



## NYSCA/NYFA Artist Fellowship 2021 FICTION Guidelines

### Application Deadline:

**Wednesday, February 10, 2021 11:59 PM EST**

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

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### Discipline Definition

#### Fiction

This category accepts work in all varieties and genres of prose fiction, including novels, short stories, and experimental forms. Work in graphic or “comic book” fiction is also accepted in this category.

### Application Requirements

When submitting an application to the FICTION category you will need to complete:

Required:

- **Artist Statement** - up to 100 words
- **Work Statement** - up to 100 words
- **Work Samples** - up to 20 page double spaced PDF manuscript

Optional written statements:

- **Excerpt Explanation** - up to 400 words
- **Cultural Statement** - up to 400 words

### Work Samples - *Manuscript of your Literary work*

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.

**Work Sample Inventory:** Applicants can submit **up to 20 pages** from a manuscript that best represents their practice. Please also include a **1 page title page** in your PDF in addition to the 20 page manuscript (21 pages in total). The title page should include the title of the piece and the date of completion, but not the name of the author. 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. Do not include your artistic résumé in your .pdf. Materials can be previously published or not. If published, scanned excerpts from books or periodicals, in published form, will be ineligible. Manuscripts must be in English, but can be translated into English by someone other than the artist.

**Work Sample Descriptions:** Before you upload the .pdf file to your application, you will need to name your file. **Do not label your work sample with your name.** Instead, label it with the title of your work.

After your work sample has been uploaded, you will be able to provide a description (metadata) including title, date the work was completed, and additional information. *Do not include production or publication history.*

**File Format:**

File name: label your manuscript with the title of the work, ex. *The Big Story.pdf* or *Work Sample 2021*

Length: Up to 20 pages. Must be 12 point font and double spaced.

Title Page: One page title page with the title of the work(s), and year of completion, but not the name of the author/applicant.

Language: English

File format: .pdf

**Support Statements - *Written Statement About Your Artistic Practice***

**Artist Statement:** A short concise statement giving an overview of your artistic practice. This statement should give a brief introduction to ideas, themes and methods in your practice. This is not an Artist's Bio. Up to 100 words.

**Work Statement:** A statement explaining your artistic vision as directly related to your submitted work samples. This is not an artist statement, but should instead reflect the ideas and inspiration relevant ONLY to the work submitted. Up to 100 words.

*The work statement is available to panelists in the first round of review.*

**Questions to consider for your Work Statement:** *Referencing only the submitted Work Samples*

1. What is your submitted work about?
2. How does this work represent the primary concerns and intentions of your artistic practice as described in your artist statement?

**Excerpt Explanation (Optional):** A supplemental statement further explains the context, concept, and execution of your work sample(s). This statement should explain how the excerpted work sample relates to the entire original piece. Within the Excerpt Explanation you can itemize each submitted work sample(s) and discuss them individually. Up to 400 words.



**Questions to consider for your Excerpt Explanation:** *Referencing only the submitted Work Samples*

1. How does your work sample(s) relate to the full work?
2. What information is needed to give context to your work samples?

**Cultural Statement (Optional):** A supplemental statement describing how your work is rooted in a specific cultural technique, tradition or community. Up to 400 words.

**Write a Cultural Statement if:** *Referencing only the submitted Work Samples*

1. Your practice stems from a specific and/or unique cultural tradition.
2. The understanding of your work is dependent on the context of a cultural community.

**Review Process - How Are Applications Reviewed?**

Fiction applications are reviewed over the course of 3 elimination rounds.

In Round 1, panelists review all applications remotely and vote online. In the following round panelists meet online and discuss applications and select Fellowship recipients.

In the first round of review, panelists are directed to review only your work samples, work statement and corresponding descriptions. During preliminary rounds, applications are assigned a number and are reviewed anonymously.

All supplementary statements will be reviewed alongside your work samples in later rounds.

*Please note, panelists will not look at websites of any kind during the application review process. Submitting any work that has been awarded a NYSCA/NYFA Artist Fellowship in the past will automatically disqualify your application.*

## Quick Tips Before You Submit!

- Read Discipline Specific Guidelines thoroughly!
- Ensure you meet all Eligibility requirements:
  - You are at least 25 years or older.
  - You are a current New York State resident, and/or a resident of one of the Indian Nations located therein.
  - You have lived in New York State, and/or one of the Indian Nations located therein for the past two consecutive years: all of 2019 & 2020.
  - If you are a past NYSCA/NYFA Artist Fellow, none of the work samples you have submitted have previously received an award.



- You are not currently enrolled in a degree-seeking program of any kind.
  - You are the originator of the artwork submitted.
  - You have not received five NYSCA/NYFA Artist Fellowships.
  - You have not received a Fellowship in the last five years, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, or 2020.
  - 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, immediate family member of any of the above, or an immediate family member of a 2021 panelist.
- Before you upload your *Work Samples*, check to make sure:
- Your work sample file is a .pdf
  - You have included up to 20 pages, **12 point font, double spaced**
  - You have included a title page with the title of the work and the date of completion
  - Your name is not present anywhere in your descriptions, file names, or title page
  - 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
- Before you upload your *Work Statement*, check to make sure:
- Your work statement is concise, referencing only the work in your application
  - Your statement doesn't use "jargon"
  - 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."
- Before you upload an *Excerpt Explanation (Optional)*, check to make sure:
- You have explained the work samples submitted and contextualized their placement within your larger work
  - Your excerpt explanation does not repeat your work statement
  - Within the excerpt explanation you can itemize each submitted work sample and write about them individually.
- Upload a *Cultural Statement (optional)*:



**Council on  
the Arts**



- 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.

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

You will receive an automatic confirmation notification from Submittable once your application has been successfully submitted. If you do not see this confirmation, please contact [fellowships@nyfa.org](mailto:fellowships@nyfa.org).

Application **Deadline:**

**Wednesday, February 10, 2021 at 11:59PM EST**

Applications submitted after the stated deadline will not be accepted and no exceptions will be made. We highly recommend completing your application before the deadline to allow time for work samples to upload and to avoid potential technical problems.

***Thank you for your application!***

Contact us at:  
[fellowships@nyfa.org](mailto:fellowships@nyfa.org)