

2023

PEW FELLOWSHIPS APPLICATION GUIDELINES

**The
Pew Center
for Arts
& Heritage**

ACCESSIBILITY AND SUPPORT

The Center is committed to providing accessibility to all applicants. Translation services are available. Center staff members are prepared to assist applicants who require special accommodation to review our guidelines or to use our online application system. Please contact jgarlic@pewcenterarts.org to discuss available accommodations.

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PROGRAM MODIFICATIONS

As of their release date in February 2023, these guidelines represent the complete application instructions for Pew Fellowships applicants. The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage and The Pew Charitable Trusts reserve the right to change and/or modify them at any future time in response to experience gained from their operations, input from applicants and recipients, external evaluations, and the community. Potential applicants will be alerted to updates to the guidelines in a timely manner.

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear colleagues and Center constituents,

I am pleased to share with you the 2023 guidelines for The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage's Pew Fellowships program.

In our 2022 grant cycle, the Center awarded more than \$9.5 million to Philadelphia area artists through 12 fellowships and to organizations through 30 Project grants. As we see in each year's applicant pool, the local arts community remains deeply committed to creating extraordinary work and to connecting with diverse audiences.

In addition to reviewing these guidelines carefully, I encourage you to engage with [our website](#), where you will discover a remarkably broad range of artists and cultural practitioners, as well as programs, events, and experiences that reflect the breadth, diversity, and vitality of our region's cultural ecology. We are gratified to be able to support such an exceptional spectrum of work. We look forward to continuing to carry out The Pew Charitable Trusts' strategic goal of fostering a vibrant civic life by bringing high-quality and richly rewarding experiences to our region's many publics.

The Center's Fellowships program, which awards grants annually to regional artists working in all disciplines, is among the most highly regarded of its kind in the country. At \$75,000 for each Fellow, these unrestricted grants afford the area's most talented practitioners valuable time and substantial resources to focus on artistic exploration and professional development. To date, [388 artists](#) have been named Pew Fellows in the Arts.

Support for individual artists is a foundational commitment for the Center.

We look forward to this year's awards and to welcoming a new group of Fellows in 2023.

With best wishes for your continued success and well-being,



Paula Marincola
Executive Director

VISION STATEMENT

At The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage (the Center), we envision Greater Philadelphia as a widely recognized hub for dynamic, diverse, inclusive, and equitable cultural experiences and a place in which a broad spectrum of creative expression and interpretation, as well as the exchange of ideas, are vital forces in public life.

We endeavor to realize this vision in two ways:

- By supporting area leaders who think ambitiously and innovate boldly in their public offerings; who are rigorous in their programmatic and operational processes; who foster diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) as part of good governance and management; and who center the audiences and communities they serve; and
- By advancing the fields we serve through research and knowledge-sharing on distinctive, imaginative, and effective practices.

PEW FELLOWSHIPS PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage offers direct support to individual artists through its Pew Fellowships program. We award unrestricted grants of \$75,000 annually to 12 of the most talented artists working in the Philadelphia region. The Center's goal is to assist these artists in furthering and innovating their work by awarding substantial financial support accompanied by a set of customized, focused professional- and career-development resources.

Through such support, the Center aims to elevate the quality and raise the profile of individual artistic work in the region. We seek to create a strong community of Pew Fellows and to help them achieve their artistic and career goals by connecting them to resources in the field. Although applicants are reviewed for their achievements, the Fellowship is not a reward for past accomplishment but rather an investment in an artist's ongoing generative potential.

Applicants must have a history of active engagement in creating artwork and presenting it to the public independent of student work. Professional accomplishments must be appropriate to career stage. Pew Fellowships may be awarded to artists at any stage of their career development and to artists working in a wide range of aesthetics and traditions.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES & SUPPORT FOR PEW FELLOWS

In addition to grants of \$75,000, Pew Fellows receive a set of customized professional development resources to further expand the impact of the monetary award.

Orientation Meeting: Fellowship recipients are required to attend an orientation meeting in late summer 2023. New Fellows will receive important information regarding the terms and conditions of the grant. This meeting is an opportunity for Pew Fellows to have their questions answered and to meet their cohort.

Financial Counseling: Pew Fellows have the opportunity to meet with a financial advisor to seek expert advice before beginning their Fellowship period.

Artist Residency Programs: The Center has developed partnerships with several artist residency programs around the country and abroad. Following their Fellowship period, Pew Fellows will be eligible to apply to participate in these Center-supported residency programs.

Other Professional Development Opportunities: From time to time, the Center will host other professional development opportunities for Pew Fellows to help extend the impact of the Fellowship.

ELIGIBILITY

- Artists must be residents of the five-county Philadelphia area (Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia counties) at the time of nomination and must maintain residence in the five-county Philadelphia area throughout the selection process. Nominees may be required to provide evidence of residency in the form of their federal tax return.
- Artists must be at least two years out of school or have equivalent career experience.
- Artists may not be matriculated students (full-time or part-time) in a degree-granting program or equivalent at the time of application or during the selection process. Applicants may not submit work created as a student; this includes thesis work. (An artist pursuing post-graduate work in an area other than that of their artistic focus who maintains an active artistic practice is eligible for consideration.)
- Artists who hold academic positions must demonstrate that they maintain a viable and ongoing artist practice independent of their academic duties and position. This means a professional record of exhibitions/performances/artistic presentations beyond their academic affiliation.
- Artists may not be current employees of The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage or The Pew Charitable Trusts; members of such employees' households; or people closely related to such employees through blood, marriage, or domestic partnership.
- Artists who have been nominated for a Pew Fellowship and who intend to apply, may not participate in an application to the Center's Project grant program as a commissioned or key featured artist within the same grant cycle of their application. If awarded a Pew Fellowship, artists may not participate in a Center-funded Project grant for one year following the start of their Fellowship grant period.
- Artists may not be previous recipients of a Pew Fellowship in the Arts.

APPLICATION PROCESS & DUE DATE

STEP 1: NOMINATION

Artists are nominated and invited to apply for the Fellowship. Thirty nominators with a deep knowledge of artists working in this region—and representing a wide range of expertise, experience, and points of view—are each asked to nominate up to two artists of exemplary talent living and working in the five-county Philadelphia area. The nominators provide a written narrative that assesses the artist's work. Although the nominators remain anonymous to ensure the integrity of the process, their written recommendations become part of the material later reviewed by the evaluators and panelists alongside the artist's application.

STEP 2: APPLICATION

Artists who have been nominated will be notified in early February 2023 and invited to apply using the Center's online application system. An application consists of samples of the applicant's work and written responses to three application questions. All applicants are encouraged to meet with Pew Fellowships staff to discuss their application in advance of the submission deadline.

Applications must be submitted by **Wednesday, March 29, 2023**.

STEP 3: OUTSIDE EVALUATION

All applications are sorted according to artistic discipline and then reviewed by evaluators with expertise in that area. All of the evaluators come from outside of the Philadelphia region. They are selected for the breadth and depth of their knowledge in their respective fields. The evaluators are responsible for reviewing nominations and assessing, commenting on, and scoring the artists' applications. Only applications that are scored highly by the evaluators proceed to the panel review.

STEP 4: PANEL REVIEW

The Center convenes a panel composed of artists and arts professionals—also from outside of the Philadelphia region—to review the highest-ranked applications and select the 12 Pew Fellows. Like the evaluators, these panelists are chosen for their expertise and drawn from areas of practice that reflect the applicant pool. This panel reviews all of the accumulated material for each artist, including the nomination, application, and evaluations, before making its decisions. Panelists change from year to year, though some individuals may serve in multiple selection cycles.

STEP 5: ANNOUNCEMENT

All applicants will be notified of the panel's decision in late summer 2023. The Fellowship period begins August 1, 2023 and ends July 31, 2025.

APPLICATION CRITERIA

There are three criteria used in evaluating Fellowship applicants' work: **Artistic Excellence**, **Evidence of Serious Commitment to Practice and Ability to Use the Grant Effectively**, and **Impact**. These criteria are considered at every stage of the selection process.

Artistic Excellence

- Work of compelling artistic vision and distinctive voice
- Work that is inventive, imaginative, and substantive in form and content
- Work that is well-executed and well-produced, demonstrating control of craft/materials/production values and technique, as appropriate, as well as demonstrating a clear intention of purpose
- Work that is self-reflective/critical, demonstrating internal development and willingness to take risks
- Work that reflects awareness of the history and contemporary practice of the field and its relationship to both

Evidence of Serious Commitment to Practice and Ability to Use Grant Effectively

- Artist has a history of active engagement in creating artwork and presenting it to the public independent from student work, with a record of professional accomplishments appropriate to career stage
- Artist demonstrates an understanding and awareness of professional practice and standards in his/her/their field
- Artist has a demonstrated capacity to be self-directed and is well positioned to take full advantage of the opportunities the Fellowship

Impact

- Potential for the Fellowship to facilitate subsequent creative work
- Potential for the Fellowship to foster the artist's professional advancement

APPLICATION QUESTIONS & CONTENTS

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Do not include weblinks in your answers.

1. What are your primary artistic concerns? What is at stake in your work? *(Answer in 750 words or fewer.)*
2. Please place your work in the context of your field of endeavor. If this is a collaborative practice, please explain your role and your distinctive contribution. *(Answer in 750 words or fewer.)*
3. Where do you see yourself artistically in five years? What is the impact you would like the Fellowship to have on your work? *(Answer in 750 words or fewer.)*

Résumé

Applicants must upload a résumé of two pages or fewer, formatted as a PDF. Résumés may not include weblinks. Think of a this résumé as a way to contextualize your career stage.

Artists Applying in Collaboration

A collaborative application should reflect the artists' ongoing collaborative practice. Submit only one résumé to represent the entire collaborative team. Collaborative applicants will answer one set of questions and submit one set of work samples.

If awarded a Fellowship, grant funds will be divided evenly between the collaborating artists.

WORK SAMPLE OVERVIEW

Submit samples of your strongest work. Evaluators and panelists will use your work samples as an important factor in making their determinations. You are urged to submit the best quality material in the most appropriate format possible. While we are aware that there is no adequate substitute for original works of art or live performance, under current circumstances there is no solution to the problem of review other than various standardized reproductions of work samples (audio or video recordings, digital images, etc.).

Please carefully consider the following while completing the Work Sample section of your application:

- **Upload your work samples in the order in which you would like them to be reviewed by panelists.** If submitting multiple file formats (i.e., PDF, JPEG, video) to represent one work, please group those files by the work they represent and not by file format.
- **Use the description boxes to provide context for each work sample you submit.** Due to the interdisciplinary nature of our program, not all panelists will have expertise in your specific field. Therefore, please use the description box to briefly draw attention to what you consider essential or noteworthy aspects of the work. If a work sample presents a piece publicly performed or exhibited, please specify the location (i.e., if submitting an installation shot, provide the name of the gallery; if submitting a recording of a play, provide the name of the theater; etc.).
- Keep in mind that panelists want to know what you are currently working on. As a general rule, **submit work created within the last five years.**
- **Works-in-progress may be submitted, as long as your application also contains completed work(s).** Please indicate works-in-progress as such in the description field of the application.

WORK SAMPLE OVERVIEW (continued)

- **You may not submit work created while a student, including thesis work.**
- **Do not send original works of art, printed reviews, promotional tapes, brochures, or catalogues.** These materials will not be reviewed.
- **For collaborative work:** If your work was made collaboratively, please use the description field of the application to specify your role.
- **For interdisciplinary work or for those submitting a variety of file formats:** Please speak with [Pew Fellowships staff](#) about how best to organize your work samples.

WORK SAMPLE INSTRUCTIONS FOR SPECIFIC ARTISTIC DISCIPLINES

Time-Based Work: Choreography, Film/Video, Performance, Theater, Music, Sound Art

- Submit three complete works by providing URLs to [Vimeo](#), [YouTube](#), or [SoundCloud](#), as appropriate. Links should be private, and the content should be downloadable. If you are submitting media that is password-protected, please provide the password as prompted in the online application system.
- Do not edit, move, or remove the uploaded content or change its password until after the panel decision has been announced.
- The web pages on which work sample content appears should not include any text that is additional to what the application form requests; this disallowed text includes comments, advertisements, or links to personal websites.
- The application system requires you to identify the start and stop time of a 3–5 minute excerpt within each full-length work. Evaluators are required to view full-length work samples; however, during the final panel meeting, excerpts are heavily relied upon for reviewing applications. Please give close consideration to the excerpts you select.
- Use the description boxes in the online system to provide context and to give a fuller understanding of the sample. *(150 words or fewer)*
- If you are working in short form, please speak with Pew Fellowships staff for information and advice about how much material to submit.

WORK SAMPLE INSTRUCTIONS FOR SPECIFIC ARTISTIC DISCIPLINES (continued)

Visual Arts, Craft, Design & Architecture

- Submit up to 20 images representing various works, formatted as JPEGs. The largest dimension should be 1240 pixels, 72 dpi, and no larger than 4MB. RGB is the suggested color format, as samples will be reviewed digitally.
- If submitting images of details taken from larger works, upload an image of the entire work first so it precedes the detail when viewing the work samples in order.
- Applicants whose work is dependent on scale for overall impact are encouraged to submit images that demonstrate size.
- Use the description boxes in the online system to provide context and give a fuller understanding of the sample. *(40 words or fewer)*

WORK SAMPLE INSTRUCTIONS FOR SPECIFIC ARTISTIC DISCIPLINES (continued)

Fiction & Creative Nonfiction Writing

- Submit three separate works (or excerpts of works) formatted as three PDFs, totaling 30–50 pages when added together. Please paginate each manuscript.
- If you write long-form prose, you may submit one full-length published work as a PDF manuscript or hard copy, provided that an excerpt of that text is submitted as one of your three primary work samples. Evaluators and panelists will not be required to review this material, but it should be available to them for added context. If you are submitting a full-length PDF manuscript, upload it with your primary work samples, clearly indicating its supplemental nature in the description box. If you would like to submit a hard copy of a published work, please contact Fellowships staff.
- Do not submit scanned copies of printed works.
- Use the description boxes in the online system to provide context and give a fuller understanding of the sample. If your work samples include an excerpt from a longer work, please use this section to put the excerpt into context. (*Up to 150 words*)

Playwriting

- Submit one complete work, indicating a 20–25 page excerpt for the panel to read, along with 10–20 page excerpts from two additional works. These three samples should be submitted as three separate PDFs.
- Video documentation of one performance or staged reading of your work is strongly recommended; follow guidelines for time-based work on [page 14](#).
- Use the description boxes in the online system to provide context and to give a fuller understanding of the sample. If your work samples include an excerpt from a longer work, please use this section to put the excerpt into context. (*Up to 150 words*)

WORK SAMPLE INSTRUCTIONS FOR SPECIFIC ARTISTIC DISCIPLINES (Continued)

Poetry

- Submit one 15–30 page manuscript formatted as a single PDF.
- Manuscripts should include multiple poems but no more than one poem per page.
- Please paginate the manuscript and include a cover page listing each poem in the submission. For each poem, please provide the title, date completed, manuscript page numbers and, if appropriate, where and when published. For example: “Title,” 2009, pp. 1–3, *The New Yorker*, May 30, 2011.
- Use the description boxes in the application system to provide context and give a fuller understanding of the manuscript. (*Up to 300 words*)

Accessing the Application Online

Fellowship applications are submitted through the [Pew Center’s online system](#). Applicants will be invited via email to log in and create a password for their account.

Returning Fellowships applicants may use the same account used in prior years and may reset their password by visiting apply.pewcenterarts.org/login.

ADVICE & ASSISTANCE: CONTACT US

All potential applicants are encouraged to talk with Pew Fellowships staff regarding any questions they have prior to submitting a full application. We are eager to help you submit the best application and work samples, as appropriate to your practice.

Pew Fellowships

Melissa Franklin, Director

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267.350.4921

To schedule an appointment, please contact

Jordan Garlic, Program Assistant

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