



ARTS & SCIENCE COUNCIL

# Creative Renewal Fellowship

Info Session



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[ArtsAndScience.org](https://ArtsAndScience.org)



# Creative Renewal Fellowships

## Application Deadline

Sunday, February 22, 2026  
@ midnight

All applications must be submitted online.  
**Late applications cannot be accepted.**

Email Iván Garnica at  
**Ivan.Garnica@ArtsandScience.org**  
with any questions or tech support.

**Tip:** Technology troubles can happen - please, do not try to submit 30 mins. before the deadline...

**Due Date:**  
**2/22/26 @ 12AM**

Click [here](#) to start Creative Renewal application

Click [here](#) to log into your grants portal to continue working on saved application

# Purpose of Fellowship

**Funding Goal:** The **Creative Renewal Fellowship** is intended to reinvigorate experienced artists by offering the time, resources, and freedom to explore new directions, deepen their practice, and sustain their long-term creative vitality in Mecklenburg County.

This Fellowship is designed to provide a **sabbatical-like experience** for Mecklenburg-based creatives with over 10 years of experience looking to expand or re-invigorate their creative practice. This opportunity is aimed at helping established creatives **combat creative burnout** and **integrate new mediums/ideas** into their practice.

**Up to 25% of total budget** can be used to purchase new supplies/materials for work created throughout the course of the Fellowship, but the main focus should be to gain new skillsets/experience or experience with new mediums/ideas.

**This Fellowship is meant to provide freedom to experiment and combat creative burnout by engaging in new trainings, learnings, and experiences.**

# Creative Renewal Fellowship

## Eligible expenses:

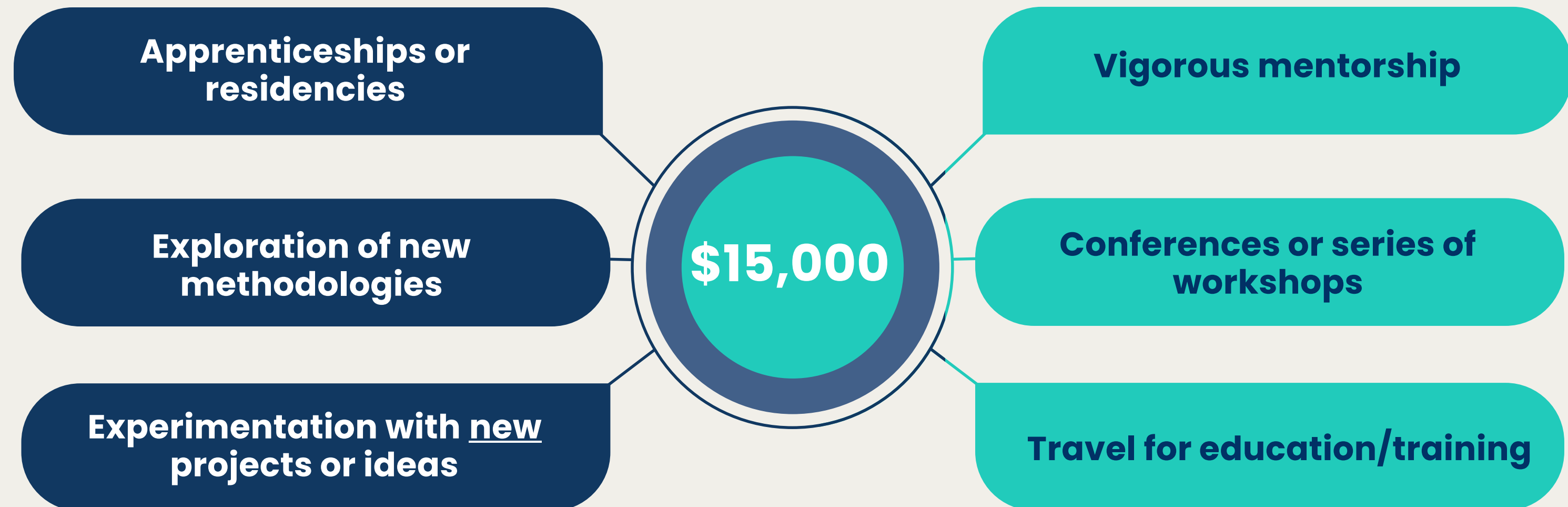
- Fees associated to workshops, apprenticeships, residencies, and/or conferences.
- Up to \$3,750 in materials/supplies need to complete new work during fellowship.
- Flights or ground transportation.
- Hotel/Airbnb stays for the duration of your workshops, apprenticeships, residencies, and/or conferences.

## Ineligible Expenses:

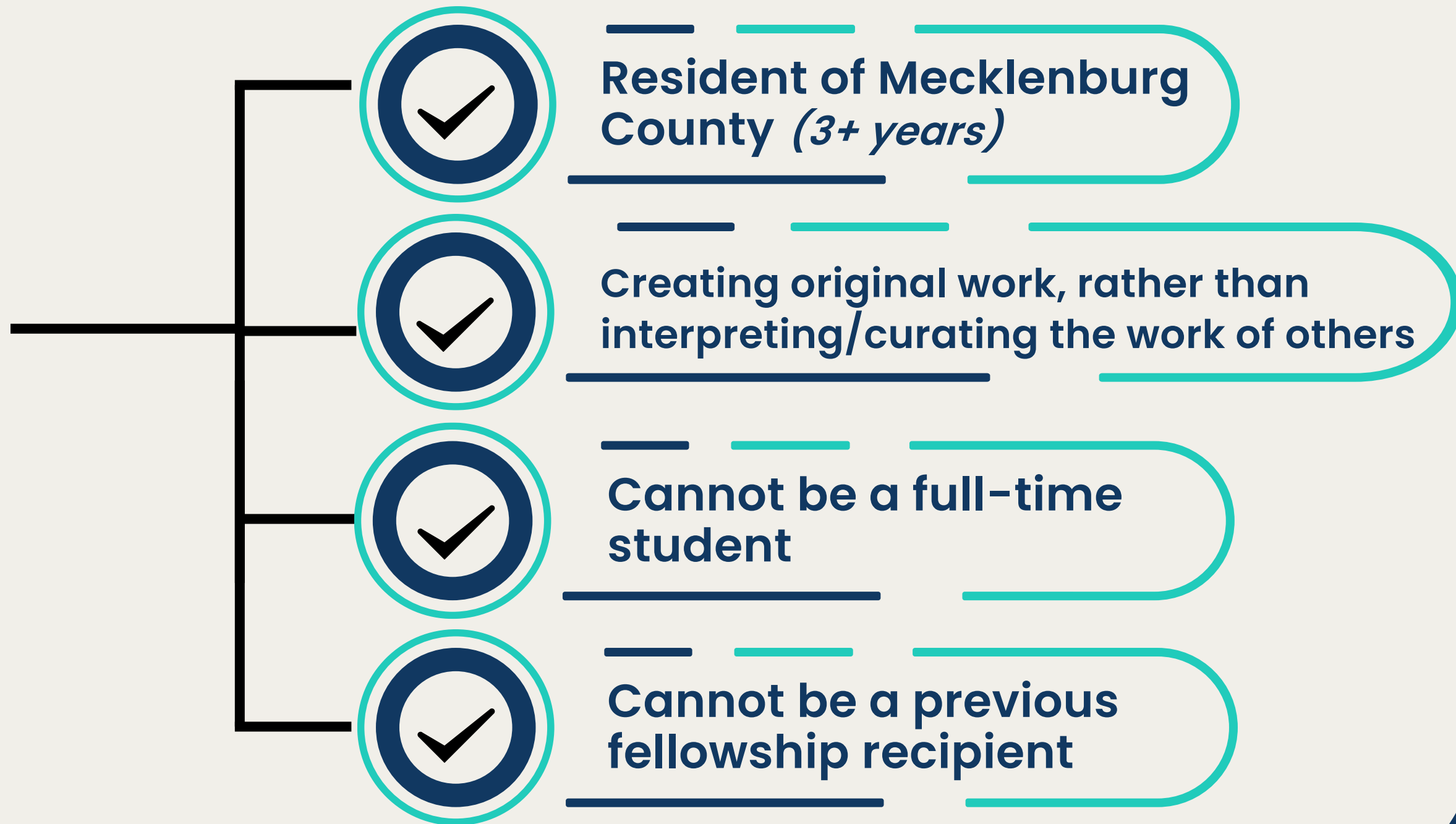
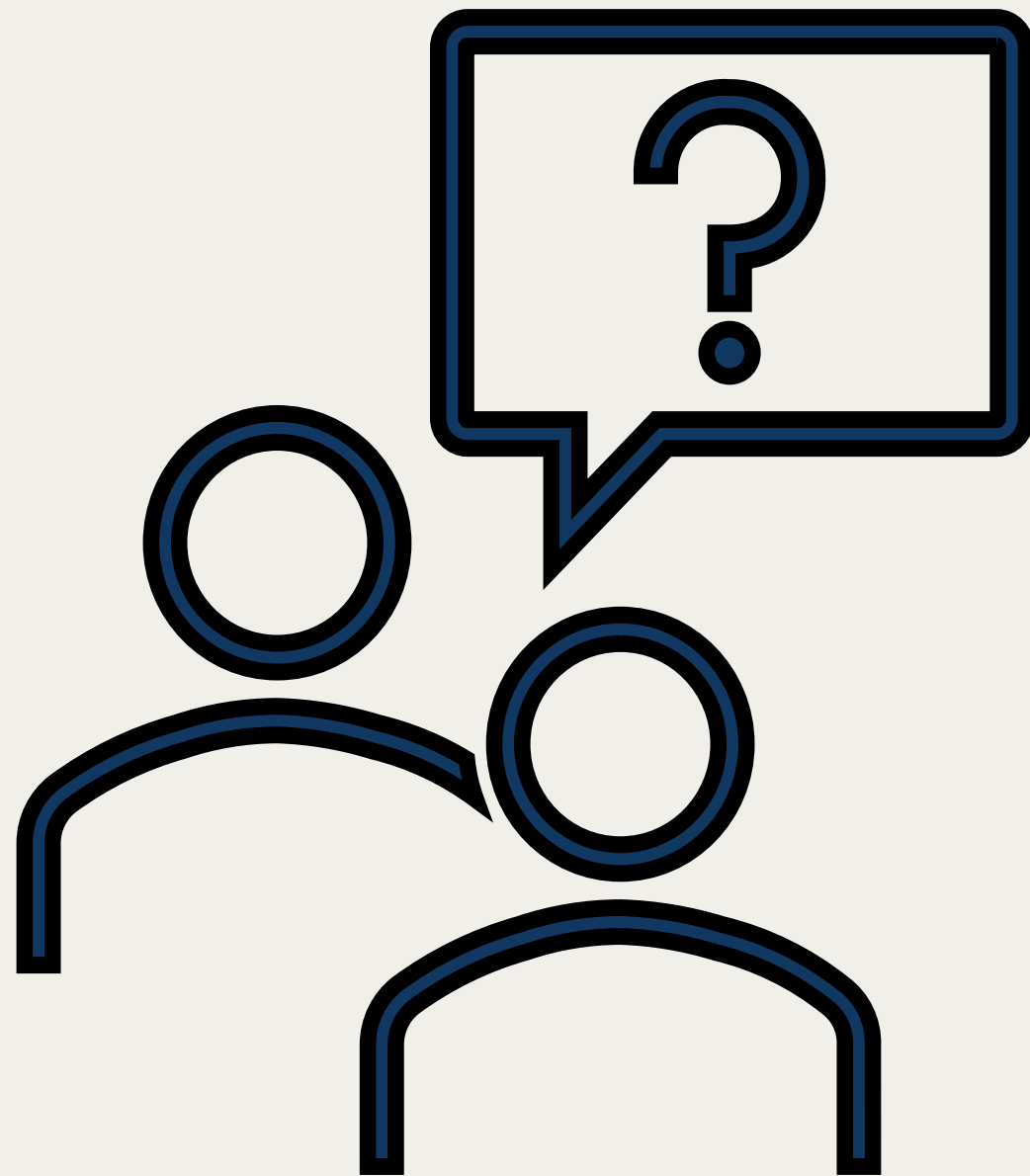
- Materials/supplies that go over the maximum allowed: \$3,750.
- Artist fees over \$3,000.
- Memberships for studio time or rental space for rehearsal/performance.
- Marketing and/or promotion expenses.
- Addressing, eliminating, or reducing existing debt.
- Entertainment and hospitality, including expenses for activities such as receptions, parties, galas, food/drinks, etc.
- Prizes and awards for an event, person, and/or organization.
- Activities that are associated with a graduate or undergraduate degree program or for which academic credit is received.
- Applications for projects that proselytize or promote religious activities, or which take place as part of a religious service.
- Programming or event expenses.

# Focus of Proposal

*"I'm feeling on the **verge of a creative burnout**, and I need space to reignite a new form of expression. This series of **activities, workshops, or projects** will bring me active rest where I can find a sense of renewal. **I will bring this back to expand my creative practice when I return.**"*



# Eligibility



*\*Creatives working in an academic setting are considered eligible if the proposed use of funds is related to their creative practice rather than their academic research or work in the classroom.*

# Last year's CRF...

The **Creative Renewal Fellowship** is an effort to **combat creative burnout** and to **keep artists local**, ASC hopes to provide the opportunity for a *creative renewal*.

Below are the five **Creative Renewal Fellows** from last year with their project titles.

**Alejandro Ziegler**  
Composer/Musician

Bridging Argentine Tango and American Roots Music: A Yearlong Journey into Improvisation, Folkloric Traditions, and New Instrumental Horizons

**Raymond Grubb**  
Photographer

I will design a photography book of my work while at a residency in France in the Fall of 2025.

**Osiris Rain**  
International Muralist

I propose to spend a month learning 3D design to expand my artistic practice into installation art, allowing me to access more dynamic public art commissions.

**Stacy J. Utley**  
Visual Artist

In Transition: A Mid-Career Artistic Journey Examining the Intersection of Public Art, Gentrification and Personal Transformation, Through a Comprehensive Retrospective and Forward-Looking Practice.

**Tamara Williams**  
Choreographer/Dancer

Rhythms of Renewal: A Choreographer's Drumming Journey will provide me with a sabbatical to study traditional Yoruba drumming.

# Application components

Below are the main components to the Creative Renewal Fellowship:

## 1 Applicant Profile, W9, Resume

If you've never applied for an ASC grant, you'll need to create a profile.

If you've applied in the past, then you're all set.

## 2 Application Questions

1. Overall Intention with Fellowship
2. Creative vision
3. Logistical Information
4. Why pursuing this now?
5. How will you share about your experience/learnings?

## 3 Work Samples + Inventory list

**Uploads ->** Visual: 20 images  
Literary: 10 pages

**Links ->** Performance: 15 mins  
Music: 15 mins  
Film: 15 mins

**Inventory list:**  
o Title of work  
o Date of completion  
o A brief statement of work  
o Your role in the work  
o Link to view or file name

## 4 Letters of Support + Budget

**Two letters of support** from a mentor/colleague who can speak to your **capacity for your artistic growth** through the activities outlined in the fellowship proposal.

**A rough budget** outlining the Fellowship activity expenses. Remember, these expenses can change.

# Application Questions

## Creative Vision & Accomplishments

Describe your **creative vision** of your creative practice. Then, include some of your **proudest artistic achievements** thus far.

## Current State of Creative Practice

Describe what **roadblocks** or **obstacles** are hindering your trajectory?

## Logistical Info

Describe the **specific activities** and **when they would start/end**. Then list out **estimated expenses** via bullet points – this should match the expenses listed in your budget.

## Potential Impact

Explain how these proposal activities could provide a sense of **creative renewal** in your creative practice.

## How will you share your experience?

How might you **share insights learned from this experience**? Also, would you also be interested in being part of a panel discussion with other?

# Evaluation Questions

## Top applicant?

If you could only approve **1/4 of applicants** you've read, would this be one of them?

## Artistic Vibrancy

Demonstrates vibrant and active creative practice through **work samples, letters of support, and resume**

## Creative Vision

Artist provides **Career Statement**, describes **overall style**, and includes **notable accomplishments**

## Forethought & Planning

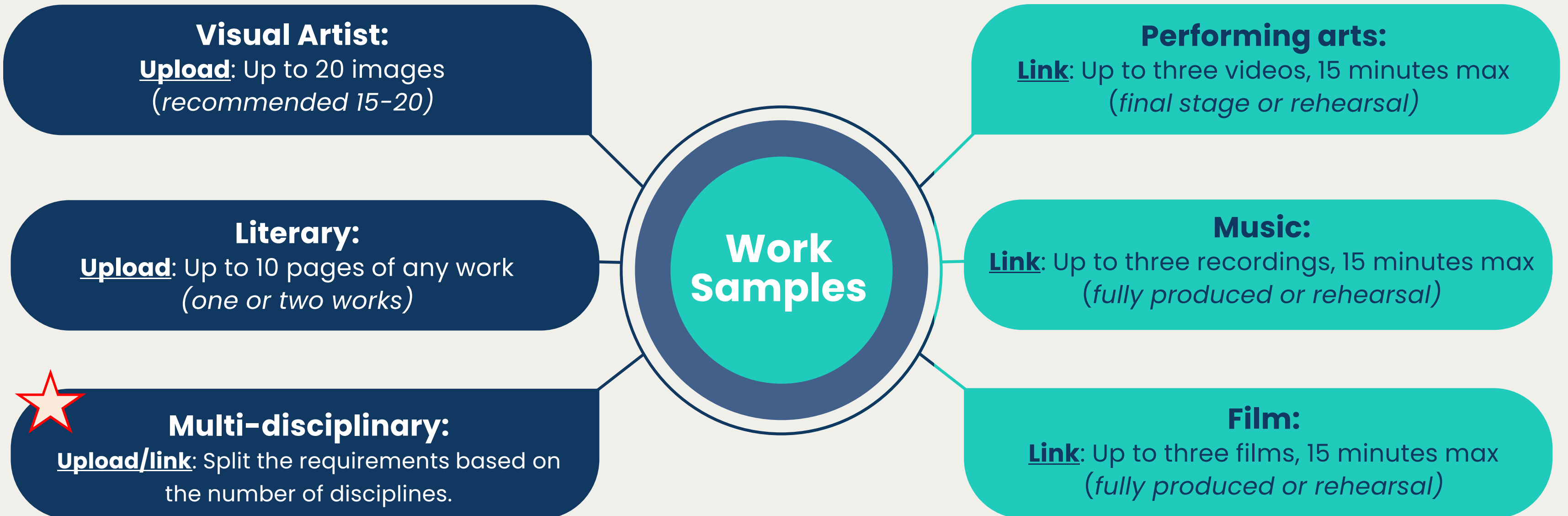
Artist provides **thorough description of proposed activities** as well as relevant **logistics, expenses, and timelines**.

## Artistic Development & Impact

Artist explains the **potential impact** of these activities be on their creative practice.

# Work Samples

Applicants must **upload or link** work samples to demonstrate the work created through your creative practice. Each discipline will have a different requirement – please align your work samples to these requirements:



# Work Inventory List

Your **Inventory List** is simply the background information of the work that you're linking/uploading – this providing context as to what the panelists are viewing.

In a one or two-page document, include the following information of the work being included:

- Title of work
- Date of completion
- A brief statement describing the work or relevant background you'd like to share
- Your role in the work (*choreographer, producer, bassist and singer, painter, etc.*)
- If **linking** a work, include the URL to view the work (*do not include your website/social media handles*)
  - If **uploading** images/PDFs of your work, then this should simply be the name of the file that you uploading.

## Example 1: Musician:

- *You Give me Something*
- May 2023
- This is a song that I wrote after meeting my future spouse in a park in Uptown. This eventually became my first single which then led to my first EP.
- I wrote the song and sing/play guitar on the track. Morrison James plays the drums, and Redding Otis plays the bass – the keys are played by Blake James.
- The link to listen is: [www.ThisIsWhereIcanListenToTheSong.com](http://www.ThisIsWhereIcanListenToTheSong.com)

## Example 2: Theatre

- Opening scene from the musical, *Where did you Go?*
- August 2024
- This is the opening scene from my musical, *Where did you Go?* This introduces our protagonist and antagonist via conversation filled with foreshadowing. Please view from [min. 3:25 to min 8:25](#).
- I worked on the opening song, *Today, in this Park* with Miranda Manuel-Lin. I also worked on the dialogue with Mackintosh Cameron.
- Here is the link to view this one YouTube: [www.woihdogthag.com](http://www.woihdogthag.com)

# Letter of Support and Budget

Every applicant will need to submit **two letters of support** and **one budget** (*template is downloadable in the application*). The letter needs to be from someone who knows your work and the budget is a rough outline of all the expenses you'd wish to cover using the \$15,000 Fellowship grant.

## 1 Letter of support

Two letters of support from a mentor/colleague who can speak to your **capacity for your artistic growth** through the activities outlined in the fellowship proposal.

**When reaching out to someone**, let them know you're applying to this ASC Fellowship and briefly describe you're hoping to accomplish – I would recommend a paragraph of info, just to give a bit of background.

The goal of the letter of support is to have a mentor/colleague **“vouch” for your ability to complete the project and the potentially impact** on your creative practice.

## 2 Budget

## ASC Budget Template

**Budget Income and Expenses** | *Please reach out to [grants@artsandscience.org](mailto:grants@artsandscience.org) if you have any questions.*

### Expenses [\(click for more info\)](#)

Description	Total
Total Expenses:	0

**Income** ([click here for more info](#))

Description	Grant Amount
Total Income:	0

# Scoring Rubric

This is the **rubric** that the panelists are going to be using to score all application. Each category has specific components that they will be looking for in your application – **use this as a tool!**

Artistic Vibrancy:		Score 1 through 3 below			1.66667		
Artist demonstrates a vibrant, vocational creative practice through work samples and creative history		1	2	3			
Work Samples		1					
Two Letters of Support		1					
Resume/CV				3			
Creative Vision:		Score 1 through 5 below				5	
Artist provides Career Statement, describes overall style, and includes notable accomplishments		1	2	3	4		5
Does the applicant provide a thorough Career Statement?						5	
Does the applicant describe their creative vision/overall style of their practice?						5	
Does the applicant include a list of accomplishments or proudest moments?						5	
Forethought + Planning:		Score 1 through 5 below				2.33333	
Artist provides logistical information such as timelines and estimated expenses.		1	2	3	4		5
Is there a full description of proposed activities?		1					
Are timelines and expenses included?					4		
Does this plan seem cohesive and focused?			2				
Artistic Development + Impact		Score 1 through 5 below				3.66667	
Artist explains the reason why they're pursuing this now and how it will inspire/impact their creative practice.		1	2	3	4		5
Is there a thorough description of the current state in their practice?				3			
Are there actionable steps to expand, refresh, experiment in their creative practice?					4		
Is there an explanation of the potential impact of the proposed activities?					4		

# Seed Grant

## Nominate a fellow creative for a \$3,000 Seed grant

- In 2022, ASC launched the **Seed Grant program**, where the previous Fellows nominated creatives throughout Mecklenburg County for a \$3,000 grant recognizing their contributions to the local cultural community.
- Seed Recipients utilized these funds to enhance their own creative practices and submitted final reports detailing their experiences and learnings. **Each Fellow is asked to nominate one creative in their community who is deserving of a \$3,000 acknowledgement for their work – all nominations will be awarded.**
- If you are selected as a Fellow, you are charged with selecting one creative in the community that deserves this type of recognition.

# Last year's Seed Grantees...

Each **Emerging Creator Fellow** will nominate one creative in their community that deserves recognition for the work being done. All nominees will be awarded \$3,000 to invest directly in their creative practice.

Below are the five Emerging Creator Seed Grantees:

**Natalia Guerrero**  
Photographer

To purchase photography equipment to improve taking pictures in low light and movement.

**Ken Knudtsen**  
Visual Artist

This grant from ASC would be used to purchase necessary supplies, pay studio rent, and offset travel costs (airfare, hotel) for comic book convention appearances in the coming year.

**Lyz Kelk**  
Visual Artist

To attend class(es) to guide me to the next step of style focus and the business side of art

**Kortney Paloalto**  
Visual Artist

To invest in the building of a collection of works to showcase that will include paintings utilizing different mediums.

**LJ Williams**  
Photographer

This funding will help me procure a camera that is primarily designed for film making instead of one that is centered around photography.

# Tips on Proposals

The most important aspect to consider is **how do you tell your story** and **what is the dialogue you are having with your creativity?**

**Logistics** are important to include, but it's not as important as **your "creative why"**.

Please, send  
me drafts of  
your  
application!

Don't write *fluff*

**Don't write for the word count, but consider it as a guide**

Word counts vary from 350 words to 500 words – use these as "lanes" to guide your thoughts, but **don't fill the space with adjectives and repetition.**

**Writing at least two paragraphs in each response is ideal.**

Fearlessly describe your  
why

**Every creative has a "why"**

Panelists will have work samples and the answers you provide to understand who you are and what you're seeking to explore.

**Describing your "creative why" sheds light on what inspires you and why you do what you do.**

Dream big

**Don't be afraid to go big – how would you use \$15k to expand your creative boundaries?**

As Rick Rubin stated in *The Creative Act*, **"Active play and experimentation until we're happily surprised is how the best work reveals itself."** (Rubin, 78)

# Tips on Proposals

Please, send me drafts of your application!

## Instructions

Your form has already been submitted. You can review your responses here.

## Application Forms

🔒 Creative Renewal Fellowship Eligibility Form

✅ Submitted on Feb 27, 2025

🔒 Creative Renewal Fellowship

✅ Submitted on Feb 27, 2025

✅ Saved

## Applicant Information



Iván Garnica

ivan.garnica@artsandscience.org

## FORM QUESTIONS

This form has been submitted and cannot be edited.

📄 Download

Applicant Information

Proposal Information

Work Samples

## Creative Renewal Fellowship

The application for the **Creative Renewal Fellowship is due Sunday, April 6, 2025 at Midnight**. Late applications will not be considered for funding. If you experience technical difficulties with the application, please contact Iván Garnica at [Ivan.Garnica@artsandscience.org](mailto:Ivan.Garnica@artsandscience.org).

## Applicant Information

# Timeline

- **Last Date to Send Drafts**
  - Monday, February 16 @ Midnight
- **Application Due Date:**
  - Sunday, February 22 @ Midnight
- **Review Panel**
  - Monday, March 2 – Sunday, March 15
- **Applicant Notifications**
  - Friday, March 20
- **Signed Contracts Due**
  - Sunday, April 5
- **Grant Funds Disbursed**
  - By May 2026

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**THANK YOU**

