



The  
Pew Center  
for Arts  
& Heritage

APPLICATION GUIDELINES 2021  
**PEW FELLOWSHIPS**



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## Program Modifications

The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage and The Pew Charitable Trusts reserve the right to change and/or modify this program at any time in response to experience gained from its operation, and input from panelists, nominators, evaluators, fellowship applicants and recipients, external evaluations, and the community.

**Cover:** Jesse Harrod, *Taught Tight Tender Sway*, 2017, Sculpture Center, NY. Photo by Lisi Raskin.

# Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Colleague and Center Constituent,

I am pleased to share with you the 2021 guidelines for The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage's Pew Fellowships program. In 2020, the Center awarded more than \$10.5 million to Philadelphia area organizations and individual practitioners, encompassing 29 Project grants, and 12 Pew Fellowships for individual artists.

If you peruse our website's [list of grants and grantees](#), you will discover a remarkably broad and diverse range of extraordinary artists and cultural practitioners, as well as exceptional programs, events, and experiences that reflect the breadth and vibrancy of our region's cultural ecology.

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 our region's most talented artists valuable time and substantial resources to focus on artistic exploration and professional development. To date, [374 artists](#) have been named Pew Fellows in the Arts.

Due to travel and safety restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, we are pausing our Fellows-in-Residence program for this year, and in 2021 the Center will be awarding its 12 fellowships to artists living in the five-county region. Our residency program will resume when the coronavirus restrictions are lifted.

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 2021.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Paula Marincola". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "P".

Paula Marincola  
Executive Director

# Vision Statement

At The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage, we envision Greater Philadelphia as a widely recognized hub for dynamic cultural experiences and a place in which 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 processes, who employ prudent governance and management practices, and who are adventurous in the ways they interact with their audiences; and

By advancing the fields we serve through research and knowledge-sharing on distinctive, imaginative, and effective practices.

# Overview

The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage offers direct support to individual artists through its Pew Fellowships program, annually awarding unrestricted grants of \$75,000 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, to create a strong community of Pew Fellows, and to help them achieve their artistic and career goals by connecting them to additional 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, with a record of professional accomplishments 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

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. *Please note: All meetings will be held virtually until vaccination efforts in the United States assure that the spread of the COVID-19 virus is no longer a risk to non-essential in-person gatherings.*

- **Fellowship Cohort:** As a means to foster community and build relationships within and across disciplines, there will be a series of formal meetings during the year that all Fellows are expected to attend.
- **Orientation Meeting:** Fellowship recipients are required to attend an orientation meeting in late summer, 2021. New Pew Fellows will receive important information regarding the terms and conditions of the grant. This is an opportunity to have questions answered and for the Pew Fellows 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 the Center-supported residency programs. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, residency opportunities will be paused through 2021.

# 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 artistic 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 may not be previous recipients of a Pew Fellowship in the Arts.**

## ADDITIONAL CRITERIA FOR FELLOWSHIPS RECIPIENTS

- Artists who are granted Fellowships must remain residents of the five-county Philadelphia area during their Fellowship period (August 2021–July 2023).
- Artists who are granted Fellowships are not eligible for additional Center grants during their Fellowship period.

# How it Works: Our Process

## 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 along with the artist's application to the program.

## STEP #2: APPLICATION

Artists who have been nominated will be notified in late February 2021, and invited to apply using the Center's online application system. Applications consist of a written statement responding to the three application questions, and samples of the applicant's work, which vary in scope and form according to the artist's field and practice. Applications must be submitted through the online system by **Monday, April 5, 2021**. 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 region, and 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 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 the relevant areas of practice that reflect the applicant pool. This panel reviews all of the accumulated material for each artist, including 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 summer, 2021.



# Pew Fellowship Application: Criteria & Questions

There are three criteria used in evaluating 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.

## CRITERIA

### 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 intentionality 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 its 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 demonstrated capacity to be self-directed and is well positioned to take full advantage of the opportunities the Fellowship affords

### Impact

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

## APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- What are your primary artistic concerns? What is at stake in your work? *Answer in 750 words or fewer.*
- 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.*
- 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.*

# Submitting Your Application & Work Samples

## GENERAL GUIDELINES

- Submit what you believe is your strongest work.
- **Upload your work samples in the order in which you would like them to be viewed.** 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 in the work sample section of the online application to provide contextual information about each uploaded file, as necessary. Due to the interdisciplinary nature of our program, not all panelists will have expertise in your specific field. Therefore, you may also use this space 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 online application.
- You may not submit work created while a student, including thesis work.
- If your work was made collaboratively, please specify your role in the description field of the online application. See below for more information on artists applying in collaboration.
- Applications, including the uploaded resume, should not feature links, including to personal websites or promotional materials.
- Do not send original works of art, printed reviews, promotional tapes, brochures, or catalogues; these will not be reviewed.

## ARTISTS APPLYING IN COLLABORATION

Artists applying as a collaborative team should submit separate contact information in the online application, but upload only one resume, and submit one application narrative and one set of work samples. The application should reflect the artists' ongoing collaborative practice. If a collaborative application receives an award, the grant will be divided evenly between the collaborating artists.

## WORK SAMPLES

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 the various standardized reproductions of work samples (audio or video recordings, digital images, etc.) requested in these guidelines. Since evaluators and panelists will use your work samples as an important component to make their determinations, you are urged to submit the best quality material in the most appropriate format possible.

# Submitting Your Application & Work Samples

## SPECIFIC GUIDELINES

For interdisciplinary work or those submitting a variety of file formats, please speak with [Pew Fellowships staff](#) about how to best organize your work samples.

### Time-Based Work: Choreography, Film and 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 is asked for on the application form; this includes comments, advertisements, or links to personal websites.
- The online 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, so please give close consideration to the excerpts you select.
- Use the description boxes in the online system to provide up to **150 words** for each work that will contextualize and give a fuller understanding of the sample.
- If you are working in short form, please speak with Pew Fellowships staff for information and advice about how much material to submit.

### Craft, Design & Architecture, Visual Arts

- 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 up to **40 words** for each work that will contextualize and give a fuller understanding of the sample.

# Submitting Your Application & Work Samples

## 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 is 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 Pew Fellowships staff.
- Do not submit scanned copies of printed works.
- Use the description boxes in the online system to provide up to **150 words** for each work that will contextualize 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.

## 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 10](#).
- Use the description boxes in the online system to provide up to **150 words** for each work that will contextualize 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.

## 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, pg. 1–3, The New Yorker, May 30, 2011.
- Use the description boxes in the online system to provide up to **300 words** for each work that will contextualize and give a fuller understanding of the manuscript.

## 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 work with you to submit the best application and work samples, as appropriate to your practice.**

### **ACCESSIBILITY**

The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage is committed to providing accessibility to all our applicants, regardless of ability. Center staff are prepared to assist applicants requiring special accommodation regarding the use of our online application system ([apply.pewcenterarts.org](https://apply.pewcenterarts.org)) at any time. Please contact us at [fellowships@pewcenterarts.org](mailto:fellowships@pewcenterarts.org) to offer feedback or discuss accommodations available for individuals with disabilities.

### **Pew Fellowships Staff**

Melissa Franklin, *Director*

***To schedule an appointment, please contact—***

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