



# NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS (NYSICA)

## SUPPORT FOR ARTISTS

Application due:  
September 1, 2021  
at 4PM

[www.arts.ny.gov](http://www.arts.ny.gov)



Top image: Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival,  
Photo Credit: T Charles Erickson  
Bottom Image: Alvin Ailey American Dance  
Theatre, photo courtesy of Ailey

# NYSCA SUPPORT FOR ARTISTS

The New York State Council on the Arts recognizes that artists are at the center of creative endeavor. NYSCA is committed to providing opportunities for artists, at all stages in their careers, to continue to develop and present their work. NYSCA Support for Artists seeks to:

- Enhance the vibrant and diverse artistic voices of New York State-based art makers.
- Invest in projects that represent significant growth in the artistic development of individual artists.
- Strengthen the relationships between individual artists and the artistic goals and mission of the sponsoring or commissioning organization, as applicable.

For FY 2022 NYSCA will offer the following funding opportunities for artists.

## **NYSCA-NYFA Artist Fellowship Program:**

For over thirty years, NYSCA has partnered with the New York Foundation for the Arts (NYFA) to offer fellowship to artists in fifteen different disciplines. For more information on this year's areas of support and how to apply click here: <https://www.nyfa.org/awards-grants/artist-fellowships/>

## **NYSCA Support for Artists:**

For FY 2022 artists may apply for a creative grant to NYSCA, via a sponsoring organization, by selecting from the following artistic areas via a drop-down menu in the application portal.

- Choreography Commissions
- Composer Compositions
- Film, Media, and New Technology
- Folk and Traditional Arts
- Interdisciplinary
- Literature
- Theater Commissions
- Visual Arts

**Funding Amounts:** Awards will be \$10,000.

While no matching amount is required, if the applicant proposes work that will require more resources than this grant can offer, the applicant should explain how they will be able to complete the work.

For questions, please contact Program Staff in the discipline area most aligned with your artistic work. View contact information here: <https://arts.ny.gov/contact>

## NYSCA MISSION AND VALUES

### *Mission*

The New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) is dedicated to preserving and expanding the rich and diverse cultural resources that are and will become the heritage of New York's citizens.

### *Values*

At NYSCA, our efforts are guided by our belief in the fundamental importance of arts and cultural expression in people's lives and a commitment to serving our three constituencies: artists, arts and cultural organizations, and the public.

### *We believe that:*

- Artists are at the center of creative endeavor.
  - Strong arts and cultural organizations are vital to connecting the arts to people's lives.
- Every citizen of New York State can have a meaningful connection to creativity and every community has a right to cultural self-determination.

## INELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES AND COSTS

New York State law and NYSCA policy restrict the types of activities and expenditures that NYSCA may fund. NYSCA is unable to award funding for the following:

- Costs that are funded by another government or private grant or loan source, including but not limited to the Payroll Protection Plan (PPP) loans and Shuttered Venue Operators Grant (SVOG) programs from the Federal Small Business Administration (SBA).
- Accumulated deficits and debt reductions
- Activities not open to the public, for example, activities restricted to an organization's membership. Funded activities must be open to the public and promoted as such
- Competitions and contests
- Components of an organization's budget that are not directed towards programs in New York State
- Entertainment costs for receptions, openings, and fundraising benefits/events
- Major expenditures for the establishment of a new organization
- Costs of lobbying activity
- Operating expenses and fellowships at professional training schools that are not open to the general public
- Administrative overhead or fees charged by an affiliated institution or university
- Operating expenses of privately-owned facilities (such as homes and studios)
- Out-of-state travel expenses
- Programs of public-school districts or their components or affiliates

- Programs that are essentially recreational, rehabilitative, or therapeutic
- Programs of New York State agencies or departments
- Programs of public colleges and universities except under limited circumstances. Entities with close public college or university affiliations will be examined on a case-by-case basis to determine eligibility. Such applicants are strongly advised to contact NYSCA program staff in advance of the application deadline to determine eligibility.

Additionally, NYSCA is unable to support the following in this category:

- Projects that have already received NYSCA funding.
- Artists or work not specified in the application. Support will only be provided towards the work and lead artist specified in the application.
- Requests from artists currently on staff and/or on the board of the sponsoring organization.
- Student projects or applicants enrolled as full-time students at the time of application are not eligible for support.
- Projects that are primarily part of a college/university or K-12 school curriculum.
- Artists as principal personnel on more than one project. (You may only apply once).
- Work outside of the grant period (January 2022 – December 2022).
- Artists applying for NYSCA Support for Artists cannot apply for support the following year even if no funding was received. An application for the same project cannot be submitted in the following year, even if the principal artist is different. This allows NYSCA to reach a greater number of artists and projects with its limited funds.

## SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS

As NYSCA cannot make grants directly to individuals, each applicant must be sponsored by an eligible New York State nonprofit organization. Grants are awarded to the sponsoring organization, which then directs the funds to the artist.

Eligible fiscal sponsors are non-profit organizations incorporated or registered to do business in New York State. Such organizations must be fully Prequalified in the Grants Gateway. More information: <https://arts.ny.gov/FAQforApplicants>

Sponsoring organizations may serve as fiscal agents and limit their role to receiving, disbursing, and reporting on grants. The sponsoring organization may alternatively provide additional fiscal, administrative and production services to the artists they sponsor.

Sponsoring organizations other than service organizations may request support for only one creative grant in each area of support per year.

## SPONSORING ORGANIZATION RESPONSIBILITIES

- Understanding NYSCA criteria and relevant guidelines.
- Not imposing a fee on artists for sponsoring their applications. However, an administrative fee of up to **\$500** of the grant award may be charged.
- Verifying lead artist named in application is a current New York State resident.

- Ensuring work for which funding is sought will occur within the appropriate contract period.
- Consulting with the artist regarding project eligibility and conveying all relevant NYSCA application information, including deadlines and online access details.
- Submitting applications with all required supporting information.
- Informing the artist of funding decisions before the expiration of the appeals period.
- Executing a letter of agreement with the artist that clearly outlines the administration of the grant and defines mutual responsibilities.
- Receiving and disbursing granted funds.  
Ensuring that the artist(s) named in the application receive the contractually specified funds.
- Issuing 1099 IRS Tax forms as appropriate. These grants are considered earned income to the recipient.
- Submitting a final report on the expenditure of the grant funds after the end of the contract period.

### SPONSORED ARTIST ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

1. Artists must be aged 18 or older to apply.
2. *NYS Residency*: The lead artist(s) listed in the application must provide proof of residency to the sponsoring organization along with other support materials by the deadline set by the sponsor. For proof of residency, two different, current documents from the list below must be provided. All documentation must contain the artist's name and home address. Documentation must be dated no earlier than two years prior to NYSCA application deadline. Because NYSCA awards public funds, the Agency reserves the right to request additional documentation to verify New York residency. **NOTE: Proof of Residency documents are not to be submitted as part of the application.**
  - Telephone or home utility bill
  - Credit card and/or bank statement (name and address page only; financial and account information should be redacted)
  - NYS or Federal Tax form (first page only; social security and financial information should be redacted)
  - Current lease or mortgage agreement listing the artist's name and showing a NYS address
  - NY State Driver's license or NY State ID card
  - Voter's Registration Card

### ARTISTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR:

- Recognizing that when choosing a sponsor, it is best practice that the artist understands the role of the sponsoring organization.
- Working with the sponsoring organization regarding the submission of the application.
- Supplying the Sponsoring Organization with a completed application narrative and any relevant support materials including proof of residency.
- Keeping themselves apprised of all NYSCA deadlines.
- Providing proper **NYSCA credit** upon receiving a grant.

- Offering public access during the grant period. This might be a performance of the work/work-in-progress, a presentation, an online component, or other publicly accessible element.

**Note:** Artistic control of, and proprietary rights to, any supported project rest exclusively with the artist.

The **FY2022 NYSCA Application Manual** (pdf)

[http://www.nysca.org/downloads/guidelines/FY2022/FY2022\\_Application\\_Manual.pdf](http://www.nysca.org/downloads/guidelines/FY2022/FY2022_Application_Manual.pdf) explains how to:

1. Review NYSCA's general requirements
2. Become Prequalified in the Grants Gateway

*The FY2022 NYSCA Application Portal for this opportunity will open online on **July 19, 2021**. (**Technical Instructions** on submitting an online application through the FY2022 NYSCA Application Portal will also be released by July 19, 2021 at <https://arts.ny.gov/FAQforApplicants>)*

## CRITERIA AND SCORING RUBRIC

NYSCA Artist Support grants will be assessed under one all-encompassing criterion: *Creativity*. Panelists will consider the application questions and supporting materials to determine a single rating (5-0) for the application. Any application scoring 2 and below will not be eligible for support.

<b>Creativity (5-0)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Clear artistic vision.</li> <li>-Relevance to the artistic development of the artist.</li> <li>-Significance, distinctiveness, and innovative qualities of the project.</li> <li>-Creative contributions to the discipline.</li> <li>-Viability of the project's prospects for completion.</li> <li>-Relationship and suitability of the project to the artistic goals and mission of the sponsoring or commissioning organization, if applicable.</li> </ul>



Category Score	Scoring Guide
5	Meets or exceeds all benchmarks.
4	Meets most benchmarks.
3	Meets some benchmarks.
2	Meets few benchmarks.
1	Does not meet any benchmarks.
0	Question left unanswered, activities not arts/culture, response provides insufficient detail to understand programming.

## REGISTRATION QUESTIONS

*All applicants will enter registration information including organization and contact information, mission statement, and the following registration details in the application. This information will automatically appear on your NYSCA application.*

- Organization Website
- Other Social Media
- Facilities: Describe location, any planned capital work, whether owned or leased and, if rented, when lease expires.
- Hours: When open to public
- Number of people served (audience/visitors/participants) data:
- In-person attendance 2019
- Virtual 2019
- In-person attendance 2020
- Virtual 2020

**Organization Type and Discipline:**

Keenly aware of how the arts world is changing, NYSCA wants you to share how you see your organization. How do you provide essential arts opportunities within your communities? Please select from the following drop-down menu the choice that best defines your non-profit's work.

**Drop Down 1: Organization Type**

Art Gallery

Arts Council

Arts Education Provider

Community Center

Community Music School

Dance Company

Design Organization

Folk and Traditional Art

Literary Organization

Media Arts Organization

Multi-Arts Center

Museum

Music Ensemble

Presenting Organization

Service Organization

Theater Company

Other \_\_\_\_\_



**Drop Down 2: Arts Discipline**

Film/Media Art &amp; Technology

Folk and Traditional Art

Literary Arts

Multi-Arts

Performing Arts

Visual Arts

Other \_\_\_\_\_

**SPONSORED REQUEST QUESTIONS**

- Sponsoring organization will verify lead artist named in application is a current New York State resident (NOTE: Proof of Residency documents are not to be submitted as part of the application)
- Basic contact information for the sponsored artist: (legal name, address, email, phone)
- Project Title: Provide Name of proposed project (up to 100 characters)
- Project Description: Provide a brief description of proposed project. (up to 250 characters)
- All funded projects will be awarded a grant for \$10,000. A sponsoring organization is eligible to take an administrative fee of up to \$500 for a funded project. List amount of fee being charged: (if no fee, put 0)
- Select artistic area from dropdown box

**NARRATIVE QUESTIONS** (up to 10,000 characters)

*To be filled out by all applicants and provided as the FIRST part of your uploaded support material package. On a self-produced document, each applicant is to speak to the following points as it relates to their proposed project:*

- Include the project title.
- Describe the project for which you are seeking support, including the work to be done in 2022.
- Provide a statement written by the lead artist describing their distinctive vision, stylistic and thematic qualities to be expressed in the proposed work. Include specific context about how proposed project builds on similar work in your field.
- List and describe each work sample's relationship to proposal: Describe each work sample and the relationship between the work sample and the proposed project, noting any stylistic or technical elements that are directly related to the proposed project. If the proposed project represents a new direction or departure from your past work as demonstrated in the work sample, this should also be discussed.
- Highlight how the individual or team possess relevant experience to creatively lead this project.

- Define the project's intended audience and detail any aspect of the project which will be made accessible to that audience in 2022, as applicable.

## CHOREOGRAPHY COMMISSIONS

*Choreography Commissions* encourages choreographers and companies to collaborate to broaden their repertoires. New York State-based professional dance companies and performance venues may apply for one commission. The project must culminate in a public performance, either in person or virtual, of the complete work or work-in-progress; a full-scale production is not required.

Dance companies may commission revivals, reconstructions of existing works or new works by guest choreographers. A guest choreographer is defined as one who does not have a permanent or ongoing relationship with the company as a resident choreographer.

For Performance Venues:

- The commissioned artist should not be receiving or applying for NYSCA Support for Organizations in the same request year.
- Priority will be given to smaller alternative spaces.

## Supporting Materials (single PDF upload)

1. A **signed letter of intent** from the choreographer/re-stager including the proposed commissioning fee and scheduled rehearsal period. For performance venues, also include the performance fee for the presented artist/company.
2. **Résumé** of the choreographer/re-stager, limited to one page.
3. **Work Samples:** unedited media work samples of the choreographer's recent work and one recent work sample of the host dance company (if appropriate), totaling no more than 20 minutes. Each media work sample must be provided as a live URL link. To submit URLs, please create a Word or PDF file with a list of URLs. Each work sample URL listed must include the name of artist/company, work titles, year of creation and event date. **URLs cannot be password protected and must remain live until December 31, 2021.** NYSCA is not responsible for any broken, inactive or password protected links.

## COMPOSER COMPOSITIONS

NYSCA offers support to composers in any music genre for the creation of new work. Grants are directed solely toward a composer's creative fee, exclusive of production expenses or other costs related to the project. Only the principal artist may receive funding. These awards may either be commissioned by the sponsoring organization or be an artist-initiated new work not intended for a particular group.

**Artists working in all genres are welcome to apply. Applicants will be asked to select a primary genre from the list below.**

- Chamber
- Choral/Vocal
- Electronic
- Fusion
- Jazz
- Opera
- Orchestral
- Other
- Solo Instrumental Music
- Scores for Dance, Theater, Film, Media, and Radio

### **Supporting Materials** (single PDF upload)

1. **Work Samples:** no more than two representative audio samples of up to 8 minutes each. Applications involving opera must also include at least one video recording. Each work sample must include the title and the year it was composed. Each media work sample must be provided as a URL link. To submit URLs, please create a PDF file with a list of URLs with any notes or description. **URLs cannot be password protected and must remain live until December 31, 2021.** NYSCA is not responsible for any broken, inactive or password protected links.
2. **Résumé** of the principal composer(s) limited to one page.
3. **OPTIONAL:** Up to two 5-page excerpts of previously completed score.

### **FILM, MEDIA, AND NEW TECHNOLOGY**

NYSCA supports the creation of new works in a variety of media-related mediums. A project can combine media, including, but not limited to, work for tape, installation, single channel work, or interactive disc formats. Production methods and tools may range from analog to digital. Support will only be provided towards the work and lead artist specified in the application.

**Requests are considered in the following genres in any phase of production:**

- Animation
- Art/Experimental
- Audio Art/Installation
- Documentary
- Installation/Performance
- Interactive/Digital Technology
- Narrative
- Radio

## Supporting Materials (single PDF upload)

1. Up to two **media work samples** totaling no more than 10 minutes each. Whenever possible, a work sample of the work-in-progress is encouraged.

**NOTE:** Each media work sample must be provided as a URL link. To submit URLs, please create a PDF file with a list of URLs. Be sure to describe the format for each work sample and give instructions necessary to view each work sample properly and in what order. **URLs cannot be password protected and must remain live until December 31, 2021.** NYSCA is not responsible for any broken, inactive or password protected links. Additional material beyond the maximum allowable time will not be reviewed by Panel.

2. **Résumé** of applicant artist and principal crew and consultants limited to one page each.
3. **Applicants for new technology or installation work may** submit diagrams, sketches, or slides of the proposed work in addition to media work samples. No more than 15 images should be submitted.
4. **If applying for pre-production**, please provide materials that illustrate the level of work to date, such as a script, description of research, treatment and/or treatment outline. Additionally, any applicant may supply a detailed line-item project budget.

## FOLK AND 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.

## Supporting Materials (single PDF upload)

1. **Media work samples** of previous work not to exceed more than two representative samples of up to 5 minutes each. Each media work sample must be provided as a URL link. To submit URLs, please create a PDF file with a list of URLs. Each work sample URL listed must include the title, the company performing the work and the year it was presented. **URLs cannot be password protected and must remain live until December 31, 2021.** NYSCA is not responsible for any broken, inactive or password protected links.
2. **Images** of previous work not to exceed **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.

3. **Résumé** of the principal artist(s) limited to one page each.

Applicants do not need to upload work samples in all types, however they can if they wish.

## INTERDISCIPLINARY

Recognizing the constantly evolving world of contemporary art, support is available for artists who position their work in between two or more art forms. Interdisciplinary art does not have a dominant, single, traditional art form. Rather, multiple approaches work together seamlessly. Work might include environmental art, arts for social justice, or the intersection of any art form and the liberal arts.

### Supporting Materials (single PDF upload)

1. **Media work samples** of previous work not to exceed more than two representative samples of up to 5 minutes each. Each media work sample must be provided as a URL link. To submit URLs, please create a PDF file with a list of URLs. Each work sample URL listed must include the title, the company performing the work and the year it was presented. **URLs cannot be password protected and must remain live until December 31, 2021.** NYSCA is not responsible for any broken, inactive or password protected links.
2. **Images** of previous work not to exceed **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.
3. **Résumé** of the principal artist(s) limited to one page each.

Applicants do not need to upload work samples in all types, however they can if they wish.

## LITERATURE

Supports work in all varieties and genres of literary work, including poetry, fiction, graphic or comic book fiction, literary nonfiction such as essays, criticism, and autobiography, as well as experimental forms. Literary translation projects involving any of the above and including plays and screenplays are eligible as well.

### Requests are considered in the following genres/areas:

- Fiction
- Literary Nonfiction
- Poetry
- Literary Translations

Literary magazine and book publishers are encouraged to apply on behalf of writers and translators they plan to publish. Applications that present a commitment of publication or performance from a literary publisher or presenter as well as a clear plan for bringing the work before New York State public will take priority.

### Supporting Materials (single PDF upload)

1. **Work Sample** – up to 15-page double spaced PDF manuscript
2. **Résumé** of the principal artist(s) limited to one page each.
3. **If a Translation:**
  - a. Excerpts in English and the original language from if proposed translation-in-progress. (10-page excerpts in each language or 15 pages each for scripts). Please match the English translation and corresponding original on facing pages and note the title and original author/translator names on each page. Manuscripts must preserve diacritical marks from the original language. The manuscripts must include title, author, genre, and note the original language, specifying dialect.
  - b. Copy of the letter granting rights to the translator. Sponsors may wish to view a model translator's contract at: <https://pen.org/a-model-contract-for-literary-translations/> from PEN American Center's Translation Committee.

## THEATER COMMISSIONS

Supporting the creation of new work in a variety of theatrical roles, *Theater Artist Commissions* focus on offering a creative fee, exclusive of production expenses or other related costs. Individual artists and unincorporated ensembles must apply under the sponsorship of an eligible New York State nonprofit organization. While collaborations are welcome, only the principal artist may receive support.

### Requests are considered from:

- Playwrights
- Directors
- Designers
- Librettists for Musical Theater & Opera
- Solo Theater Artists
- Performance Artists

### Supporting Materials (single PDF upload)

1. **For directors, designers, performance, and solo artists:** Work samples may include diagrams and sketches of proposed work, and/or images of previous projects. No more than 10 images may be submitted. Performance and solo artists may also include an optional 10-page excerpt of a previously completed play/libretto.

2. **For playwrights and librettists:** Work samples must include one 20-page excerpt of a previously completed play/libretto.
3. **Résumé** of the principal artist(s) limited to one page each.
4. **OPTIONAL: Media work samples of previous work** not to exceed more than two representative samples of up to 5 minutes each. Each media work sample must be provided as a URL link. To submit URLs, please create a PDF file with a list of URLs. Each work sample URL listed must include the title, the company performing the work and the year it was presented. **URLs cannot be password protected and must remain live until December 31, 2021.** NYSCA is not responsible for any broken, inactive or password protected links.

## VISUAL ARTS

Supports work in the visual arts including painting of any kind upon any surface; photography; crafts and sculpture including ceramics, glass, wood, metal, fiber, textiles, and mixed media, and installations; drawing; printmaking and book arts, including aquatints, collages, engravings, etchings, lithographs, monotypes, prints, serigraphs, woodcuts, and artist's books. Other work coming out of a visual arts tradition is also welcome, though such projects (social practice, performance art) may also fit in NYSCA's Interdisciplinary category.

**Requests are considered in the following genres:**

- Painting
- Photography
- Printmaking and Book Arts
- Drawing
- Sculpture
- Craft
- Installation
- Other

### Supporting Materials (single PDF upload)

1. **Work Sample** – up to up to 10 digital images with descriptions.
2. **Résumé** of the principal artist(s) limited to one page each.