MONTANA ARTS COUNCIL

Artist's Innovation Award Guidelines 2019

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 (MAC) is governed by 15 individuals appointed by the Governor.

Program Description

Artist's 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 October 1, 2019, at midnight Mountain Standard Time and submitted through the MAC application portal.

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
Applicants must be at least 18 years of age, U.S. citizens, and residents of Montana for at least one full year before the application deadline.

Policies
- High school and degree-seeking students are ineligible.
- Artists who have received a previous Artist's Innovation Award may not apply.
- Group applicants are not eligible to also apply as individual artists.
- 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.
- MAC staff or members of its current governing body, or anyone connected to them by one degree of relationship -by blood, marriage or shared household -are not eligible to apply for this award.

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 Kristin Han Burgoyne at kburgoyne@mt.gov or 406-444-6449.

Application Information
Below is an overview of the information in the application, available at www.art.mt.gov/application

Discipline*
The applicant will be required to select one primary category.
- Literary Arts
- Performing Arts
- Visual Arts

Applicants will also be able to indicate as many disciplines as apply from the list below, across any category.

Literary Arts	Performing Arts	Visual Arts
Blogs	Actor	Architecture
Fiction	Audio	Artists books
Graphic novels	Composer	Calligraphy

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

Artist Statement*
Provide biographic and background information. Do not duplicate material in the innovation section. (3000-character limit)

Innovation*
Describe how the artwork samples illustrate evolution and development in the artwork and creative process. Do not repeat the information provided in the artist statement. (3000-character limit)

Resume Upload*
Include information that reflects career advancements and professional accomplishments. Four pages or less is recommended. PDF format.

Support Materials Artwork Samples*

Support Materials may not exceed 20 uploads and may include a balance of artwork samples, promotional materials, and press. Each upload will require an accompanying inventory section to include title, date, medium, size, context, and for video a beginning video cue. Review panelists will be instructed to limit their initial support material review time to 15 minutes.

Artwork samples should support the narrative responses. Provide examples that demonstrate artistic development from different career stages. The majority of the samples should focus on artwork from within the last five years and be reflective of an innovative approach.

- Image uploads should be pdf, jpg or tif files suitable for online viewing, no larger than 5mb.
- Video media may not exceed twelve minutes of total time and is submitted as a link to video on another platform (vimeo, youtube, etc).
- Literary samples for poets and prose may be up to 25 pages, pdf format.
- Playwrights may submit up to forty pages in playwright format, pdf format.
- Websites must submit screenshots or demo video. Panelists will not review live sites.

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, individually or as a group, 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, regardless of the outcome. Panel discussions and comments provide insights about effective writing and how applications are perceived and understood.

Notification

Applicants will receive notification of funding decisions by January 1, 2020.

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.

Awardees will be required to acknowledge the governor, local legislators, and congressional representatives in writing.

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

Prior to January 1, 2021, 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.

How to Log on to the MAC Application Portal
www.art.mt.gov/application

NEW THIS YEAR: Artist's Innovation Awards (AIA) is using a different online system and will not require a fee. This platform is the same as is used for the Strategic Investment Grant (SIG) and Montana Artrepreneur Program (MAP).

IF AIA is the only program you have applied for in the past, create a new account. If you have created an account in the past for SIG or MAP, follow the 'Existing Users' information below. Sorry for any confusion this may cause.

New Users: Click on "Create New Account" to complete the registration process and create your login 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 Artist's Innovation Awards.

Recommendations for Applying
- Review the guidelines and contact MAC for any clarification.
- Determine eligibility and requirements; gather the supporting documents and information.
- Type narrative answers in a word processing document to paste into the application form. Narrative fields have a character count inclusive of punctuation and spacing. The entire application does not need to be completed in a single session.

- 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 pdfs. If you are struggling, contact MAC staff (kburgoyne@mt.gov).
- Use a naming convention that identifies the applicant and the document, for example, LastName_Resume.pdf or LastName_PoemSubmission.pdf.
- The 'Application Packet' button, on the right in the application, will show how the materials will appear to the reviewers. To keep a record, save this pdf, print it, or send it as an email attachment.
- During the final week before the deadline, many applicants are requesting assistance. Request assistance early to ensure MAC staff will be able to respond before the deadline.