

INTER CHANGE

A PROGRAM OF MID-AMERICA ARTS ALLIANCE

How to Prepare for the Interchange Application

The Interchange program is designed to strengthen individual artists in the M-AAA region (Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Texas) who have a history of impactful work in a socially-engaged creative practice by providing practice-based grant funding, professional development experiences, peer network access, and one-on-one mentoring. A program of M-AAA, the Interchange program is made possible through the support of the Mellon Foundation.

Interchange fellowships of \$25,000 will be awarded to 16 regional artists in support of themselves and their socially-engaged creative practice. Fellows will participate in two professional development retreat weekends over the 18-month program. Working in small peer groups with the support of artist peer facilitators, fellows will explore their practices, goals, legal and financial strategies, and emotional-support structures. On-going support is provided throughout the program through quarterly 90-minute workshops and one-on-one mentoring sessions. The program culminates with the fellows sharing their practices and ideas with the field through a Social Practice in Conversation open to the public.

Recognizing that there are a broad array of definitions and distinctions in the field commonly referred to as social and civic practice, Interchange uses the following broad definitions:

- a current and ongoing artistic practice that includes working with communities (defined by geography or characteristics) to make change;
- a creative practice that responds to social issues, challenges, and opportunities; and/or
- a creative practice characterized by processes and products directly linked to their intended social impact.

Application Overview

The M-AAA Interchange Application period opens on Tuesday, February 20, 2024 at 9:00 am CST and closes Monday, April 15, 2024 at 5:00 pm CST. We encourage artists to prepare their narrative answers on a separate document and paste their answers into the online application form. In addition, we ask artists to submit an artist's bio, artist's statement, resume/CV (3 pages maximum in a pdf format); up to five work samples (literary, audio, video and/or images); and a work sample summary (1000 word maximum).

Panelists will be reviewing applications based on:

Artistry: Selected artists will demonstrate a well-developed socially-engaged creative practice in both work and process and show a deep commitment to their work. Selected artists will have had an active socially-engaged creative practice for a minimum of three years and show motivation to continue and further evolve.

Social Impact: Selected artists will clearly articulate the community(ies) with which they are engaging, the needs they are addressing, and the historic and potential impact of their work in a socially-engaged creative practice.

Program Readiness : Selected artists will have the desire to advance their career and deepen their practice, engage in a strategic management process surrounding their practice, as well as an interest in sharing their work and process as part of an active network of socially-engaged creatives in a peer learning environment.

Impact of Funding on Practice : Selected artists will identify the ways they initially anticipate the Interchange funds will impact their careers and socially-engaged creative practices. These identified impacts should relate to self-identified challenges and/or desired futures.

Complete the online application form here >> <https://interchangeartistgrant.art/apply>

The deadline to submit the online application is Monday, April 15, 2024 at 5:00 pm CST. Applicants will be notified by Monday, June 10, 2024.

The Interchange application consists of both submitted documents and narrative questions. Applicants are required to submit Artist resume/CV (as a .pdf document) as well as narrative answers written into the online form (Artist Biography, Artist Statement, Socially-Engaged Creative Practice Evolution, Future of Your Socially-Engaged Creative Practice, Communities Engaged and Impact, Fund Use, Professional Development and Work Sample Summary). In order to help applicants better prepare, details, requirements, and example links are listed below.

About You and Your Work Submissions:

- Artist Biography (100 words max)
 - [Writing Your Artist's Bio pdf](#)
- Artist Statement (250 words max)
 - Statement should reflect and highlight the applicant's socially-engaged creative practice
 - [Writing Your Artist's Statement pdf](#)
- Artist Resume/CV (maximum 3 pages, .pdf format)
 - Resume/CV should reflect at least 3 years history of work in a socially-engaged creative practice
 - [Writing Your Artist's Resume and CV pdf](#)
- Work Sample Summary (1000 word max)
 - [Work Sample Summary Examples pdf](#)
- Up to five work samples that highlight the applicant's socially-engaged creative practice (images, audio files, literary files, or URLs to audio, video, and/or literary files) (1MB maximum per file)
- Proof of residence in the M-AAA six state region: driver's license, bill from a bank, mortgage company, utility company, credit card company, doctor or hospital, bank statement, property tax bill, current valid homeowner's or renter's policy, or motor vehicle insurance card or policy, current valid motor vehicle registration, 2022 tax filing (IRS or state) with sensitive information removed.

Narrative Questions:

1. Socially-Engaged Creative Practice Evolution
In your own words, explain the evolution of your socially-engaged creative practice over the previous few years. What work have you been pursuing? How has the work evolved? Why has it evolved in that way? Have you faced challenges or constraints in pursuing the work? (250 word maximum)
2. Future of Your Socially-Engaged Creative Practice
Where do you want your socially-engaged creative practice to be in five years? What measures of success for your practice have you identified? (250 word maximum)
3. Community and Impact
What community(ies) have you been engaging with in your socially-engaged creative practice? What needs and/or issues is the work intended to address? What is the historic impact of this work? What future impacts do you foresee? (250 word maximum)

4. Professional Development

Considering the criteria of this program, which includes active peer-based learning experiences, explain how participating in the Interchange professional development retreats, learning alongside a dedicated, small group of your peers, accessing one-on-one mentoring sessions with artist peer facilitators, and building a network of regional socially-engaged artists, will be beneficial to the development of your creative practice. What strengths will you bring to share with your peers? (250 word maximum)

5. Fund Use

Fellows will be awarded \$25,000 to use in support of themselves and their socially-engaged creative practices. Expenses may include, but are not limited to equipment, healthcare, travel, studio space, child care, professional services, research, supplies, and contingency savings. Fellows must demonstrate that a minimum of 20% (\$5,000) of the award is used towards self-care (expenses not directly in support of an individual creative project or work, but toward their own sustenance as an artist). If selected as an Interchange fellow, how are you considering using the funds to further your practice? (250 word maximum)

6. *Optional: What identities do you hold that you believe are relevant to share? Including but not limited to race, ethnicity, disability, class, sexual orientation, gender identity, caregiver, military, rural resident, of immigrant experience, English as a second language. This section will be visible to the panel reviewers. For example, "I am a Taiwanese American cis-gender female, first-generation immigrant living in rural Arkansas." or "I am a LGBTQ+ parent of two children." (100-word maximum)

Applications Support and Resources

If you have questions about the application or need help applying, please contact: artistservices@maa.org, or schedule a [virtual meeting](#) with a member of the Artist Services team. Our team is available Monday - Thursday, between 9 am - 7pm CST during the application period (February 20, 2024 - April 15, 2024).

Applicants also have the option to complete their applications verbally with M-AAA staff, although work samples must be submitted as digital files or as links to website addresses. Requests for assistance must be received by Friday, April 5, 2024. You may download and utilize any or all of these instructional documents below. Have more questions or need assistance? Email us: artistservices@maa.org.

To schedule a virtual meeting, visit:

<https://calendly.com/m-aaa-artist-services/interchange-application-support>.

Tips and Troubleshooting:

- We strongly encourage applicants to access the online application through the Google Chrome browser.
- Make sure cookies are enabled
 - On your computer, open Chrome.
 - At the top right, click More. Settings.
 - Under "Privacy and security," click Site settings.
 - Click Third-Party Cookies.
 - From here, you can: Turn on cookies: Next to "Blocked," turn on the switch.
- Compose the answers to your narrative questions in a word processing document (i.e., Microsoft word or Google Docs) and then copy and paste answers into the online application form when you are fully satisfied with your responses.
- Verify that all files you will be uploading to the online application form (proof of residency, resume/CV, images, literary samples) are less than 1MB in size.
- Carefully verify that you have typed your email address into the online application form correctly. Your email address is how you access your saved application.
- As you are working in the online application, save frequently.
- Work well in advance of the Monday, April 15, 2024 5:00 pm CST deadline. If you're going to have a technical problem, it always happens when the clock is ticking.