



MONTANA ARTS COUNCIL

Artist Innovation Award 2021

About the Montana Arts Council

The Montana Arts Council is the agency of state government established to develop the creative potential of all Montanans, advance education, spur economic vibrancy, and revitalize communities through involvement in the arts. The Montana Arts Council is governed by 15 individuals appointed by the Governor. It is funded by state and federal government.

Program Description

Artist Innovation Awards (AIA) acknowledge Montana artists who have demonstrated dedication to their creative pursuits and discovery in their artwork.

AIA supports the risk taking necessary to expand an artist's vision and practice. This can include new methods, applications, perspectives, elements, forms, materials, technology integration, project concepts, or processes that result from study and experimentation. Innovation applies to traditional art and contemporary art.

Application Deadline

The deadline is September 21, 2021 at 11:59 pm MST. Applications must be submitted online at <https://art.mt.gov/application>.

Review Criteria

Application materials are reviewed against the following criteria:

- Demonstrated professionalism and artistic excellence
- Evidence of bold exploration
- Promise of on-going creative and professional growth

Award Amounts

AIA are \$5,000 each. MAC anticipates making six awards this cycle.

Eligible Applicants

- Individual artists at least 18 years of age, U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents, and residents of Montana for at least one full year before the application deadline. if requested, applicant can provide proof of residency.
- Groups of artists, represented by an individual meeting the residency criteria above. Group applicants are eligible for only one award. Each artist within the group must consent to be part of the application; however, only one person should act as the lead applicant.

Ineligible Applicants

- High school and degree-seeking students
- Artists who have received a previous Artist Innovation Award
- Artists who are part of a group application
- MAC staff or members of its current governing body, or anyone connected to them by one degree of relationship, marriage or shared household
- Applicants with outstanding overdue final reports on other Montana Arts Council grants.

Contacts and Accessibility

For questions or concerns about the application process or technical assistance, or to request a large-print or alternate format guidelines, contact Brian Moody at brian.moody2@mt.gov or 406-444-4700 or Kristin Han Burgoyne at kburgoyne@mt.gov or 406-444-6449.

Application Information

Below is an overview of the information that must be provided in the online application, available at <https://art.mt.gov/application>.

MAC funding is highly competitive with more worthy requests than funding available. Take time to develop clear, complete, and compelling materials. Assume the reviewer has no prior knowledge of the organization or program. A past funding record will not assure future funding.

Project Name (100 character max)

Artist Statement (3000 character max)

Provide biographic and background information. Do not duplicate material in the "Innovation" section below.

Innovation (3000 character max)

Describe how work samples attached below illustrate exploration and development in the artwork and creative process. Do not repeat the information provided in the "Artist Statement".

Resume

Include information that reflects career advancements and professional accomplishments in the arts. Four pages or less is recommended.

What is your primary category?

Your work may cross categories. Please indicate the primary category.

Choices: Literary Arts, Performing Arts, Visual Arts

Discipline

Select as many disciplines as apply from the list below, across any category.

Choices:

Blogs	Costuming	Vocalist	Landscape design
Fiction	Dancer	Ceramics	Leather
Graphic novels	Director	Clay	Jewelry
Literary non-fiction	Filmmaker	Collage	Metal
Playwriting	Instrumentalist	Craft	Mixed media
Poetry	Mime	Decorative arts	Mosaics
Prose	Musician	Design arts	Painting
Screenwriting	Performance artist	Digital arts	Paper
Short stories	Podcast	Drawing	Photography
Writing for children and youth	Puppetry	Glass	Printmaking
Actor	Spoken word poet	Graphics	Sculpture
Audio	Stage design	Fashion	Stone
Composer	Storytelling	Fiber/Textiles	Urban design
Conductor	Technology	Illustration	Wood
Choreographer	Technical theatre	Interior design	Works on Paper
	Video	Installation art	Other

Support Materials

Use the upload fields below to attach support materials.

If you wish to include a video with your application, please use the website link fields at the end of the section. The grant portal cannot support large files. Please note: there are additional website URL boxes for Artist Website and Artist Social Media.

Support materials may not exceed 20 uploads. The grant system limits applications to 100 MiB of total upload data--plan accordingly. Consider including a balance of artwork samples, promotional materials, and press. Each upload will require an accompanying inventory section including title, date, medium, size, and context. If providing video website links, please any necessary details about video cues, etc.

Review panelists will be instructed to limit their initial support material review time to 15 minutes.

Artwork samples should support your narrative responses and provide evidence for the grant criteria (listed above). Provide examples that demonstrate artistic development, evolution, and/or experimentation.

- Image uploads should be PDF, jpg, or tif files suitable for online viewing on a variety of devices. No larger than 5mb.
- Video media may not exceed 12 minutes of total time and is submitted as a link to a video platform (Vimeo, YouTube, Etc.)
- Literary samples for poets and prose may be up to 25 pages, PDF format.
- Playwrights may submit up to 40 pages in playwright format, PDF.

Review Process

If additional information is required, MAC will make contact via email. Do not submit information unless requested. Only the materials presented in the application will be considered.

A panel of arts professionals will review the applications. Panel recommendations will be presented to the full body of the MAC. The decisions of the Council are final.

All MAC review meetings are open to the public. Applicants will be identified by name, and all application materials are public information.

Applicants must refrain from contacting panel or council members, before or during the panel review process. Applicants attending the panel meeting as observers will not be allowed to discuss their application.

A summary of panel comments is available to applicants upon request. Applicants are encouraged to contact MAC staff after the review to receive comments. Panel discussions and comments provide insights about effective writing and how applications are perceived and understood.

Notification

Applicants will be notified of funding decisions by January 1, 2022.

Awardee Responsibilities

Applicants will be required to provide a biography, headshot, and to sign a release allowing the submitted artwork, with appropriate credit, to be used to promote the arts.

All current and prior MAC grant reporting must be in compliance to receive funding.

Prior to January 1, 2023, awardees must present a public event that conveys the innovative nature of the artwork and acknowledges MAC's award. Examples may include:

- a workshop
- a reading or performance
- a lecture or demonstration
- an exhibit

The activity can involve other artists or organizations and can have been planned before notification of the award. It must take place in a venue that is public or fully accessible in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The event should be designed to be of low cost to the awardee. MAC must be notified of the public event 30 days prior and provided with information to promote it.

Reporting Requirements

- All awardees will be required to submit a final report by December 31, 2022.
- The final report will ask for a narrative summary of a public event acknowledging the award, statistical data about audiences and artists participating, and an overview of contact with state legislators and U.S. Congressional representatives.

How to Log on to the MAC Application Portal

Navigate to art.mt.gov/application

New Users: Click on "Create New Account" to complete the registration process and create your logon credentials.

Existing Users: Enter your credentials and log in. If you forgot your password, use the "Forgot your Password" link to the left to reset your password.

At the top of the screen select the red "Apply" link. Select "2021 Artist Innovation Award".

Recommendations for Applying

- Review the guidelines. Contact MAC staff with questions.
- Type narrative answers in a word processing document to paste into the application form. Narrative fields have a character count; punctuation and spacing are included.
- Only one document can be uploaded to an upload field. Combine multiple documents into one, a series of bios, for example, for upload.
- To maintain formatting after upload, convert word processing documents to pdf files. MAC does not recommend any particular software; Adobe and mycutepdf.com are examples of software for creating pdf's. If you are struggling, contact MAC staff.
- Use a naming convention that identifies the applicant and the document, example:
Moody_Resume.pdf
- Request assistance early to ensure MAC staff will be able to respond before the deadline.