

INDIVIDUAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Awards Recognizing Individual Artistic Achievement

The OAC believes that artists provide the creative foundation for the cultural vitality of large and small communities throughout Ohio. The Individual Excellence Awards program recognizes outstanding accomplishments by these artists in a variety of disciplines. Individual Excellence Awards give the artists the time and resources to experiment, explore and reflect as they develop their skills and advance their art form. The Individual Excellence Awards also provide affirmation and acknowledgment of the excellent work of Ohio artists. A competitive application process focusing solely on evidence and merit of past artistic work and an open panel review conducted by nationally recognized professionals in each discipline ensure that only the most exceptional individuals receive funding.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

September 1

- **Calendar years ending in odd numbers (e.g., 2011, 2013):** Applications will be accepted in the following disciplines: choreography, criticism, fiction/non-fiction, music composition, playwriting/screenplays and poetry.
- **Calendar years ending in even numbers (e.g., 2012, 2014):** Applications will be accepted in the following disciplines: crafts, design arts/illustration, [interdisciplinary](#)/performance art, media arts, photography and visual arts.

WHAT THE PROGRAM SUPPORTS

The Individual Excellence Awards program provides grants to Ohio artists for the exceptional merit of a completed body of work. These awards recognize creativity and imagination that exemplify the highest level of achievement and advancement of the art form for a particular discipline. With this support the OAC encourages the growth and development of individual artists. Awards are offered in the following areas: choreography, crafts, fiction/non-fiction, poetry, playwriting/screenplays, criticism, design arts/illustration, [interdisciplinary](#)/performance art, media arts, music composition, photography and visual arts. The awards are based on the quality of past work and are not project-based.

Allowable Expenses

Individual Excellence Awards may be used for a variety of expenses related to the growth and development of the artist and his or her work. The award may be used for any purpose designated by the receiving artist, except it cannot be used to continue education through a degree-granting program.

GRANT AWARDS

Individual Excellence Awards are \$5,000. Grant awards are recommended by discipline review panels. All recommendations must be approved by the OAC board. The Individual Excellence Award program is very competitive; less than 10 percent of applicants receive funding.

WHO MAY APPLY

Creative artists who are residents of Ohio may apply to this program. Applicants must have lived in Ohio for one year prior to the September 1 deadline and must remain in the state during the grant period.

Eligibility Requirements

All applicants should read [Appendix A: Legal Requirements](#) before applying. Applicants to the Individual Excellence Awards program must:

- Be an Ohio resident for one year prior to the September 1 deadline. The OAC defines an Ohio resident as someone who lives and works in Ohio at least eight months of the year.
- Not be a student enrolled in any degree- or certificate-granting program.

Collaborative applications are accepted from artists who worked together to create the body of work submitted and who plan to continue working together. Each artist has creative ownership over the completed artwork. No more than two artists may apply collaboratively. If awarded an Individual Excellence Award the collaborative applicants split the award equally. Collaborative artists each need to submit an application, but only one set of [support materials](#) and one narrative is required.

Additional Eligibility Information

Individual Excellence Award recipients are not eligible to apply at the next calendar deadline. Work that resulted in an award may not be resubmitted at a future deadline. Resubmission of funded work will disqualify the applicant from the review process. Award recipients must remain residents of the state of Ohio throughout the grant period.

HOW TO APPLY

Please refer to the [Grant Process for Artists](#) section of the OAC *Guidelines* (page 14) for a step-by-step guide to the entire process of applying for and managing an OAC grant for artists.

Application Basics

All applications to the Individual Excellence Awards program must be submitted via the OAC's [OnLine Grant Application system](#) (OLGA). No paper applications are accepted.

Applicants must submit their application electronically via OLGA by 5 p.m. on the deadline date. If the application is not submitted electronically, it will not be accepted. You will be notified via e-mail (sent through OLGA) when your application is received. For assistance with OLGA, call the help desk at 614/728-4449 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. on weekdays, or e-mail olgahelpdesk@oac.state.oh.us.

Artists may submit only one application per calendar year. However, artists may submit a second application in the criticism discipline (during odd calendar year deadlines) if it is a separate body of work.

In calendar years ending in odd numbers (e.g., 2013, 2015), applications will be accepted in the following disciplines:

- Choreography
- Criticism
- Fiction/non-fiction
- Music Composition
- Playwriting/screenplays
- Poetry

In calendar years ending in even numbers (e.g., 2012, 2014), applications will be accepted in the following disciplines:

- Crafts
- Design arts/illustration
- [Interdisciplinary](#)/performance art
- Media arts
- Photography
- Visual arts

Support Materials

To complete an application for this program, all applicants must submit appropriate [support materials](#) for the discipline. Applications that do not include support materials will not be accepted.



NOTE: Each Individual Excellence Awards discipline has different [support material](#) requirements. To find out what materials are required for the discipline you are applying to, refer to [Appendix J: Support Materials List for Artists](#).

A signed copy of the application and [support materials](#) must be received in the OAC office by 5 p.m. seven calendar days following the application deadline date (regardless of the postmarked date). If the signed application and support materials do not reach the OAC within this timeframe, the application will not be accepted. You will be notified via e-mail (sent through OLGA) when your support materials are received.

Discipline-Specific Support Materials

For artists applying in the disciplines of choreography, criticism, fiction/non-fiction, [interdisciplinary](#)/performance art, media arts, music composition, playwriting and poetry, [support materials](#) must be received in the OAC office by 5 p.m. seven calendar days following the application deadline date (regardless of the postmarked date).

For artists applying in the disciplines of crafts, design, [interdisciplinary](#) and media installations (within the media arts discipline), photography and visual art, digital images must be uploaded to OLGA by 5 p.m. seven calendar days following the application deadline date.

Support materials such as scores, librettos, audiotapes, videotapes, CDs or DVDs submitted with applications will be returned if a mailer large enough to hold them is included with the support materials. The return mailer must have the appropriate amount of U.S. postage. If an addressed, stamped mailer is not included with the support materials they will be kept for one year and then discarded. Manuscripts submitted in the literature disciplines will be shredded and recycled.

If you are a recipient of an Individual Excellence Award, your support materials will be kept by the Individual Artist Grants and Services Program as a permanent record.

TIMELINE

The timeline below presents a general outline of the grant application process for the Individual Excellence Awards program. Please note that if a deadline falls on a Saturday, Sunday or state holiday, the deadline will be extended until the next business day.

Application available in OLGA	July 1
Application deadline	September 1
Support material deadline	7 calendar days following the application deadline
Panel meetings	Late November/Early December
Grant award announcement (via OLGA)	Early January
Council meeting to approve recommendations	February/March
Grant award announcement	March
Signed grant agreement deadline	April 30
Grant period	January 1 - June 30
Final report deadline	December 31

EVALUATION AND SCORING

A panel of artists and arts professionals meets to evaluate and score applications in each discipline. Panel meetings are open to the public and artists are encouraged to attend to hear the panel's comments about the applications within that discipline.

During the panel meeting, [panelists](#) review [support materials](#) from each applicant. A series of scoring rounds narrows the pool of applications. The following scoring system is used in the preliminary rounds:

1. Work is not competitive
2. Work merits further consideration
3. Work is exemplary

The scoring process is a tool used to focus the discussion regarding work that merits further consideration—it is not the primary mechanism for funding. After the scoring rounds, a more in-depth discussion takes place about the strongest applications. Once the entire pool of applications has been fully considered and the exemplary work has been thoroughly evaluated through panel discussions, funding recommendations are made by the

[panelists](#). Funding recommendations must be approved by the OAC board, the only body authorized to make final funding decisions.

Review Criteria

[Panelists](#) use the following [criteria](#) to make funding recommendations. Any one or a combination of these [criteria](#) is sufficient to justify an award recommendation:

- Creative and inventive use of the medium
- Innovation in style and/or concept
- Outstanding technical proficiency or craftsmanship
- Compares favorably to other work in the field, regionally and nationally
- Body of work is consistently high in quality
- Exemplifies the highest level of achievement in a discipline
- Advances the art form
- Artist narrative provides context for the body of work
- Audiovisual materials are relevant and of high quality