



DC COMMISSION ON THE ARTS & HUMANITIES

ARTS AND HUMANITIES FELLOWSHIP FY24



- **AHFP** offers up to \$12,500 fellowships to individual artists and humanities practitioners who significantly contribute to the District of Columbia as a world class cultural capital.
- Awards are made on a **tiered model**- in FY23 the minimum award was \$5000, and the maximum award was \$11,000
 - We funded 421/597 applicants (70%)
- AHFP is ***not*** a project-based grant and applicants are not required to complete a particular project as part of the fellowship.
- Funds may be used for most types of expenses. **Not a needs-based grant.**

SURVEY AND REVIEW

- Staff conducted deep research into CAH Funding Guidelines, comparable funding programs, and national trends in artist funding
- Community Feedback
 - Survey
 - Open for 30 days
 - Sent to 852 applicants, received 128 responses
 - Application process, support needed, barriers to work, general comments
 - Two Listening Sessions
 - Short presentation of changes
 - Open Discussion with community
 - 84 total attendees for listening sessions

FINDINGS

- Funding is still a high priority for artists, but reaction to shifting the funding model to support more people was generally positive
 - No strong objections to flattening the funding model
 - Support for reaching more artists
 - See the equity value in a flat funding model

- Artists identified several additional needs including:
 - Networking opportunities
 - Spaces to develop work and
 - Spaces to present their work

PROPOSED CHANGES

1. Flatten Award: All applicants receive the same amount
2. Restructure Criteria to be focused on demystifying eligibility and gathering panelist feedback for applicants

ELIGIBILITY

NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

- **Residency***: Be a legal District of Columbia resident for at least one (1) year prior to the submission deadline;
 - Have a permanent District of Columbia address, as listed on government issued identification or tax returns. Post office boxes may not be used as a permanent address;
 - Maintain District of Columbia residency during the entire granting fiscal year;
- aged 18 or older;
- Not be enrolled in any matriculated high school, undergraduate or graduate degree program
- Be an artist, arts professional, and/or humanities practitioner,
- Be in “good standing” with CAH (Note: A CAH grant applicant who has failed by close of application period to comply with all applicable CAH-related mandates, including but not limited to submitting required reports related to prior CAH funding)
- **Clean Hands**** – Obtain certification of “Citywide Clean Hands” (CCH) from the District of Columbia Office of Tax and Revenue

*For FY24 residency requirements will be maintained. CAH will continue to investigate opportunities for expanded funding.

**Needed by the time of award, but payment plans or other considerations are eligible to apply



PANELS

- Applicants self-select into artistic discipline for review
- 10 Arts and Humanities Disciplines: Dance, Design Arts, Go-Go Musician, Humanities, Interdisciplinary, Media Arts, Music, Teaching Artist, Theatre, Visual Arts
- All applicants will go to panel as they have in prior years
- **Applicants scoring below "20%" (adjusted score) receive second panel review to receive feedback and potentially be removed from funding consideration**
 - Second round panel review is modified to a pass/fail
 - Second round panel not limited to artistic discipline
 - Panelists can serve a second time during the cycle, or can be new to process
 - Shorter pre-review period
 - Panelist training emphasize eligibility and feedback

ADDITIONAL CHANGES

- Community Development and Engagement
 - Create, in collaboration with Business of the Arts and CAH in the Community programming, a series of Professional Development and Networking opportunities for Fellows
 - Six events in FY24. Topics may include:
 - Networking Meet & Greet events
 - Tax Planning and Financial Management for Artists
 - Social Media Marketing
 - Event Planning or Connecting with Producers

TIMELINE

- May 2023: Grant Opens for Application
 - Workshops scheduled to introduce revised guidelines
 - Messaging and advertising the opportunity goes out to community
 - Coordinate with Communications team about outreach strategies
 - Panelist recruitment begins
- June 2023: Grant Application Closes (5 weeks open)
 - Grants Staff reviews for eligibility and completion.
 - Cohorts are created for review
 - Applications sent to panelist for review (3-4 weeks of review)
- July 2023: Panel Season begins
- September 2023: Funding Recommendations
- October 2023: Awards Announced