

**NYSCA GUIDELINES  
INFORMATION SESSION**

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**Individual Artist  
(IND) Program**

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**Council on  
the Arts  
FY2021**



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## Program Goals

NYSCA's Individual Artists (IND) Program venerates the power of the individual by supporting composers, theatre artists and film and media makers, enabling them to successfully realize their visions.

IND supports the creation of new work by New York State artists through artist-initiated projects across a wide range of areas. Artists at any career stage are welcome to apply.

## Program Priorities

- Enhance and strengthen the vibrancy and diversity of the artistic voices of New York State-based art makers.
- Provide catalytical funds for the creation of artistically significant projects.
- 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.



## Key Dates & Deadlines

<b>Guidelines Released</b> January 14, 2020	<b>Application Period Begins</b> January 28, 2020	<b>Deadline:</b> <b>March 12,</b> <b>2020 4PM</b>	<b>Award(s) Announced By</b> EST December 15, 2020
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## Previous Year Statistics

- Total \$1.35M Awarded
- 239 applications submitted and 108 grants to individual artists made

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- Composer Compositions**
- Theatre Artist Commissions**
- Film, Media and New  
Technology Production**



# Prerequisites

- Commissions for choreographers can be applied for through the Dance Program.
- Each application by an individual artist must be sponsored by an eligible New York State nonprofit organization. Grants are awarded to the sponsoring organization. The sponsor then directs the funds to the individual artist. Note: ONLY the LEAD applicant artist named in the application must be a current NY State resident.
- In addition to NYSCA's deadline, fiscal sponsors have their own timeline/deadlines, which may be earlier.
- Projects that have already received IND Program funding are not eligible to apply.
- Fulltime students at the time of application or student projects are not eligible for NYSCA funding.
- Documentary films can only come in support for the post-production phase.

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# Prerequisites (Cont.)

- Support will only be provided towards the work specified in the application.
- Artists applying in these categories cannot apply for support in 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.
- URLs cannot be password protected and must remain live until December 31, 2020. NYSCA is not responsible for any broken, inactive or password protected links.
- NYSCA funds a year out, meaning that requests made in 2020 are for qualified expenses that occur Jan-Dec of 2021.
- These categories are exempt from NYSCA's two request limit.
- Sponsoring organizations other than service organizations may request support for only one Composer Composition and/or one Theatre Artist Commission per year.

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# FAQs

Does NYSCA offer funding opportunities for visual artists and artists working in other art forms?

Unfortunately, our IND Program only offers highly specialized categories intended for the creation of new work. Dance choreography commissions are offered via our Dance Program and support for artists in other art forms is provided through NYSCA funded Fellowships in Partnership with NYFA:

<https://www.nyfa.org/Content/Show/Artists'-Fellowships>

I need a Fiscal Sponsor, who does NYSCA recommend?

Unfortunately, NYSCA does not provide lists of sponsors. Any prequalified NYS nonprofit organization can serve as a fiscal sponsor. You can also review past IND Program grantees to see what organizations have served as a fiscal sponsor:

[http://www.nysca.org/grant\\_app/org\\_search.cfm](http://www.nysca.org/grant_app/org_search.cfm)

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## FAQs (Cont.)

Why can't I use a password for media work samples?

Given the volume of applications received, it is impractical to continually need to key in a password to access video materials. Applicants however, can provide media samples via private or unpublished links. It just needs to be accessible by anyone who is provided the link. NOTE: You may submit a work sample that is longer than the prescribed time limit but in that case please provide viewing instructions as to which segment to watch. If no instructions are provided we will view from the beginning.

Can the lead artist use a stage name or the name of his/her production company or other group name?

For the purpose of making an application only one lead artist is to be named in the application using his or her legal name. Note: NYSCA Grants to sponsored individuals are considered taxable income.

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I have my own for profit company or work with an out of state nonprofit organization, can such an entity serve as my fiscal sponsor?

A Sponsoring Organization must be a qualified NYS based nonprofit organization.

See Applicant Requirements: <https://www.arts.ny.gov/application-guide>

Can Theatre Artist and Composer Compositions commission grants cover Production expenses?

No. Commission grants are intended to cover an artist's creative fee exclusive of any production expenses.

Can an experimental, animation or other type of non-traditional documentary apply for pre-production or production phase?

Regardless of artistic modality or approach; if proposed project is exploring actual places, people, activities or events we consider it a Documentary and it can only come in for post-production support.



# CFA Application Tips

Artists DO NOT interact in any way with the CFA The following notes only apply to the Fiscal Sponsor:

- Prequalification is the first step; make sure your organization is Prequalified - and/or all vault documents are up to date.
- View application resources at <https://www.arts.ny.gov/nysca-grant-opportunities>, including our application manual PDF and interactive guide at <https://www.arts.ny.gov/application-guide>.
- There are no exceptions to the CFA application deadline once the deadline has passed. It is a time-sensitive application, therefore NYSCA CAN NOT ACCEPT ANY MATERIALS OR CHANGES AFTER THE DEADLINE.
- Read the questions carefully and answer them directly. Be succinct. The NYSCA-CFA application questions have word count limits.
- Use the Financial Notes section provided.
- Remember to answer all the CFA application questions and upload all support materials requested. Hard copy submissions are not accepted.

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IND Program Page:

**<https://arts.ny.gov/programs/individual-artists>**

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# THANK YOU!

