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FY2021 Independent Artist Grant Award Guidelines

For activities occurring July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021
Application Deadline: Monday, April 12, 2021 at 5:00pm

**Garrett County Arts Council, Inc. is supported in part by the
Maryland State Arts Council (msac.org) and Garrett County Board of Commissioners**

Purpose:

The Garrett County Arts Council (GCAC) Independent Artist Grant awards recognize achievement by Garrett County artists making work independent of an institution or organization. The awards are accompanied by grants that encourage artistic growth and sustained practice.

Independent Artist Grants are awarded to artists applying for funding during the annual support period which begins July 1 through June 30.

Garrett County Arts Council, Inc. was incorporated in the state of Maryland in 1976 as a non-profit organization to promote the development of cultural arts in Garrett County and to integrate the arts into the life of the community. GCAC was designated Garrett County's official arts agency by the Board of Garrett County Commissioners in 1993 for the receipt and disbursement of public grant funds administered by the Maryland State Arts Council.

The FY2021 Independent Artist Grant award amount is up to \$1500.

Eligibility and Evaluation:

Applicants must conform to established eligibility criteria for funding consideration.

Who May Apply:

- Must be a Garrett County resident (owning or renting residential real property in Maryland at the time of application submission and throughout the funded project or program) and must be 18 years of age or older.
- Must be a Garrett County resident (owning or renting residential real property in Maryland at the time of application submission and throughout the funded project or program) at the time the Independent Artist Award.
- Proof of residency may be required.

Who May Not Apply:

- Artists enrolled in high school or any undergraduate classes or programs during FY 2021 (July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021).
- Individuals pursuing graduate instruction in any artistic category during FY 2021 (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021). This includes visual, performing, and literary arts.

Additional Information:

- All work samples must have been produced within the past five years.
- Work completed while pursuing a high school diploma or an undergraduate or graduate degree may not be submitted.
- Only completed work may be submitted. Works in progress and project proposals are not considered eligible. For the purposes of this program, “complete” is considered to be the point at which the work is ready for public presentation.

Grant applications are reviewed by the GCAC Grants Committee and a panel of evaluators with a wide range of experience in the artistic category. Panel meetings are directed and overseen by GCAC staff. Applications are judged on the following criteria:

- Clear evidence of outstanding achievement in presenting promising and/or engaging work
- Excellent communication of creative process
- The described creative process/vision are very clearly evident in the work samples
- The work samples provide evocative experiences and heightened sensations based on the intention.
- The work samples communicate collective meaning that goes beyond the artist’s(s’) perspective and experience.
- There is a strong connection between the concept statement and the work samples demonstrating contemporary perspectives (remaining open, fluid, transparent, subject to influence, and able to hold contradiction).

Final funding approval is authorized by the GCAC Board of Directors. Organizations will be notified in writing of the award decisions. Any individual wishing to appeal an award decision must follow the established *Grant Appeal Process* available upon request from the Garrett County Arts Council Executive Director.

How To Apply

All applicants must submit an online application through GCAC website. Only successfully submitted online applications will be accepted. Hard copy applications will NOT be accepted.

The online application consists of:

- Applicant contact information
- Creative Process Statement (100 word limit)
- Up to 8 work samples with technical information and work sample description

Please note: Lost, misdirected or late applications are the sole responsibility of the applicant. Applicants must meet all revision deadlines after submission, as specified in writing, or the application will be withdrawn.

Creative Process Statement

Within the application, it is required for artists to provide a creative process/vision statement. This statement should convey to the panel information that further informs any additional processes, inspiration, intention, philosophy, evolution of style, current direction of the artist's work that is being submitted for review.

Work Samples

Applicants may provide up to eight work samples in whichever file type (audio, image, video, or PDF) or combination of file types they feel best showcases their work. Technical information may be provided for each work sample.

Work Sample File Requirements

All file types and sizes will be accepted. The total combined length of all audio and video files may not exceed 10 minutes per application. The total combined length of manuscripts and compositions may not exceed 20 pages per application. The following file types and sizes are preferred:

AUDIO FILES:

- File type: .MP3
- File size: 20 MB maximum for each upload
- File must be stripped of any identifying metadata

IMAGE FILES:

- File type: .JPG
- Recommended dimensions: 1240 pixels in the longest dimension
- Recommended file size: 2 MB maximum for each image

VIDEO FILES:

- File type: .MP4 or .MOV
- File size: 250MB per video file
- File must be stripped of any identifying metadata

MANUSCRIPTS and COMPOSITIONS:

- File type: .PDF
- All pages of the manuscript or composition should be compiled into a single .PDF document

ALL FILES

To help avoid errors in the online application, the names of all uploaded in the application should follow these guidelines. When naming your work sample files:

- Do not use punctuation marks, symbols or any other non-alphanumeric characters
- Do not include any accents or non-Latin letters (e.g. è, ø, þ, ü, ñ, etc.)
- Do not include applicant's name in the work sample's file name

Application:

The deadline to apply for an Independent Artist Grant award is **Monday, April 12, 2021 at 5:00 pm**. The applications for Independent Artist Grant funding are reviewed once annually.