NYSCA/NYFA Artist Fellowship
2021 FOLK/TRADITIONAL ARTS Guidelines

Application Deadline:

Wednesday, February 10, 2021 11:59 PM EST

NYFA <u>only</u> accepts application submitted online at *apply.nyfa.org/submit*

Discipline Definition

Folk/Traditional Arts

This category accepts works of traditional folk art and creative and cultural expressions. Folk/Traditional Arts is rooted in tradition and is connected to the cultural life of a community.

Work that is traditionally practiced within and among ethnic, regional, occupational, and religious groups as well as other kinds of communities with a common identity. Artistic forms can include: performing traditions in music, dance, and drama; traditional storytelling and other verbal arts; festivals; traditional crafts, visual arts, architecture, the adornment and transformation of the built environment, and other kinds of material folk culture.

Application Requirements

When submitting an application to the FOLK/TRADITIONAL category you will need to complete:

Required:
- **Artist Statement** - up to 100 words
- **Work Statement** - up to 100 words
- **Cultural Statement** - up to 400 words
- **Work Samples** - up to 8 digital images and/or 2 videos up-to 2-minutes each in length, and or 2 audio excerpts up-to 2-minutes in length

Optional written statements:
- **Excerpt Explanation** – up to 400 words
- **Technical Statement** - up to 200 words

Work Samples - *Images and/or Video Footage, and/or Audio of your Artistic Practice*

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

Work Sample Inventory:
Applicants do not need to upload work samples in all types, however they can if they wish. Applicants should upload work samples in a format that best represents their practice.

IMAGES **Applicants can submit up to 8 digital images**. You do not need to submit all 8 work samples if you feel your practice is represented well with fewer.

We do not recommend applicants upload composite images. Each application can only have up to 8 artworks represented across work samples. Images of diptychs, installations, and multi-part works are not considered composites.

VIDEO Applicants may submit **two 2-minute video footage of their work**.

If submitting video footage, the application will need to select one video to be reviewed during the first round of review. The second video will be presented in the later rounds of review. *Please ensure you uploaded the first-round video in the corresponding questions in the application form.*

The two videos may relate to the same project or to two different projects. Submitting video samples consisting of multiple clips from different projects is not allowed. "Demo Reels" or highlight reels should also be avoided.

Titles and credits (without artist's name) are allowed, although applicants should consider whether this is needed within the video footage itself or if this information is clearly communicated in the labeling of the file and use of metadata. Video footage is never reviewed separately from the metadata included.

AUDIO Applicants may submit **two 2-minute audio excerpts of their work.**

If submitting audio excerpts, the application will need to select one audio file to be reviewed during the first round of review. The second video will be presented in the later rounds of review. *Please ensure you uploaded the first-round audio excerpt in the corresponding questions in the application form.*

Each excerpt can not exceed **2 minutes** in duration. Excerpts can be taken from one individual work or two separate full length audio works.

Work Sample Descriptions: Before you upload your files to your application, you will need to name your files. **Do not label any work samples with your name.** Instead, label each uploaded work sample starting with a number 01, 02, 03 ex. followed by the title of the work or *01 work sample, 02 work sample …* ex.

After your work samples have uploaded, you will be able to provide descriptions (metadata) for each submitted work sample, including title, date the work was created, duration, and additional information.

If your piece is largely conceptual, and requires additional written context, please explain this in the "additional information" section using 1 - 2 sentences.

File Format: IMAGES
File name: label each image starting with a number 01 through 08, followed by the title of the work, ex. *01_Landscape.jpg* Do not label the file with your name.
File size: No larger than 4.0 MB (each image)
File format: .jpg

When formatting your images, RGB is the recommended color profile for screen viewing and your image resolution should be *at least* 72 dpi to avoid pixelation. You can use image editing software such as Photoshop or Preview to edit, resize and format your images.

File Format: VIDEO
File name: label each file starting with a number 01 through 02, followed by the title of the work (label if an excerpt), ex. *01_Landscape.mov / 01_Landscape_Excerpt.mp4.* Do not label the file with your name.
File size: No larger than 2 GB
Length: 2 video files, no longer than 2-minutes each
File format: .mov/.mp4

If your video files are too large, you'll need to compress them in order to upload them to the application. You can do so using video editing software, such as Movie Maker, Premiere, Final Cut, iMovie, etc.

When editing your video it is important to ensure your file is formatted correctly so that your video will play across a range of platforms whilst maintaining quality. Therefore it is important to choose the right codec and container for your file.

A codec is a method for encoding and decoding data and is used for compressing data, particularly video. Choosing the right container can depend on several desired outcomes, i.e. file size, playback quality, capabilities for re-editing etc. There are many codec and container combinations but h.264 and .mov or .mp4 are preferred as they are supported by a wide range of media players with little loss of quality.

File Format: AUDIO
File name: label each file starting with a number 01 through 02, followed by the title of the work ex. *01_Landscape.mp3.* Do not label the file with your name.
Length: Maximum of 2 minutes
File size: No larger than 2 GB
File format: .mp3/.m4a/.wav/.aiff

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 only 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?

Cultural Statement: A supplemental statement describing how your work is rooted in a specific cultural technique, tradition or community. Up to 400 words.
The cultural statement is available to panelists in the first round of review.

> **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.

Technical Statement (*Optional):* A supplemental statement describing the key technical aspects of the work. Use this statement to highlight your role in creating/executing the work. Be sure to note whether your work samples represent documentation of a performance, installation, experience, etc. You can also describe the circumstances in which the viewer/audience should experience the work. Please include instructions on how to navigate your work if it's interactive. Up to 200 words.

> **Questions to consider for your Technical Statement:** _Referencing only the submitted Work Samples_
> 1. How was the work created/executed?
> 2. What specific technology are integral to creating the work?

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 talk about 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?

Review Process - *How Are Applications Reviewed?*

Folk/Traditional Arts 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 preliminary rounds, applications are assigned a number and reviewed anonymously. In these rounds panelists are directed to review and score applications by the work samples; 8 images, one 2-minute video, and one 2-minute audio (selected by the applicant). In addition, the work statement and cultural statement will also be reviewed by the panel during preliminary rounds.

In later rounds panelists will have access to all submitted information.

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 the 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 <u>two</u> 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 <u>five</u> 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:
- Image files are .jpg and/or .mov/.mp4
- Your images are not pixelated, and that they are in focus
- Your name is not present anywhere in your descriptions or file names
- Your image files are numbered 01 to 08, your videos 01 & 02, and your audios 01 & 02
- You've added descriptions to your work samples where necessary
- All of your *images* work sample files are less than 4MB & *videos* and *Audio* are less than 2GB
- Any detail images are clearly labeled as "detail" in the title of the image
- No more than 8 artworks are represented in your application

❏ 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 "art speak"
- 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.

❏ Upload 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.

❏ Before you upload a *Technical Statement (optional),* check to make sure:
- You describe how your script would be produced in its intended medium
- If your work should be viewed or interacted with in a certain way, you explain this here
- If need be, you have itemized each work or group of works to better explain your work samples

❏ 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 talk about them individually.

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 .

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