



The
Pew Center
for Arts
& Heritage

Pew Fellowships in the Arts

2026 Application Guidelines

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Accessibility

The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage is committed to providing accessibility to all applicants.

Staff members at The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage are available to offer guidance throughout the process and can assist applicants who require special accommodation.

Some translation services may be available.

For accessibility accommodations, please contact jgarlic@pewcenterarts.org or call 267.350.4920 for assistance.

Letter from the Executive Director

Dear colleagues and Center constituents:

I'm pleased to share the 2026 guidelines for The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage's Pew Fellowships program. This program awards 12 grants of \$85,000 annually to artists residing in the five-county region of greater Philadelphia and working in all disciplines.

Pew Fellowships are unrestricted grants designed to provide artists with substantial resources to fuel their artistic innovation and professional development. The Center is proud to support a remarkably broad range of artists whose works reflect the breadth, diversity, and vitality of our region's cultural ecology. Since 1992, 424 Pew Fellowships have been awarded.

Support for individual artists is a foundational commitment for the Center. Through the Pew Fellowships, as well as through grants to organizations for creative projects and for operational change, the Center carries out one of The Pew Charitable Trusts' strategic goals: to foster a vibrant civic life by bringing high-quality, meaningful cultural experiences to a wide range of audiences in Greater Philadelphia. We continue to believe that work in arts and culture is critical to the welfare of our society.

Center staff members join me in looking forward to welcoming a new group of Fellows in 2026.

Best wishes,



Christina Vassallo
Executive Director

Vision Statement

At The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage (the Center), we envision Greater Philadelphia as a widely recognized destination for dynamic, distinctive, and inclusive cultural experiences.

As both a grantmaker and hub for knowledge-sharing, the Center is dedicated to fostering a vibrant and diverse cultural ecology. We invest in ambitious and substantive work that showcases our region's artistic vitality and enhances public life. We also engage in a robust exchange of ideas on evolving artistic and interpretive practices with an international network of creators and cultural leaders.

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 \$85,000 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 for Pew Fellows

In addition to grants of \$85,000, 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 soon after award notification. 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 will 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 and the 2-year fellowship period. 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, during the selection process, nor for the duration of their Fellowship period.
- 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 artistic practice independent of their academic duties and position. This means a professional record of exhibitions/performances/artistic presentations beyond their academic affiliation.
- Artists who have been nominated for a Pew Fellowship and who intend to apply may not participate in an application to the Center's Creative 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 Creative Project grant for one year following the start of their Fellowship grant period.
- Artists may not be an employee of The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage, The Pew Charitable Trusts, or the Barnes Foundation, a member of an employee's household, or closely related to an employee through blood, marriage, or domestic partnership.
- Artists may not be previous recipients of a Pew Fellowship in the Arts.

The Center reserves the right to determine eligibility in all instances.

Application Process and Due Dates

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 Evaluators and Panelists alongside the artist's application.

STEP 2 | APPLICATION (Due Friday, June 5, 2026, at 5 p.m., EST)

Access the Fellowships application form online

Fellowship applications are completed through the Center's [Application Portal](#).

All applicants will be invited to the [portal](#) via email to register an account.

Returning Fellowships applicants may use their existing account from prior years.

To reset an account password, use the "Forgot password" link at

<https://apply.pewcenterarts.org/login>.

For portal assistance, contact Jordan Garlic via jgarlic@pewcenterarts.org or call 267.350.4920.

Artists who have been nominated will be notified in April 2026 and invited to apply using the Center's online *Application Portal*. 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.

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.

Application Process and Due Dates

(continued)

STEP 4 | PANEL REVIEW

Currently, all applications are reviewed by a diverse panel of artists and arts and culture practitioners from outside of the Philadelphia region. Panelists 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 narrative, external evaluations, and application, before making its decisions. Each application is assigned a Primary Reviewer who leads the discussion for their designated applications during the panel meeting. 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 October 2026.

The Fellowship period begins **November 1, 2026** and ends **October 31, 2028**.

Evaluation 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 by Evaluators and Panelists 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 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 and Resume

Application Questions

Answer the following three narrative questions:

1. What are your primary artistic concerns? What is at stake in your work?
(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.
(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?
(in 750 words or fewer)

Resume

Applicants are asked to upload a resume of two pages or fewer, formatted as a PDF.

Think of this resume as a way to contextualize your career stage.

Please **do not include weblinks** in your applicant resume.

Artists Applying in Collaboration

A collaborative application should reflect the artists' ongoing collaborative practice.

Submit only **one resume** 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:

- **Submit your work samples in the order in which you would like them to be reviewed by Evaluators and 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.** 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 that was 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.).
- As a general rule, **submit work created within the last five years.** Keep in mind that Evaluators and Panelists want to know what you are currently working on.
- **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 box of the application form.
- **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 box of the application form 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 and Video, Music, Performance, Theater, Sound Art

- **Submit three complete works by** providing individual weblinks to an online file-hosting service such as Vimeo, YouTube, SoundCloud, Dropbox, or Google Drive.
- **Each weblink should direct viewers to only one artwork per link.** Do not link to works hosted on social media or your personal website.
- **Check the privacy settings for each weblink.** All audio/video weblinks must have their share/privacy permissions set to **1.) public or 2.) viewable by anyone with the link**. If your work samples are password-protected, enter the password in the “Password” box provided on the application form.
- The web pages on which your work samples appear should not include any text that is additional to what the application form requests. Disallowed text includes comments, advertisements, or links to personal websites.
- **Do not edit, move, or delete your work samples** from their online location, or change passwords, until after you are notified of the funding panel’s decision.
- **Identify a 5–10-minute excerpt within each full-length work to indicate where Evaluators and Panelists should begin their review.** Enter timestamps (HH:MM:SS) in the application form fields to show the start and stop time of each excerpt.

Evaluators and Panelists are only required to view your selected excerpt but may review more, if desired.

- Use the description boxes in the application form to provide Evaluators and Panelists with context and to give a fuller understanding of each work sample (*in 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

Visual Arts, Craft, Design and Architecture

- Upload a **maximum of 20 images** representing various works. Format all images as JPEGs.
- The largest dimension of each JPEG should be 1240 pixels.
- Image resolution should be set to 72 dpi, and each file may be no larger than 4MB.
- RGB is the suggested color mode, as samples will be reviewed digitally.
- If submitting details taken from larger works, additionally upload a separate file showing the work in its entirety. Order the image of the full work so it precedes the detail image.
- Applicants whose work is dependent on scale for overall impact are encouraged to submit images that demonstrate size.
- Use the description boxes in the application form to provide Evaluators and Panelists with context and give a fuller understanding of each sample (*in 40 words or fewer*).

Work Sample Instructions for Specific Artistic Disciplines

Fiction and Creative Nonfiction

- **Submit three written works** (or excerpts of works) formatted as three separate PDFs. Please paginate each PDF.
- **When added together**, your three PDFs should total no more than 30–50 pages.
- Each PDF **must begin with a cover page** that **Identifies an excerpt of 5–10 consecutive pages**. Clearly indicate the page numbers of the excerpt. Evaluators and Panelists will use the cover page to guide them to the section of the PDF they are required to read.
Evaluators and Panelists are only required to read your selected excerpts but may review more, if desired.
- The file size of each PDF should be no larger than 4MB.
- Use the description boxes in the application form to provide Evaluators and Panelists with context and give a fuller understanding of each work sample (*in 150 words or fewer*).

Work Sample Instructions for Specific Artistic Disciplines

Poetry

- **Submit one manuscript that includes multiple poems, formatted as a PDF.**
Only one poem should appear on each page.
- The PDF should total 15–30 pages. Please paginate the PDF.
- The PDF must begin with a cover page that includes a table of contents with the following information:
 1. Poem titles and page numbers the poems appear on
 2. The date the poem was completed
 3. If applicable, where the poem has been published and the publication date

Example of cover page citation:

Page 4. “Poem Title,” 2009. Published in The New Yorker, May 30, 2014.

- Use the work sample description box in the application form to provide Evaluators and Panelists with context and give a fuller understanding of your manuscript (*in 300 words or fewer*).

Work Sample Instructions for Specific Artistic Disciplines

Playwriting and Screenwriting

- **Submit two completed works formatted as two separate PDFs.**
- Each PDF **must begin with a cover page** that **identifies an excerpt of 20 consecutive pages**. Clearly indicate the page numbers of the excerpt. Evaluators and Panelists will use the cover page to guide them to the section of the PDF they are required to read.

Evaluators and Panelists are only required to read your selected excerpts but may review more, if desired.

- The file size of each PDF should be no larger than 4MB.
- Do not upload scanned copies of printed works. PDFs should be formatted with legibility in mind.
- Use the description boxes in the application form to provide Evaluators and Panelists with context and give a fuller understanding of each work sample (*in 300 words or fewer*).
- Video documentation of one of your works is strongly recommended (*performance, staged reading, rough-cut of a film, etc.*). To include video, please follow the guidelines for time-based work found on [page 11](#).

Advice & Assistance: Contact Us

All applicants are encouraged to talk with Pew Fellowships staff regarding any questions they have prior to submitting their application.

We are eager to help you submit your best application and work samples, as appropriate to your practice.

Contact Pew Fellowships

PROGRAMS ASSISTANT

Jordan Garlic (she/her)

jgarlic@pewcenterarts.org

267.350.4920

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Christina Vassallo (she/her)

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Community Connection and Audience Participation

Murph Henderson (she/her)

Performance and Program Administration

Alec Unkovic (he/him)

Visual Art and Creative Practices

Program Modifications

As of their release date in February 2026, 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 these guidelines 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.