

**NYSCA GUIDELINES
INFORMATION SESSION**

Visual Arts Program



**Council on
the Arts
FY2021**



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Program Goals

Visual Arts (VAP) offers support to a wide range of contemporary art activity for the benefit of the public and the advancement of the field. Visual Arts considers living artists to be of primary importance to the visual arts field and directs the majority of its funding to organizations that present visual artists who reside in New York State. Supported activities may include exhibitions, installations, workspace facilities, residencies, publications and critical writing.

For the purpose of this grant opportunity, Visual Arts does not include time-based media art works such as moving image, video, sound art, game design, film and emergent technologies. For example, VAP supports work such as sculpture, painting, drawing, printmaking and photography.

VAP has different pre-requisites for each of its four primary funding Categories. Please read the FY21 VAP Guidelines for this detail. Pre-requisites outline what is eligible, and not eligible, and will determine the successful outcome of any proposal.



Key Dates & Deadlines

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

- \$1.4 million awarded
- 72 grants to 68 organizations
- Grants across 18 counties

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- Exhibition & Installations**
- General Operating Support**
- Project Support**
- Regrants and Partnerships**
- Workspace Facilities**



Program Proposal Tips

A new generation of new organizations is applying to VAP and the competition is high. Whether returning or a first-time applicant, the following tips are critical to a successful proposal.

- Study Guidelines for the Category you are applying to, compliance is critical.
- Include Payment of Fees to NYS Artists as required for all VAP proposed projects
- Keep your narrative specific, answer the questions in clear focused detail.
- Select support materials carefully, these and your web site *are considered essential as the organization's public image.*
- Use Financial Notes, they are highly important in clarifying budget details.
- Check your spelling!
- Do not cut & paste; never repeat an answer across different questions.
- Note contemporary issues, local or regional, to strengthen community context.

Remember! Prior year funding is no guarantee your FY21 application will be successful. Contact Program Staff with any questions!

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FAQs

There are many questions an applicant may have. Following are the most common VAP eligibility inquiries. For all questions, please contact VAP Staff directly for clarifications.

- I am planning a group show for 80 individual artists, does this qualify?
✓ No. VAP requires 4 separate exhibitions in any single funding year.
- I am planning a multi-discipline series of film and visual art, can I apply to VAP?
✓ No, not for the entire series. See VAP Guidelines for criteria on cross-discipline or multi-discipline projects and organizations.
- I have a special project, can I apply for General Operating Support?
✓ No. GOS is for the entire organization, operations and programming. Please see the Project Support Category for your request.
- Are business district or community improvement projects eligible?
✓ No. Please see REDC opportunities; Regional Economic Development may be available to you.
- Can staff guide me in shaping my proposal?
✓ No. This is a competitive process. Staff is available to clarify Guidelines, Program Goals and Objectives.

May I call you at anytime for assistance?

- ✓ **YES!!** VAP welcomes new and returning applicants via phone or email!



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- ✓ Pre-qualification is the first step; make sure your organization is pre-qualified - and/or all vault documents are up to date. Read NYSCA Application Steps 1, 2, 3 & 4 carefully on the NYSCA site.
- ✓ Attend a NYSCA FY21 Guidelines Application Seminar near you.
- ✓ There are no exceptions to the CFA application deadline once the deadline has passed. It is a time-sensitive application.
- ✓ Read the questions carefully and answer them directly. Be succinct. The NYSCA CFA application has a word count.
- ✓ Use the Financial Notes section provided.
- ✓ Remember to answer all the CFA application questions and upload all support materials requested. Do not submit hard copy to VAP.



Contact

Karen Helmerson

Program Director

Karen.helmerson@arts.ny.gov

(212) 459-8824

Rita Putnam

Program Officer

Rita.Putnam@arts.ny.gov

(212) 459-8830

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THANK YOU!

