (equipment with a resale value exceeding $350 or having a life span over three years).

## Administration

Mid Atlantic Arts administers the application submission, review, and post-award process on behalf of the State Arts Council though an ongoing partnership. This includes applicant notification, administration of the individual grants, and final reporting. Mid Atlantic Arts and State Arts Council staff facilitate the review process but do not influence the panels' evaluations of artistic quality.

## Grant Amounts

Fellowship awards have ranged in the past from $3,000 - $32,000. The amount of the award is determined annually by the State Arts Council based on funding provided through the New Jersey Hotel/Motel tax. Fellowships are awarded to applicants who demonstrate the highest artistic quality, with no cap or quota per artistic discipline. Finalist awards are provided to artists whose work is determined by peer review to be of high quality but score just below the standard for a Fellowship award. Finalist artists will receive a financial award and remain eligible to apply in the next funding cycle for their discipline. In 2025, from a total of 939 eligible applications, 216 Fellowships and Finalist awards were granted in seven categories. Grant awards totaled $2,000,000. Awards are issued pending the availability of funds.

## Grant Period

Fellowship grants available through this application are for the period January 1 through December 31, 2026.

## Review Process

Fellowship applications are reviewed by panels of peer evaluators identified by Mid Atlantic Arts, which are composed of working artists and arts professionals. Panelist candidates are identified primarily through research conducted by Mid Atlantic Arts based on their professional achievements, experience, and recognition within their respective fields of expertise. Panels are assembled with consideration for a balance of race, ethnicity, age, gender, disability, and geographic representation, as well as a wide range of artistic interests and aesthetic viewpoints. New panelist cohorts per discipline are selected each year. The State Arts Council reviews and approves final panel configurations.

The application review process is anonymous. Applicants' names and biographical details are not revealed to panelists, nor is this information taken into consideration by the State Arts Council's Grants Committee when rendering its funding recommendations. An optional component to the application is the opportunity to write an Application Context Statement providing specific context regarding the submitted work samples and is made available to panelists. Please see more details about the optional Application Context Statement on pg. 13.

### Notification

All applicants will be notified in writing of the State Arts Council's decision by March 1, 2026. The decisions of the State Arts Council are final and may not be appealed.

### Residency Verification & Fellowship Payments

Applicants who are selected to receive a Fellowship or Finalist award will be required to complete a contract with Mid Atlantic Arts and verify residency. **Applicants must be a permanent resident of New Jersey at both the time of application and award**. If an applicant is a dual resident who does not primarily reside in New Jersey, they are not eligible to apply. If the applicant moves out of state after the application has been submitted but prior to being awarded a grant, they are no longer considered eligible. Awardees will be asked to supply two forms of verification with their name and current home address clearly visible. **At least one of them must include a timestamp from no earlier than January 1, 2026** (for example, a bank statement with the statement date visible). Acceptable forms of residency verification include:

- Driver's license or ID card
- Bank account statement
- Credit card statement
- Voter registration
- Paystub/wage statement
- Utility bill (gas/electric/, water/sewer, internet provider, landline/cell phone, trash collection)
- Lease agreement
- Mortgage statement
- Tax records/bill
- Insurance statement/bill (auto, health, renters, homeowners)
- Vehicle registration
- Letter issued by NJ public authority (courthouse, municipality, elected official)

Once contract documents have been signed and a permanent New Jersey address has been verified, Mid Atlantic Arts will release 100% of the award funds to the Fellowship recipient. All awardees are required to submit a final report in order to be considered eligible for any future Fellowships. Please see more on final reports below.

### Final Reports

Final report forms are made available when the grant contract is issued. Final reports are due no later than January 30, 2027. Final reports collect a description of work completed during the Fellowship period along with a brief summary of how the funds were spent. To be eligible for future Fellowships, all Fellows must submit a final report.

**APPLICANT & WORK SAMPLE ELIGIBILITY**

**Who May Apply**

- Artists must be permanent residents of the State of New Jersey. The applicant must be a current, permanent New Jersey resident at the time of application (the date the application is submitted) and at the time of award (March 2026). See **Residency Verification & Fellowship Payments** above for more details.
- Age 18 or older.
- The applicant must be the artist whose original work is represented in the work samples.

**Who May Not Apply**

- Artists who received a Fellowship in any category in 2025, 2024, 2023, 2022, or 2021 are not eligible to apply for the current year. NOTE: This restriction does not apply to artists who received a Finalist Award.
- Applicants may not be matriculated students in any graduate, undergraduate, or high school program at the time of application and award. Fellowships may not provide funding for scholarships or academic study in pursuit of a degree.
- Collaborating New Jersey artists are not eligible to submit a joint application for collaborative work. The applicant artist must have sole creative control over all work submitted to the Fellowship program under their name.

**Additional Restrictions**

- Eligible applicants may submit one application in a single category per year.
- All work samples must have been produced within the eligible timeframe outlined by discipline in the proceeding "Application Requirements by Category" section of these Rules and Instructions.
- Work completed while the applicant was a matriculated student in a graduate, undergraduate, or high school program is not eligible.
- Only completed work may be submitted. Works in progress and project proposals are not eligible. For the purposes of this program, "complete" is considered to be the point at which the work is ready for public presentation unless otherwise noted.
- Works purely generated through AI are not eligible for submission, as the artist must have *sole creative control over the conceptualization and implementation* of the submitted work(s). Projects that utilize AI as part of a generative process but where the artist retains creative control of the finished work are eligible. See "Application Requirements by Category" for disclosure instructions.

**FELLOWSHIP CATEGORIES**

**Category Schedule**

The State Arts Council has a two-year rotation schedule of thirteen artistic categories for the Fellowship program. Each category is reviewed by a different group of three panelists, except where noted in the list of categories below. Applications are divided into categories to make the evaluation process more manageable and to allow staff to identify panelists with specialized expertise in the category they are reviewing.

Please note that future Fellowship categories are subject to change. Applicants should always refer to the most updated version of the program Rules and Instructions prior to submitting an application to confirm eligibility. The State Arts Council reserves the right to postpone the review of any Fellowship discipline in which fewer than 25 applications are received. In instances when that option is exercised, applicants will be notified.

**Selecting Your Category**

**Applicants may submit one application in a single category per year.** Categories are not intended to impose artistic limitations on applicants' work. Instead, applicants are encouraged to select their category based on the type of panel they wish to review their application. In certain situations, administrative staff may feel that an applicant's work would be better received by panelists evaluating a different category. While staff reserves the final right to determine whether or not the work submitted is eligible in any given category, applicants will be notified before any adjustments are made to the application category.

**Note for artists who identify as Folk and/or Traditional Artists: Any artist with full-time residency in New Jersey, including those whose work is considered a "Folk" and/or "Culturally Specific" art form, is eligible to apply for a Fellowship in the category for which their work is appropriate, provided they meet the overall eligibility criteria.**

## FY 2026 Artistic Categories
APPLY NOW!

- **Film/Video:** This category accepts all genres of film and video as well as any other time-based work produced by recording visual images.
- **Digital/Electronic:** This category accepts time-based, interactive, or kinetic work where technology is pivotal to the meaning and/or presentation of the work such as electronic installations, virtual and augmented reality, internet projects, and other emerging forms. Film/video and responsive audio components that are incorporated into a larger installation work are also accepted in this category.
- **Interdisciplinary:** This category accepts work that is created by combining two or more Fellowship disciplines. The category is intended for work that would not otherwise be appropriate for review in any of the individual Fellowship disciplines due to the interdisciplinary nature of the work. Mixed media work that is primarily one medium, or work where each disciplinary component could be performed or exhibited independently should NOT be submitted in this category.
- **Painting:** This category accepts all forms of painting, with the exception of digital painting, including watercolor, acrylic, gouache, oil, tempera, encaustic, mural/fresco, graffiti, and paintings that incorporate mixed media.
- **Prose:** This category accepts all forms of fiction, literary nonfiction, and other creative prose including novels, novellas, short stories, essays, criticism, journalism, and biography. Technical writing is not accepted.
- **Printmaking/Drawing/Book Arts:** This category accepts all forms of drawing, printmaking, etching, collage, illustration, and installations in which printmaking or drawing techniques are pivotal, and other visual 2-dimensional media other than painting. Book art and examples of artistic bookmaking are also eligible in this category. Artist catalogues and literary books are not accepted. Other sculptural forms constructed of paper should be submitted in the Sculpture category.

## FY 2027 Artistic Categories
NOT CURRENTLY AVAILABLE
Application deadline in mid-July 2026. Awards for these disciplines will be announced in 2027.

- **Choreography:** This category accepts choreography in all styles of dance, as well as other types of artistic performance with coordinated movement.
- **Crafts:** This category accepts all forms of functional and nonfunctional craft objects including those made of ceramics, glass, wood, metal, fiber, textiles, and recycled materials.
- **Music Composition:** This category accepts composition in all styles of classical, popular, jazz, hip-hop, and folk music, noise and experimental sound, and original music composed for theater.
- **Photography:** This category accepts analogue and digital photography, as well as works where photographic techniques are pivotal.
- **Poetry:** This category accepts all forms of written poetry.

- **Playwriting/Screenwriting:** This category accepts scripts written for stage or screen.
- **Sculpture:** This category accepts all forms of static and kinetic sculpture, as well as installations and three-dimensional public art.

**HOW TO APPLY**

**SmartSimple Online Application Form**

All Fellowship applicants must submit an online application through Mid Atlantic Arts' SmartSimple online application platform (**https://midatlanticarts.smartsimple.com**).

Applicants must provide information for the following three sections of the application form:
- **Applicant Information**: Collects and verifies the applicant's contact information and optional demographic information.
- **Work Samples:** Applicants upload their work sample files and provide information about each work sample (title, date, medium, etc.) as prompted. Applicants will also have the option to provide an Application Context Statement (see pages 13-14 for details).
- **Consent**: Outlines the terms to which the applicant must agree in order to submit the application.

Follow the steps below to complete your application:
1) Go to **https://midatlanticarts.smartsimple.com**.
2) Login or register for a new account as an **Individual Artist**. We strongly recommend registering with a personal email address that is not associated with another organization which may apply for funding in the future.
3) Once logged in, click **Funding Opportunities** under the **Available Application** section.
4) Click **Apply Now** under the New Jersey State Council on the Arts Individual Artist Fellowship Opportunity Detail section.
5) Before you begin entering information, click the **Save Draft** button at the bottom of the page to save a copy of the application draft to your account.
6) Select your category, complete the information in each tab, and upload your work samples as prompted.
7) Once you have completed the application, click the **Submit** button at the bottom of the page.
8) You will receive a submission confirmation email along with a copy of your application for your records.

*The application must be completed in its entirety online.* All work samples are accepted digitally as uploads in the application. It is strongly recommended that you prepare and upload your work samples early in the application process. Uploads may take several minutes depending on connection speed. Work samples that are mailed as hard copies or emailed as attachments to Mid Atlantic Arts or the State Arts Council will not be considered.

Applicants must provide their digital consent to the terms and conditions of the program in order to submit an application for consideration. Submission of the application indicates that you have completed all required fields in the online application form but does not guarantee eligibility or that all guideline requirements have been met.

## Deadlines

**Early Bird Deadline:**
**5:00 PM ET on WEDNESDAY, JULY 2, 2025**
Applicants who submit by this date and time will have the benefit of revising their applications if errors are found during the screening process. All applications submitted after this deadline will be received as is, with no opportunity for revision. There will be no late submissions accepted for the early deadline.

**Final Deadline:**
**5:00 PM ET on WEDNESDAY, JULY 16, 2025**
All 2026 Fellowship applications must be successfully submitted by that time. There will be no late submissions accepted for the final deadline.

**IMPORTANT NOTES ABOUT THE APPLICATION**

**All work samples must be submitted anonymously.**

Anonymous application review is a cornerstone of the Fellowship program, so it is important that panelists do not have access to your biographical information and are not able to identify you based on what you have submitted in the application.

Panelists will only have access to the work sample(s) and work sample metadata as well as your Application Context Statement. Information you share about yourself in the "Applicant Information" tab of the application, including your demographic information, will **not** be shared with the panelists.

For the purposes of this program, identifying and biographical information includes:
- Your legal or artist name.
- Contact information including personal details (email, address, phone number, etc.), social media handles, and agent/media contacts.
- Any biographical information that could be found in your CV or resume including your exhibition, performance, or publication history; educational background; information about former or current employment; and details about awards, fellowships, grants, or residencies that you have received.
- Details about the exhibition, performance, or publication of the submitted work.
- Any indication, hinted or overt, about the applicant's age, experience level, or where the applicant is in their career (for example: "I have been practicing for 30 years." or "After recently graduating…").

This type of identifying and biographical information should **not** be:
- Included in the file names.
- Seen on screen or heard in the recording (for video and audio files).
- Saved in the file properties of video and audio work samples.
- Included anywhere in the work sample document submitted for literary categories or in written musical notation submitted in the Music Composition category.
- Visible as signatures, initials, or artist marks within digital images.
- Self-portraits should not be identified as such if the image contains the recognizable likeness of the artist.
- Auto-biographies should not be identified as such in the uploaded document, title, or work samples submitted.
- Included in the information about the work sample(s) or the Application Context Statement that are submitted in the "Work Samples" tab of the online application.

**Please be sure to carefully review your application prior to submission to ensure no identifying information has been included.** Applications that include identifying information in the "Work Sample" tab are subject to disqualification.

**All work sample files must meet specific technical requirements.**

All files uploaded into the application must be formatted according to the following specifications.

**Image Files** must conform to the following specifications:
- Accepted file types:  **.jpeg, .jpg, .png, .bmp**
- File size limit: 50 MB maximum per image

**Literary Manuscripts** must conform to the following specifications:
- File type: **.pdf only**
- All pages of the manuscript must be compiled into a single .PDF document.
- The document and file name must not contain the applicant's name or other identifying information.

**Video Files** must conform to the following specifications:
- Accepted file types: **.mp4, .mov**
- Work samples must be stripped of any identifying or biographical information saved in the file properties.
- The video file name must not contain the applicant's name or other identifying information.
- File size and time limits vary by category. Please refer to the **Application Requirements by Category** section below for additional information.

**Audio Files** must conform to the following specifications:
- Accepted file types: **.mp3**
- Work samples must be stripped of any identifying or biographical information saved in the file properties.
- The audio file name must not contain the applicant's name or other identifying information.
- File size and time limits vary by category. Please refer to the **Application Requirements by Category** section below for additional information.

## Optional Application Context Statement

All applicants will be given space in the application to address the following question. This step is optional:

**"Is there any additional written context you want to provide for the panelists to help them better understand the work you are submitting in this application?"**

Contextualizing your submitted work may support your application. If it is necessary for the full reception and understanding of the work you are submitting, you are encouraged to share a brief statement discussing specific ideas. The bulleted prompts below correspond to questions panelists are most often considering when reviewing applications.

Your statement may include discussing one of the following topics **if it is relevant to your submitted work samples**:
- Your cultural background and/or identity and its integration in your submitted work
  - ➢ Cultural background and/or identity may include race, ethnicity, heritage, gender, sexual orientation, disability, religion, cultural traditions, historical context, regionality, community of origin, or personal cultural knowledge.
- The reason for submitting these particular work samples (for example: you would like to represent the scope of your work, or a cohesive series of works, etc.)
- What you intended to explore conceptually or otherwise with the submitted work
- How AI was integrated into the creative process of any applicable submitted work

We are **not** accepting standard artist philosophy statements but rather succinct statements that specifically help panelists contextualize each application and the work applicants choose to submit.

While you are encouraged to include an Application Context Statement, the inclusion of this statement is optional and is considered secondary to the work samples. Previous panelists have expressed that context statements are often helpful in providing a useful frame of reference for reviewing applications. If you feel the addition of such a statement is not relevant to your

submitted work or is unnecessary for the full reception of your application, you are not required to include one.

**Applicants are limited to 150 words.**

Artists who choose to submit a statement for the panel should be aware that their response may not include any biographical or identifying information.

Do **NOT** include:

- Your legal or artist name.
- Contact information including personal details, social media handles, and agent/media contacts.
- Any biographical information that could be found in your CV or resume including your exhibition, performance, or publication history; educational background; information about former or current employment; and details about awards, fellowships, grants, or residencies that you have received.
- Details about the exhibition, performance, or publication of the submitted work.
- Any indication, hinted or overt, about the applicant's age, experience level, or where the applicant is in their career (for example: "I have been practicing for 30 years." or "After recently graduating…").
- Links to external sources of any kind (for example: your website, press interviews, etc.).
- Direct appeals to the panel (for example: "Please consider funding my work.").
- Information about what the funding would be used for should you receive an award.
- Your personal or financial circumstances. (Fellowships are not need-based grants.)
- General artistic philosophy.

**Please note that we reserve the right to remove a panel statement from an application that does not meet the requirements of the Application Context Statement.**

**APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS BY CATEGORY**

Work sample and other application requirements vary by category. Please review the work sample specifications for your specific category carefully when preparing your application. Applications that do not meet all Rules and Instructions and eligibility requirements outlined in these Rules and Instructions are subject to disqualification.

## Film/Video

**This category accepts all genres of film and video (such as feature length films, shorts, animation, documentaries, etc.) as well as any other time-based work produced by recording visual images.**

One example of the applicant's original work must be uploaded into the online application:

- The uploaded video file has a maximum **time limit of 10 minutes** and **may not exceed 500MB.**
- Do not submit more than one work in the file. (Compilations of multiple films are not eligible.)
- The submitted video file must represent a contiguous portion of the work. (Do not submit a collection of excerpts.)
- The work must have been completed after July 16, 2021.
- The applicant artist must be solely responsible for the creative decisions regarding the conception, directing, and editing of the work submitted. (Collaborations are not eligible.)
- Do not submit works in progress.
- Work completed or primarily produced while the applicant was a student is not eligible.
- The video work sample must be stripped of any identifying metadata embedded in the file, and the file name(s) must not contain the applicant's name or other identifying information.
- Works purely generated through AI are not eligible for submission, as the artist must have *sole creative control over the conceptualization and implementation* of the submitted work(s). Projects that utilize AI as part of a generative process but where the artist retains creative control of the finished work are eligible. If an AI-powered tool was used as part of the creative process, artists should disclose which tool was used and how in the technical information space of the application.

Applicants should be prepared to supply the following information about the work sample in the online application:

- Title of the work.
- Length of the full work.
- The month and year of completion.
- A short, two to three sentence synopsis or description of the full work. The synopsis should help situate the submitted section in the context of the larger work, if applicable.
- Applicants may also include other relevant technical details about the creation of the work in the technical information section of the application (for example: camera equipment

used, methods of editing, etc.). If working as the head of a production team, applicants should explain their specific role(s) in the creation of the work, keeping in mind that the applicant must have maintained creative control over the full work in order for it to be eligible for this program.
- (Optional) Applicants who wish to include additional information about their creative process have the option to submit an Application Context Statement (see pages 13-14 for details).

### Digital/Electronic
**This category accepts time-based, interactive, or kinetic work where technology is pivotal to the meaning and/or presentation of the work such as electronic installations, virtual and augmented reality, internet projects, and other emerging forms. Film/video and responsive audio components which are incorporated into a larger installation work are also accepted in this category.**

Examples of appropriate work include:
- Works which derive significant meaning from being displayed on or combined with computers, screens, or other electronic or digital media.
- Sculptural works incorporating digital technology, video, responsive audio components, or electronic movement.
- Interactive sculptural installations that include digital technology, video, responsive audio components, or other electronic elements.
- Virtual and augmented reality projects.
- Internet projects that require participant engagement.
- Projects that include artistic interpretive use or creative manipulation of existing digital platforms and tools, such as social media, QR codes, or open-source software. (Note: Applicants must retain sole creative control over the conceptualization and implementation of the project. Applicants must also be able to submit work anonymously in order for it to be eligible for this program. This includes usernames and social media handles.)
- Video of live demonstrations where the applicant or another participant is required to actively manipulate the technological elements of the work are also accepted. (Note: The applicant should not be identified as the person in the video, when applicable.)

Work that would **NOT** be considered appropriate includes:
- Work in which digital technology is used primarily as a tool for production and/or fabrication and does not significantly contribute to the meaning of the work, such as graphic design, video/photo production and editing, or CNC fabricated sculptures.
- Static digital collage and digital painting are not eligible.
- Works purely generated through AI are not eligible for submission, as the applicant must have *sole creative control over the conceptualization and implementation* of the submitted work(s). Projects that utilize AI as part of a generative process but where the applicant retains creative control of the finished work are eligible. If an AI-powered tool

was used as part of the creative process, applicants should disclose which tool was used and how in the technical information space of the application.
- Virtual artist databases or digitized facsimiles of work in other mediums (for example: scanned paintings, eBooks, etc.).
- Kinetic work that does not rely on electronic technology for movement or operation must be entered into discipline most dominant (for example: a wind-powered kinetic sculpture with no electronic or digital components should be submitted in the Sculpture category).
- Web design, marketing campaigns, and social media accounts that are used only to document or promote a project or artist.
- Work based in dance, theater, music, or other performance genres are not eligible in this category, even if the work features elements such as complex lighting designs or video projections.

Applicants will be provided with space to upload four to six digital images OR short video clips of their original work in the online application:
- Either an image or video file will be accepted for each upload. Applicants may submit any combination of images and video that best represents their work within the space allotted in the application. Applicants may submit both image and video documentation of the same work.
- Please submit a minimum of four samples of your work. Do not submit more than six total examples of your work. Your samples may represent individual works or you may represent one work with more than one sample. You may also choose a combination of those options as long as you do not exceed a total of six samples. Be sure all samples are properly labelled with the title of the work.
- Composite images are discouraged but will be accepted as long as no more than six pieces of work in total are represented in the application.
- All work samples must have been created after July 16, 2021.
- Do not submit works in progress or work completed while the applicant was a student.
- *No signatures, initials, or recognizable artist marks/identifiers may appear in the digital images or within the videos.*

If submitting video as your work sample documentation:
- Each video clip must be **no longer than one minute in length** and **no larger than 100MB**.
- The video should demonstrate how the work samples function.
- Video may only provide documentation of the submitted work samples. Do not submit promotional videos, still images presented as a slideshow, interviews with the applicant, or other commentary that provides interpretation of the work.
- Video work sample(s) must be stripped of any identifying metadata embedded in the file(s), and the file name(s) must not contain the applicant's name or other identifying information.

Applicants should be prepared to supply the following information about each work sample in the online application:

- Title of the work sample.
- Medium.
- Dimensions (if applicable).
- Month and year of completion.
- Applicants should also describe the production technique, materials, and technical processes related to the creation of the work samples in the technical information section of the online application (for example: software used, how mechanical structures were built out, etc.).
- (Optional) Applicants who wish to include additional information about their creative process have the option to submit an Application Context Statement (see pages 13-14 for details).

### Interdisciplinary

**This category accepts work that is created by combining two or more Fellowship disciplines. The category is intended for work that would not otherwise be appropriate for review in any of the individual Fellowship disciplines due to the interdisciplinary nature of the work. Mixed media work that is primarily one medium, or work where each disciplinary component could be performed or exhibited independently should NOT be submitted in this category.**

#### *Eligibility Check*
Before starting an application, applicants submitting in the Interdisciplinary category should reference their work against the following criteria to help ensure eligibility:

- The applicant must be the individual who had sole creative control over the conceptualization and creation of all work submitted under their name. Creative collaborations are not eligible, although the artist may have received assistance with the physical production of the work.
- Any work where each disciplinary component could be performed or exhibited independently is not eligible. For example, a musical composition that is used for a choreographed dance performance would not be eligible, even if both were created by a single artist. **This category is intended for work that is not well suited for any other single Fellowship discipline.**
- Artists who work in more than one discipline separately but do not combine those disciplines into single, interdisciplinary works are not eligible.
- Applications submitted in this category will be evaluated by panelists representing a broad range of artistic disciplines and interdisciplinary practices. Keep in mind the type of panel that is best suited to evaluate your work; if your work is primarily based in a single discipline such as printmaking, the panelist evaluating the Printmaking/Drawing/Book Arts category will have more specialized experience in the type of work you are submitting.
- The submitted work sample(s) must incorporate at least two of the Fellowship artistic disciplines listed on page 9 of these Rules and Instructions. For example, a

dancer who also choreographed the work that is being performed would not be eligible as dance performance is not an Individual Artist Fellowship artistic discipline.

- Mixed media work that is primarily one medium should NOT be submitted in this category. For example, a painting that incorporates a small amount of collage should be submitted in the Painting category.
- Works purely generated through AI are not eligible for submission, as the artist must have *sole creative control over the conceptualization and implementation* of the submitted work(s). Projects that utilize AI as part of a generative process but where the applicant retains creative control of the finished work are eligible. If an AI-powered tool was used as part of the creative process, applicants should disclose which tool was used and how in the technical information space of the application.

Applicants will be provided with space to upload four to six digital images and/or short video clips of their original work. **OR** one to four PDFs of their original work:

If submitting digital images as work sample documentation:

- Four to six digital images of the applicant's original work must be uploaded into the online application.
- Your samples may represent individual works, or you may represent one work with more than one sample. You may also choose a combination of those options as long as you do not exceed a total of six samples. Be sure all samples are properly labelled with the title of the work.
- Composite images are discouraged but will be accepted as long as no more than six pieces of work in total are represented in the application.
- All work samples must have been created after July 16, 2021.
- *No signatures, initials, or recognizable artist marks/identifiers may appear in the digital images.*
- Do not submit works in progress or work completed while the applicant was a student.

  Applicants should be prepared to supply the following information about each work sample in the online application:
  - Title of the work sample.
  - Medium.
  - Dimensions.
  - Month and year of completion.
  - Applicants should also describe the production techniques, materials, and technical processes related to the creation of the work samples in the technical information section of the online application (for example: elaboration about specific techniques used, how materials were applied, etc.).

- (Optional) Applicants who wish to include additional information about their creative process have the option to submit an Application Context Statement (see pages 13-14 for details).

If submitting video as work sample documentation:

- If submitting video in addition to digital images, each video clip must be **no longer that one minute in length and no larger than 100MB.**
- If submitting **ONLY** video files, you may upload:
  - **TWO (2) work samples with a maximum time limit of 5 minutes each. May not exceed 250 MB each.**
  - **Or ONE (1) work sample with a maximum time limit of 10 minutes. May not exceed 500MB.**
- Only one work sample should be documented in each video.
- Video may only provide documentation of the submitted work samples. Do not submit promotional videos, still images presented as a slideshow, interviews with the applicant, or other commentary that provides interpretation of the work.
- All work samples must have been created after July 16, 2021.
- Do not submit works in progress or work completed while the applicant was a student.

  Applicants should be prepared to supply the following information about the work sample in the online application:
  - Title of the work.
  - Length of the full work.
  - The month and year of completion.
  - A short, two to three sentence synopsis or description of the full work. The synopsis should help situate the submitted section in the context of the larger work, if applicable.
  - Applicants may also include other relevant technical details about the creation of the work in the technical information section of the application (for example: elaboration about specific techniques used, how materials were applied, methods of editing, etc.).
  - (Optional) Applicants who wish to include interpretation of the work or information about their creative process have the option to submit an Application Context Statement (see pages 13-14 for details).

If submitting PDF(s) as work sample documentation:
- One to four PDFs of the applicant's original work must be uploaded into the online application.
- Each PDF should not exceed 10 pages.
- All work samples must be submitted in English. Authors may translate their own work into English if originally written in a different language. English translations of work by

authors other than the applicant and translations of the applicant's work by someone other than the applicant are not permitted.
- Text must be a standard, easy-to-read font (Times New Roman, Calibri, or Arial), in 12-point size.
- Work submitted as .pdfs must be written work samples. Do not submit images as .pdfs. Images should be submitted as **.jpeg, .jpg, .png, .bmp** files as described above.
- Do not submit works in progress or work completed while the applicant was a student.
- Work sample(s) must have been completed after July 16, 2021.

Applicants must provide information about the work sample including:
- Title of the work(s).
- Length of each work in pages.
- The month and year of completion.
- A short, two to three sentence synopsis of the work. The synopsis should help situate the submitted section in the context of the larger work, if applicable.
- (Optional) Applicants who wish to include interpretation of the work or information about their creative process have the option to submit an Application Context Statement (see pages 13-14 for details).

### Painting
**This category accepts watercolor, acrylic, gouache, oil, tempera, encaustic, mural/fresco, graffiti, and paintings that incorporate mixed media. Digital painting is not accepted.**

Four to six digital images of the applicant's original work must be uploaded into the online application:
- Your samples may represent individual works, or you may represent one work with more than one sample. You may also choose a combination of those options as long as you do not exceed a total of six samples. Be sure all samples are properly labelled with the title of the work. Composite images are discouraged but will be accepted as long as no more than six pieces of work in total are represented in the application.
- All work samples must have been created after July 16, 2021.
- *No signatures, initials, or recognizable artist marks/identifiers may appear in the digital images.* Self-portraits should not be identified as such if the image contains the recognizable likeness of the artist.
- Do not submit works in progress or work completed while the applicant was a student.
- Works purely generated through AI are not eligible for submission, as the artist must have *sole creative control over the conceptualization and implementation* of the submitted work(s). Projects that utilize AI as part of a generative process but where the applicant retains creative control of the finished work are eligible. If an AI-powered tool was used as part of the creative process, applicants should disclose which tool was used and how in the technical information space of the application.

Applicants should be prepared to supply the following information about each work sample in the online application:

- Title of the work sample.
- Medium.
- Dimensions.
- Month and year of completion.
- Applicants should also describe the production techniques, materials, and technical processes related to the creation of the work samples in the technical information section of the online application (for example: elaboration about specific techniques used, how materials were applied, etc.).
- (Optional) Applicants who wish to include additional information about their creative process have the option to submit an Application Context Statement (see pages 13-14 for details).

### Printmaking/Drawing/Book Arts

**This category accepts all forms of drawing, printmaking, etching, collage, illustration, installations in which printmaking or drawing techniques are pivotal, and other visual media other than painting. Book art and examples of artistic bookmaking are also eligible in this category. Artist catalogues and literary books are not accepted. Other sculptural forms constructed of paper should be submitted in the Sculpture category. Work that only exists in digital format is <u>not</u> accepted.**

Four to six digital images of the applicant's original work must be uploaded into the online application:

- Your samples may represent individual works, or you may represent one work with more than one sample. You may also choose a combination of those options as long as you do not exceed a total of six samples. Be sure all samples are properly labelled with the title of the work.
- Composite images are discouraged but will be accepted as long as no more than six work samples in total are represented in the application.
- All work samples must have been created after July 16, 2021.
- *No signatures, initials, or recognizable artist marks/identifiers may appear in the digital images.* Self-portraits should not be identified as such if the image contains the recognizable likeness of the artist.
- Do not submit works in progress or work completed while the applicant was a student.
- Works purely generated through AI are not eligible for submission, as the artist must have *sole creative control over the conceptualization and implementation* of the submitted work(s). Projects that utilize AI as part of a generative process but where the applicant retains creative control of the finished work are eligible. If an AI-powered tool was used as part of the creative process, applicants should disclose which tool was used and how in the technical information space of the application.

Applicants should be prepared to supply the following information about each work sample in the online application:

- Title of the work sample.
- Medium.
- Dimensions.
- Month and year of completion.
- Applicants should also describe the production techniques, materials, and technical processes related to the creation of the work samples in the technical information section of the online application (for example: elaboration about specific techniques used, how materials were applied, etc.).
- (Optional) Applicants who wish to include additional information about their creative process have the option to submit an Application Context Statement (see pages 13-14 for details).

### Prose

**This category accepts all forms of fiction, literary nonfiction, and other creative prose including novels, novellas, short stories, essays, criticism, journalism, and biography. Technical writing is not accepted. \*Poetry and Playwriting/Screenwriting are NOT accepted, as those disciplines are reviewed in alternate years.**

A 10–20-page section of single, original work by the applicant must be uploaded into the online application:

- The full work sample must have been completed after July 16, 2021.
- The submitted section of the work sample must represent a contiguous portion of the full text (do not submit a collection of excerpts). Panelists will be asked to read the entire 10-20 pages submitted.
- All work samples must be submitted in English. Authors may translate their own work into English if originally written in a different language. English translations of work by authors other than the applicant and translations of the applicant's work by someone other than the applicant are not permitted.
- Do not include identifying or crediting information, including the applicant's name/pen name, literary agent information, or publication details.
- Do not submit works in progress or work completed while the applicant was a student.
- Works purely generated through AI are not eligible for submission, as the artist must have *sole creative control over the conceptualization and implementation* of the submitted work(s). Projects that utilize AI as part of a generative process but where the applicant retains creative control of the finished work are eligible. If an AI-powered tool was used as part of the creative process, applicants should disclose which tool was used and how in the technical information space of the application.

To help with legibility and ease of review during the panel evaluation process, please format the submitted work sample document according to the following specifications:

- Standard 8 ½" x 11" page size.

- Double spaced.
- One-inch page margins.
- Text must be a standard, easy-to-read font (Times New Roman, Calibri, or Arial), in 12-point size.
- Title pages may only include the name of the work. Title pages will not be factored into the page count.
- Pages must be numbered, preferably in the lower right-hand corner of each page.
- In cases where accompanying images are integral to the understanding of the written work, such as graphic novels, the applicant may include illustrations or images. Please note, however, that only the applicant's written work will be evaluated. The applicant must provide a photo credit or credits for the included image(s) or note that the images were created by the "applicant" to protect their anonymity. Stock photos, clip art, and other images that identify the applicant or are intended to embellish the document will not be accepted.

Applicants must provide information about the work sample including:
- Title of the work.
- Length of the full work in pages.
- The month and year of completion.
- A short, two to three sentence synopsis of the full work. The synopsis should help situate the submitted section in the context of the larger work, if applicable.
- (Optional) Applicants who wish to include additional information about their creative process have the option to submit an Application Context Statement (see pages 13-14 for details)


*Reminder:* In addition to the requirements above, all work samples must follow the technical and anonymity requirements outlined on page 11-13.

**APPLICATION ASSISTANCE RESOURCES**

## Webinars

These optional webinars allow applicants to attend a scheduled training session online and offer opportunities to ask general questions about the program and application. The webinars provide an overview of the program requirements and are ideal for anyone who would benefit from step-by-step instruction on how to complete the online application.

Registration is required to participate in the webinars. Individuals that register for the webinars will receive the connection information and instructions via email. To register, please follow the link listed next to your desired Webinar date. Please note that both webinars cover the same information.

| WEBINAR 1: | **Thursday, June 12, 2025** \| 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM ET |
| --- | --- |
| | 🔗https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_yl7zy8VaSdCxEzr7WHsVdw |
| WEBINAR 2: | **Tuesday, June 24, 2025** \| 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM ET |
| | 🔗 https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_eHiLG6pHTdS62tn5BDDrHQ |

**CC** Auto-generated closed captioning through the Zoom platform will be provided during both webinars. For other accommodation requests, please contact fellowships@midatlanticarts.org or 410-539-6656 x 101 at least five business days prior to the webinar.

A captioned webinar recording will be posted on the Mid Atlantic Arts website and YouTube channel following the June 12th presentation.

## Quick Start Video Tutorial

The Quick Start video offers a basic introduction to Mid Atlantic Arts' new SmartSimple application software and can be found on the Mid Atlantic Arts website and YouTube channel.

## Work Sample Preparation Guide

This guide assists artists with the technical requirements for audio, video, image, and literary work samples and addresses many frequently asked questions. The document is available on the Mid Atlantic Arts website.

**CONTACTING MID ATLANTIC ARTS**

If you have reviewed the available resources and need assistance or have questions pertaining to the program requirements, please contact:

Mid Atlantic Arts
fellowships@midatlanticarts.org
410-539-6656 x 101

Support is available 9:00 AM through 5:00 PM ET, Monday through Friday.

**Applicants are encouraged to request assistance as early in the application process as possible**. Applicants receive assistance from Mid Atlantic Arts staff on a first-come, first-served basis and should be aware that demand increases significantly as the deadline approaches.

Mid Atlantic Arts is not able to assist with the recording or editing of work sample content.