2020 Individual Artist Awards

ONLINE APPLICATION GUIDELINES:
PROJECT AWARD & FELLOWSHIP

(NOTE: The Individual Artist Awards' Distinguished Artist nomination process is separate and now closed. Please see www.rasmuson.org for more information.)

Rasmuson Foundation honors the merit and significance of a life dedicated to serious artistic exploration and growth. The Foundation believes that no matter what their career stage, an artist’s energy, ideas and creative drive needs time devoted to experimentation, education and reflection. With these guiding principles in mind, Rasmuson Foundation offers two award types for artists and artist groups or collaboratives living and working in Alaska:

PROJECT AWARD: Awards of $7,500 for specific, short-term projects that have a clear benefit to an individual or group’s artistic growth and development. A full description of the Project Award can be found in the How to Apply section on page five.

ARTIST FELLOWSHIP: Awards of $18,000 for an individual or group at mid-career or mature artistic career stages to focus their energy and attention for a one-year period on developing their creative work. A full description of the Artist Fellowships can be found in the How to Apply section on page five.

Applicants may apply for either a Project Award or Fellowship. An individual may only apply once per application cycle, either as an individual or group/collaborative.

GROUPS OR COLLABORATIVES

Artistic collaboratives and groups are eligible to apply for either the Project Award or Fellowship award type. Applying as a group allows two or more individuals to apply within one application. Collaborative proposals may include ongoing groups or collectives, or time-limited collaborations. An application must list a project director and the project lead/s. A project director and project lead/s share ownership of the collaboration and are each designated as a “collaborator.” The individual who is designated the project director would accept the grant award and fiduciary responsibility, if awarded. It is imperative that all collaborators be listed on the application. Other members at large, or participants providing services or support to the proposed project are not considered collaborators.

APPLICATION DEADLINES

All applications are due Monday, March 2, 2020.

Applications may be submitted by mail, delivered in person, or online at www.rasmuson.org. Applications submitted online must be completed by 11:59 p.m. Alaska Time (AST) on March 2. Applications delivered in person must be received by 5 p.m. AST on March 2. Mailed applications must be postmarked by March 2. Late applications will not be considered.

Rasmuson Foundation staff will provide a draft review of the application if submitted online by 11:59 p.m. AST on Friday, February 14, 2020. The draft review will primarily focus on completeness of the submission, and not assess the content of application. After February 14, staff will be unable to review applications for completeness in advance of the March 2 deadline.

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

Artists may apply if they meet the following eligibility requirements:

- The applicant, including all group collaborators, must be full-time Alaska resident/s, living in the state, for the past two years (and living in the state at the time of the application) and remain a resident for the duration of the grant period.
  - If the applicant was out of the state for more than 180 days in 2019, they must provide an explanation of why.
  - If the applicant will be out of the state for more than 180 days in 2020, they must provide an explanation of why.
- The applicant must be at least 18 years or older at the time of application.
- The applicant must currently be producing work.
- Past Individual Artist Award recipients who received their award prior to 2017, and who have no overdue reports.
Artists are NOT eligible to apply if they are:

- Students enrolled in any degree seeking program related to the arts at any educational level.
- A current board member, committee member, staff member, and members of their immediate families, or current consultant or panelist for Rasmuson Foundation.
- Individuals or groups whose work or project is primarily of a research, scholarly, or commercial nature.
- Individual Artist Award recipients who received their award in 2018 or 2019, including all collaborators of an artist group.

CAREER STAGES

The Foundation defines artist career stages as follows:

EMERGING ARTISTS are those in the early stages of their professional careers. Their work has begun to take shape, and their output contains the seeds of further artistic development.

MID-CAREER ARTISTS are those who have created an independent body of work and have made a recognized contribution to their discipline through public presentation. They have steadily progressed as an artist and are challenging themselves to explore other avenues of expression as well as deepening the modalities that brought them to this artistic stage.

MATURE ARTISTS are those who have created an extensive independent body of work representing a life-long investigation and maturation of their personal creativity. They demonstrate a high-aesthetic level of artistic ability with a strong consistency of expression over a professional arts career.

CRITERIA

Selection criteria for awards include:

- The quality of artistic work within the context of the individual or group’s experience, training and career stage.
- The individual or group’s creative accomplishments and the promise of future artistic excellence.
- The quality and thoroughness in completing the application.
- The likely impact an award at this time will have on the applicant's future artistic and career growth.

*Applications must be culturally responsible and not contain elements of cultural appropriation; the unacknowledged or inappropriate adoption of the customs, practices, ideas, etc. of one people or society by members of another and typically more dominant people or society… presenting a particular power dynamic in which members of a dominant culture take elements from a culture of people who have been systematically oppressed by that dominant group.

SELECTION PROCESS

Through its affiliations with national arts organizations, other grantmakers, art administrators, professional artists and cultural scholars, Rasmuson Foundation assembles a panel of experts from across the country to review Individual Artist Award submissions. A new panel is selected each year. Awards are granted on a competitive basis and selection will be made through a two-step process:

- Discipline-specific panels will review applications and select a pool of finalists.
- An interdisciplinary panel will review finalist applications and select award recipients.

Decisions are final and not subject to appeal. The selection process will take approximately eight to 12 weeks, and all applicants will be notified of the panel’s decisions after the selections have been made, usually in early May.

AWARD TERMS

Award recipients will sign a grant agreement before receipt of award funds. The one-year award period begins June 1 and ends May 31. At the end of the award period, award recipients submit a final report describing their work throughout the grant period and its importance to their ongoing artistic and career development. Group collaborators must list project lead/s and designate one “project director” who will accept fiduciary responsibility and be the recipient of the grant payment. The project director will be the primary contact. The project director and project lead/s will be required to sign a grant agreement, designating fiduciary responsibility and stating their intention to finish the project collectively. Individual and collaborator award recipients will be precluded from applying again for three years.

Please contact the Foundation if you have any questions regarding the application process: (907) 297-2700; (877) 366-2700 toll-free in Alaska; or email us at arts@rasmuson.org.
PROJECT AWARD APPLICATION

Individuals or groups may apply for an award of $7,500 for a specific, short-term project that has clear benefits to the artist or group and the development of their work. Artists at any career stage may apply for Project Awards. Awards must be used for a specific activity or opportunity that will be accomplished within one year of the award date. Examples might include travel and fees associated with workshops and other advanced study opportunities; professional documentation of work for submission to juried shows or galleries; and costs associated with the creation/installation of work that is scheduled for public viewing. Cost of living expenses may be included, but applicants should clearly explain how this would allow them to accomplish their project goals.

PROJECT AWARD ARTIST DISCIPLINES

Project Awards are available in 11 artistic disciplines, including Choreography, Crafts, Folk and Traditional Arts, Literary Arts/Scriptworks, Media Arts, Multidiscipline, Music Composition, New Genre, Performance Art, Presentation/Interpretation, and Visual Arts. Definitions of all 11 artistic disciplines can be found in the How to Apply section on page five.

REQUIRED PROJECT AWARD APPLICATION MATERIALS NEEDED FOR ONLINE SUBMISSION

- Application coversheet;
- Description of activities, including a timeline that fits within the June 1 through May 31 grant period, and plan with specific outcomes;
- Budget describing the proposed use of the $7,500. Please note, this budget outlines your proposed use of Rasmuson Foundation funds towards your project, therefore the final total must equal $7,500. If your project cost is more than $7,500, please outline additional expenses and secured sources of funding in the description of activities.
- Individual or combined group artist resume or answer application questions (for those who do not have an artist resume);
- Individual or combined group artist statement or answer application questions (for those who do not have an artist statement);
- Submit work samples that demonstrate the level of artistic accomplishment. It is strongly recommended that the submitted samples be work created in the last five years. Older work may be included, but there should be a reason they were included. Applications with work samples older than five years may be considered less competitive. Follow work sample requirements of selected discipline.
ARTIST FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION

Mid-career or mature individual artists or groups may apply for a $18,000 Fellowship (see the definition of mid-career or mature under Career Stages). The awards are designed to give individuals or groups a flexible source of funding they can use to advance their creative work. Awards are unrestricted grants and available for activities that assist in an artist or groups’s growth and development including, but not limited to: workshops/residencies; training; individual projects; creative collaborations with other artists; exploration of and experimentation in other arts fields; equipment, materials, studio space; travel expenses; and retreats. While the awards are not tied to specific outcomes, applicants must articulate what they hope to experience, explore, or accomplish during their award period and how they propose to do so.

FELLOWSHIP ARTISTIC DISCIPLINES

The 2020 Fellowship artistic disciplines are Media Arts, Multidiscipline, Music Composition, New Genre, Presentation/Interpretation, and Visual Arts. Artistic discipline definitions can be found in the How to Apply section on page five.

REQUIRED FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION MATERIALS NEEDED FOR ONLINE SUBMISSION

- Application coversheet;
- Description of activities, including timeline that fits within the June 1 through May 31 grant period;
- Individual or combined group artist resume or answer application questions (for those who do not have an artist resume);
- Individual or combined group artist statement or answer application questions (for those who do not have an artist statement);
- Work samples that demonstrate the level of artistic accomplishment. It is strongly recommended that the submitted samples be work created in the last five years. Older work may be included, but there should be a reason they were included. Applications with work samples older than five years may be considered less competitive. Follow work sample requirements of selected discipline.
STEP 1. SELECT YOUR ARTISTIC DISCIPLINE

Below are the definitions of 11 artistic disciplines. Eligible applicants will have work rooted in these categories. Review the artistic disciplines listed below and select the category that best represents your art. If the work does not fit one specific discipline, you have two options. Applicants may either apply under the category that would best describe their creative work or select the “multidiscipline” category (defined below). Those who choose the “multidiscipline” will be asked to identify the two artistic disciplines that best define their work. The discipline work sample requirements are listed below each of the definitions.

CHOREOGRAPHY: Artists creating original work in ballet, jazz, modern, tap, traditional and culturally specific dance forms.

Submit a maximum of three different works presented in separate video files. Follow video file work sample specifications on page nine.

CRAFTS: Artists working in all forms of functional and nonfunctional crafts including, but not limited to ceramics, glass, wood, metal, fiber, textiles and recycled materials. Traditional craft artists may choose to apply in the Folk and Traditional Arts category.

Applicants may submit digital photos, or a combination of digital photos and video/audio samples (for example, an instrument maker may wish to include photos of the instrument and a video/audio clip to demonstrate its sound.) Applicants submitting only photos, may submit up to 10 digital photos (recommended for visual-based work). Follow the digital photograph work sample specifications on page nine. Those wishing to submit both digital photos and video/audio files may submit up to 5 digital photographs and up to 2 audio or video files totaling up to 5 minutes. Follow combined work sample specifications on page 10. There should be a purposeful reason to submit combined work samples under this discipline.

FOLK AND TRADITIONAL ARTS: Artists whose work is rooted in and reflects a community’s shared cultural values, history and experiences. These art forms can take the shape of performing traditions in music, dance and drama; traditional storytelling; traditional crafts; and visual arts. These arts are usually passed down from one generation to the next. Artists must demonstrate their connection to the traditional or cultural art form.

Applicants may submit digital photos, videos, or a combination of digital photos and video/audio samples (for example, an instrument maker may wish to include photos of the instrument and a video/audio clip to demonstrate its sound.) Applicants submitting only photos, may submit up to 10 digital photos (recommended for visual-based work). Applicants who wish to submit only video/audio files may submit up to three work samples for a total of 10 minutes of content. Follow the video/audio work sample specifications on page nine. Those wishing to submit both digital photos and video/audio files may submit up to 5 digital photographs and up to 2 audio or video files totaling up to 5 minutes. Follow combined work sample specifications on page 10. There should be a purposeful reason to submit combined works samples under this discipline.

LITERARY ARTS/SCRIPTWORKS: Artists writing fiction, creative non-fiction, poetry, screen plays and scripts for the stage.

Fiction, creative non-fiction, scriptworks and storytelling: Submit up to 15 pages (double spaced, single sided) of writing samples. Applicants are urged to submit the first chapter for book-length fiction or creative non-fiction, or the first 15 pages of a play or script. Applicants choose to submit excerpts from different chapters, they are required to provide a context statement for each of their work samples. Poetry: Submit between four and eight poems of no more than 15 pages total. Follow manuscript work sample specifications on page nine.

MEDIA ARTS: Artists creating narrative or animation time-based original works using audio, digital and/or film, as well as installations in which these expressions form the major artistic element.

Applicants who wish to submit only video/audio files may submit up to 3 work samples for a total of 10 minutes of content. Follow the video/audio work sample specifications on page nine. Those wishing to submit video/audio files and digital photos may submit up to 2 audio or video files totaling up to 5 minutes and 5 digital photos. Follow combined work sample specifications on page 10.
HOW TO APPLY - PROJECT AWARD & FELLOWSHIP

MULTIDISCIPLINE: Artists whose work is experimental, pioneering work that is not grounded in any one discipline.

Applicants who wish to submit only video/audio files may submit up to 3 work samples for a total of 10 minutes of content. Follow the video/audio work sample specifications on page nine. Those wishing to submit a combination of sample types may submit one of the 3 options:

- up to a 7-page manuscript and 5 minutes of video/audio; or
- up to a 7-page manuscript and 5 digital photos; or
- up to 2 audio or video files totaling up to 5 minutes and 5 digital photos. Follow combined work sample specifications on page 10.

MUSIC COMPOSITION: Composers creating original works in a range of genres including classical, jazz, folk, bluegrass, musical theatre, pop, blues, gospel, traditional and world music.

Submit a maximum of three different examples of your work in video or audio file format. Attach one copy of the music for each work submitted (please note, this document can range from formal scores with musical notations to song lyrics and chord progressions). Follow video/audio file and manuscript work sample specifications on page nine.

NEW GENRE: Artists whose work is experimental, pushing the boundaries that define their art, or using non-conventional materials and approaches to the artmaking process.

Applicants who wish to submit only video/audio files may submit up to three work samples for a total of 10 minutes of content. Follow the video/audio work sample specifications on page nine. Those wishing to submit video/audio files and digital photos may submit up to 2 audio or video files totaling up to 5 minutes and 5 digital photos. Follow combined work sample specifications on page 10.

PERFORMANCE ARTS: Artists creating and performing original work presented to an audience within a fine art context. Theater or non-theater based works that are time based and provide new contexts for live performance. Scripted or unscripted, this includes works that are centered on physical action that is carried out or orchestrated by an artist. Examples: artists who write and perform their own material, circus arts, vaudeville and cabaret, puppetry, and other individual or group action-based works. Music composers should apply in the music composition category.

Applicants may submit up to three video/audio files totaling 10 minutes of content. Follow the video/audio work sample specifications on page nine. Those wishing to submit video/audio files and digital photos may submit up to 2 audio or video files totaling up to 5 minutes and 5 digital photos. Follow combined work sample specifications on page 10.

PRESENTATION/INTERPRETATION: Artists who explore existing work for the purpose of presentation or performance within any artistic genre such as dance, theatrical/dramatic performance, spoken word, vocal or instrumental performance. This includes artists working in creative roles such as lighting, set, costume, projection, production or sound design, stage direction or dramaturgy. Artists creating original work within other disciplines listed in awards criteria should apply within that discipline.

Applicants may submit up to three video/audio files totaling 10 minutes of content. Follow the video/audio work sample specifications on page nine. Those wishing to submit video/audio files and digital photos may submit up to 2 audio or video files totaling up to 5 minutes and 5 digital photos. Follow combined work sample specifications on page 10.

VISUAL ARTS: Artists creating original work in two- and three-dimensional forms including painting, drawing, printmaking, collage, photography, illustration, watercolor, etching, computer graphics, fiber art and mediums associated with artists’ books. The visual arts also include sculpture, installations, glass, metal works, ceramics, etc.

Applicants may submit digital photos, or a combination of digital photos and video/audio samples. Applicants submitting photos only, may submit up to 10 digital photographs (recommended). Follow the digital photograph work sample specifications on page nine. Those wishing to submit both digital photos and video/audio files may submit up to 5 digital photographs and up to 2 audio or video files totaling up to 5 minutes. Follow combined work sample specifications on page 10. There should be a purposeful reason to submit combined work samples under this discipline.

STEP 2. PREPARE APPLICATION MATERIALS

Carefully review the required application materials for each award type and artistic discipline definitions and work sample requirements. If work samples cannot be opened or played, the application will not be considered.
HOW TO APPLY - PROJECT AWARD & FELLOWSHIP

A. GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLICATION MATERIALS:

- Description of activities, artist statement, resume and other written material that will be uploaded to the application site should be typed with a font no smaller than 12 pt., on single-sided white 8.5" x 11" paper with 1" margins.
- If handwritten, make sure materials are legible.
- Include only materials specifically requested in this application. No additional materials will be considered.

B. COMPLETE AWARD APPLICATION COVERSHEET (ONLINE)

C. DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES AND TIMELINE

Please answer the following questions. Keep in mind panelists will likely not be familiar with your work, so be sure to provide adequate context and express ideas clearly. Describe the project so that it will be meaningful to panelists, including those outside your artistic discipline.

**In 100 words or less**

1. Please provide a clear and concise overview of the proposal.

**In 250 words or less**

2. What will you do if you receive a grant award/what is your project or fellowship focus?

3. How will your proposal advance/enrich your artistic development and/or career?

4. Why is this work important?

For Groups and Collaboratives only:

**In 250 words or less**

5. Please identify each collaborator’s role in the group or collaborative and describe the significance of the group undertaking this project or concept. If relevant, briefly discuss the roles of other members or participants.

*The project director and project lead/s share ownership of the collaboration and are designated as a “collaborator.” It is imperative that all “collaborators” be listed on the application. Members and participants of the proposed project or those who provide services on a “work for hire” basis, are not considered collaborators.*

D. TIMELINE

Enter a timeline of proposed activities within the grant period of June 1, 2020 to May 31, 2021.

E. PROJECT BUDGET (Submit only if applying for a Project Award)

Fill in the descriptions and costs of the expenses directly related to your proposed project. Your budget may include materials, travel, contracted services, fees and other project related expenses. This budget outlines your proposed use of Rasmuson Foundation funds towards your project, therefore the final total must equal $7,500. If your project cost is more than $7,500, please outline additional expenses and secured sources of funding in the description of activities. *Cost estimates are fine to use.*

F. ARTIST RESUME (individual or combined) Question OR Attachment (Attachment in pdf, doc, docx or txt format only)

It is strongly suggested that you submit an (individual or combined) artist resume. If you are not able to create one, you may submit a 500-word narrative. Choose one of the following options:

- **(Preferred option)** Submit a one-page artist resume describing individual or group artistic accomplishments. Include training, honors, exhibitions, commissions, performances, awards, grants, collaborations, community work, residencies, tours and other relevant activities. Do not include general employment history or other information unless it is pertinent to the art experience. OR

- **(Acceptable option)** In 500 words or less, list the experience, education and training that demonstrates you or the group has the adequate foundation needed to get the most out of this opportunity. Include mentorship, training, honors, exhibitions, education/course work, commissions, performances, awards, grants, collaborations, community work, residencies, tours and other relevant activities.
HOW TO APPLY - PROJECT AWARD & FELLOWSHIP

G. ARTIST STATEMENT (individual or combined) Questions OR Attachment (Attachment in pdf, doc, docx or txt format only)

Choose ONE of the following options, not both:

- (Preferred option) Submit a one-page artist statement. OR
- (Acceptable option) In an essay 500 words or less, please answer most or all of the following questions:
  - Why do you make art?
  - What inspires or drives you to make art?
  - Why is your work important?
  - What does your art signify or represent?
  - What does it communicate?
  - What mediums or materials do you use?
  - What is unique about your process or unique about your subject matter?
  - What does your art mean to you?

H. WORK SAMPLE(S)

Follow the discipline-specific work sample information. Fill in the information for each work sample and then upload (attach) the file(s) at the bottom of the page. You will be able to edit, delete and reattach files if you need to make changes prior to submission. Submitted work samples are a strong component in the evaluation of an applicant’s work. Include work samples that demonstrate your ability to carry out activities. Applicants are encouraged to submit samples of their strongest, most current work. Work samples should connect to the media/discipline you are applying under. For example, if your application proposal is for sculptural work, work samples should reflect sculptural work unless there is significant purpose in showing works outside that medium. Past award recipients should not submit samples that were included in previous successful applications. It is strongly recommended that work submitted has been created in the last five years. Older work samples may be included but may not be considered as competitive.

General requirements for all submitted work are as follows:

1. Discipline requirements. Each discipline has specific requirements as to length, numbers of samples, file types and how they are to be presented in this application. Discipline-specific requirements must be followed for your application to be considered.
2. Work sample specifications. Review the work sample specifications for instructions on how to prepare digital photographs, manuscripts, audio files and video files.

STEP 3. APPLICATION SUBMISSION

1. Check that your work sample files can be opened.
2. Type your name in the signature field.
3. Print a copy for your files.
4. Press the "submit your application" button.
5. You will receive an email response verifying your application submission.

Faxed or emailed applications will not be accepted.
WORK SAMPLE SPECIFICATIONS

Make sure that your digital/electronic work samples are formatted using the file type specified so that they can be accessed by all reviewers. Other file types will not be accepted.

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHS

Complete the work sample information for each photograph attached. Attach only one photograph per file.

- Unless instructed differently in the sample guidelines provided in the discipline descriptions, submit up to 10 digital photographs. Each image sample must only show one artwork per image.
- Jpeg format only. Image size no smaller than 1920 pixels on the longest side at a maximum resolution of 72 ppi/dpi (standard web resolution). For photography submissions, use the sRGB color space when saving. We recommend each photo not exceed 5 MB to prevent excessive load times and ensure all our panelists are able to view your work samples in a timely manner. The application will alert you if any photos are greater than 5 MB. You can use an online compression tool such as compressor.io, or any compression tool of your choice to reduce the photo’s size and upload the compressed file in place of the full-size original.

MANUSCRIPTS

Complete the work sample information for each manuscript attached.

- Attach one copy of each manuscript.
- Use 12-pt. font on white, single-sided 8.5” X 11” paper with 1” margins, double spaced.
- Scripts and poetry should be formatted to industry standard and should not exceed the maximum length of 15 pages.
- Include your name, title of the work and the date of its completion or publication at the top right corner of the manuscript. Use a pdf, doc, docx or txt format only.

AUDIO FILES

Complete the work sample information for each audio file attached.

- Choose samples that give the listener the essence of your work.
- Attach each sample as a separate file in the order in which you want the panelists to listen to submitted material.
- Submit a maximum of three work samples. A combined maximum of 10 minutes for all work samples is permitted. To ensure a consistent listening experience for the panelists, please use only the MP3 file type.

VIDEO FILES

Complete the work sample information for each video file.

- Choose samples that give the viewer the essence of your work.
- Attach the samples in the order in which you want the panelists to watch submitted material.
- Submit a maximum of three work samples. A combined maximum of 10 minutes for all work samples is permitted. Work samples must not reflect multiple images or performances in one sample.
- If submitting three work samples, each sample will on average be between two and four minutes or less.
- To ensure a consistent viewing experience for the panelists, YouTube is the preferred platform for viewing videos.
WORK SAMPLE SPECIFICATIONS

YouTube Instructions:

- Sign in or set up a YouTube account.
- Click on the “upload a video” icon at the top of the page.
- In the middle of the screen you will see a dropdown menu listing privacy options. Select the “Unlisted” option.
- Click on the “Select files to upload” icon and click on the video you wish to upload.
- You will have the option of adding a description and setting a thumbnail view. When you are done, select the “Done” button located at the upper right and side of the screen.
- Be patient, as uploading a file may take some time. When the upload is complete, copy the link to your video into the “Video Link” section on the "Work Samples" section of the application. Be sure to copy the link from the upload screen into the work sample information that matches the video and confirm the copy works.

COMBINED SAMPLES

For individual artists or groups whose work is best represented through a combination of sample types (digital photographs, audio or video samples, or word or PDF documents) there is now the option to combine work sample file types. Complete the work sample information for each photograph, audio, video file or manuscript.

- Complete the work sample information for up to 5 digital photographs. Follow digital photograph instructions above.
- Complete the work sample information for up to 5 total minutes of audio or video files. Follow Audio or Video file instructions above.
- Complete the work sample information for up to 7 pages of manuscript (only available under multidiscipline). Follow manuscript instructions above.