

# 2025 Kresge Artist Fellowships Guidelines

## LITERARY ARTS, VISUAL ARTS



### OVERVIEW

**Kresge Artist Fellowships** are \$50,000 awards (up from \$40,000) for emerging and established metro Detroit artists. Each fellowship award includes career support and the creation of a short film showcasing the artist's work. Fellowships recognize creative vision and commitment to excellence across a wide range of artistic disciplines, including artists who have been academically trained, self-taught artists, and artists whose art forms have been passed down through cultural heritage.

**Gilda Awards** are \$5,000 prizes for emerging artists. The award is named in honor of artist, College for Creative Studies professor, and 2009 Kresge Artist Fellow Gilda Snowden (1954–2014).

Fellowships and Gilda Awards are no strings attached awards, meaning artists may spend the money on any aspect of their creative practice or life (i.e. making new work, renting or purchasing studio space, travel, general living expenses, paying off debt, and so on).

#### 15 Fellowships and 10 Gilda Awards

In 2025, there will be 25 awards in total: 15 Kresge Artist Fellowships and 10 Gilda Awards. Fellowships and Gilda Awards will be divided between the two categories—Literary Arts and Visual Arts—based on the relative number of applications received in each category.

Applications are only available and accepted online at:  
[kresge.slideroom.com](https://kresge.slideroom.com)

### CATEGORIES

#### LITERARY ARTS

Includes Arts Criticism, Creative Nonfiction, Fiction, Graphic Novels, Playwriting, Poetry, Spoken Word, Zines, and Interdisciplinary Work

#### VISUAL ARTS

Includes Book Art, Ceramics, Collage, Drawing, Fiber, Glass, Installation, Metalwork, New Media, Painting, Photography, Performance Art, Printmaking, Sculpture, Video Art, and Interdisciplinary Work

The deadline to apply is Jan 16, 2025.  
There are no exceptions. You are encouraged to apply early to ensure you do not miss the opportunity!

### KEY DATES

#### MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2024

Application opens

#### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2024, 5:30-6:30 PM

Application info session (virtual)

*Kresge Arts in Detroit staff will provide an overview of the 2025 guidelines and walk through a sample application in Slideroom, sharing best practices for applicants. This Zoom webinar session will be recorded.\**

#### THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 2025, 5:30-6:30 PM

Application questions & answers session (virtual)

*Kresge Arts in Detroit staff will address your specific, lingering questions about the application before the deadline. This session will not be recorded.\**

#### THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 2025 BY 11:59 PM

Application deadline

#### SUMMER 2025

Fellows and Gilda Award recipients announced

*\*While not required, applicants are strongly encouraged to attend our virtual info sessions, which are designed to support artists in creating their most authentic and compelling Kresge Artist Fellowship application.*



# Eligibility

## WHO MAY APPLY?

To apply, you must:

- Be 18 years or older, and
- Be a current legal resident of Macomb, Oakland, or Wayne county, and
- Have resided in Macomb, Oakland, or Wayne county for at least the two years prior to the application deadline (January 16, 2023–January 16, 2025), and
- Intend to remain a resident of the tri-county area throughout the fellowship period (July 2025–July 2026).

**Note:** This year, there is no waiting period for previous Kresge Artist Fellows to apply.

## WHO MAY NOT APPLY?

- Students working toward any degree at the time of application, or individuals planning to begin a degree-granting program during the fellowship year (July 2025–July 2026), with the exception of ABD (all but dissertation) status Ph.D. candidates
- Kresge Eminent Artist Award recipients
- Current Kresge Artist Fellowship panelists, staff members of Kresge Arts in Detroit and The Kresge Foundation, or immediate family members of any of these individuals

## LEGAL RESIDENCY

If your application advances to the final round of consideration for an award, you will be required to submit materials to document your legal residency in the tri-county area for the last two years. Details are available at: [bit.ly/KAF25-eligibility](https://bit.ly/KAF25-eligibility).

## COLLABORATIONS

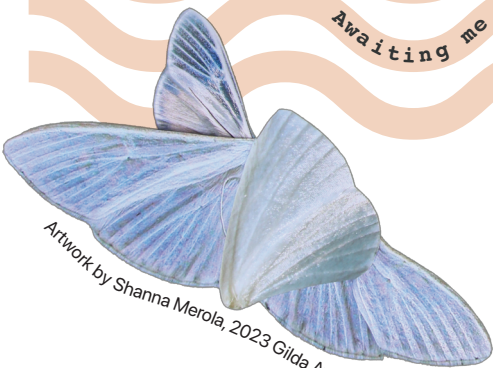
Artists who have an ongoing, demonstrated history of collaboration may apply together with one collaborative application. *Each member of the collaborating group must meet all eligibility requirements.*

In addition:

- Applications must include 1 primary applicant and up to 4 additional collaborators, and
- Work samples must only include work that the collaborating artists created together, and
- Statements, biographical information, and work samples must convey the shared history, goals, experience, and work of the collaborating group.

Threw myself Into myself To find myself And found myself  
Awaiting me Impatiently With tapping fingers Shaking knees  
Welcome! Finally! Us here Inside of we.

Poetry by Joel Fluent Greene, 2022 Gilda Award recipient



Artwork by Shanna Merola, 2023 Gilda Award recipient

# Selection

## FELLOWSHIP SELECTION CRITERIA

Kresge Artist Fellowships recognize artists who have:

- A demonstrated track record of artistic achievement and high quality work (*this is the main determinant in the selection of a fellow*), and
- The potential to grow and advance in their artistic career, and
- The potential to reflect, enhance, or impact communities within metro Detroit.

## GILDA AWARD SELECTION CRITERIA

Gilda Awards recognize artists who:

- Are early in their careers, and
- Are gaining momentum, and
- Demonstrate exceptional potential through creative risk-taking and pushing the boundaries of their chosen art form.

**In the online fellowship application, you will be asked to note if you would like to be considered for a Gilda Award—there is no separate application for this award.** Your answer does not impact whether you will be considered to receive a Kresge Artist Fellowship.

## SELECTION PANEL

All applications will be reviewed by a panel consisting of national and local artists and arts professionals. Panelists will remain anonymous until the Kresge Artist Fellows and Gilda Award recipients are announced in the summer of 2025.

New panels are convened each year to review applications. Previous applicants are strongly encouraged to re-apply!

## VALUES

Kresge Arts in Detroit believes an equitable and just society ensures individuals of all backgrounds and identities are able to fully thrive. In the visioning, planning, and implementation of the program, we are committed to dismantling the historic and systemic mechanisms of oppression that exist within the arts and culture sector. Utilizing a racial equity lens and anti-oppression approach, we strive to ensure that our work contributes to an environment that, collectively, supports all artists of metro Detroit.

you have the right to be delicate, transparent yet still  
flatten yourself against the strong current appear as if  
mid-swarm when you are singularly flying toward the light.

Poetry by Alise Alousi, 2019 Kresge Artist Fellow



Artwork by Louise Jones, 2023 Kresge Artist Fellow

# Application Overview

## ARTIST PROFILE

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Name, address, county of residence, and additional information. If submitting a collaborative application, include information for each individual member.

## PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE QUESTIONNAIRE

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Survey regarding your interest in and access to local arts resources, collected to inform our career support offerings. *Your responses to these questions will not impact the outcome of your fellowship application.*

## NARRATIVE

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### DISCIPLINE SELECTION

Use the drop down menu to select the discipline option that best describes the work in your application.

### DISCIPLINE STATEMENT

Briefly provide additional context for your discipline selection (e.g. "I write historical poems that preserve the culture of my ancestors," or "I am a painter who focuses on capturing the beauty of Michigan wildflowers.").

- LIMIT: 150 characters (includes spaces); approximately 25 words

### ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Provide a short description of your history as an artist, such as where you were born or grew up, your creative development, and your artistic career to date.

- LIMIT: 600 characters (includes spaces); approximately 100 words

### ARTIST STATEMENT

Share your artistic passion, inspiration, and vision. For example, what ideas and themes motivate you to create? What techniques do you use? What artists or life experiences influence your work?

- You may describe your work overall or a specific series of work.
- LIMIT: 2,500 characters (includes spaces); approximately 415 words

### COMMUNITY IMPACT

Describe how your work impacts or inspires individuals and groups around you. For example, this might include other artists of Detroit, students you work with, residents of the neighborhood where you live, etc.

- You may speak to the communities you impact currently or to those you hope to impact in the future.
- LIMIT: 2,500 characters (includes spaces); approximately 415 words

### FELLOWSHIP GOALS

Explain how you imagine using the fellowship resources, such as the financial award and career support. How would the fellowship contribute to the advancement of your creative work and career goals?

- Fellowships are NOT project grants. You do not need to outline a specific project. If you do, you will not be required to complete this project if awarded a fellowship.
- LIMIT: 2,500 characters (includes spaces); approximately 415 words

## RESUME

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Educational background and professional experiences that reflect your artistic accomplishments (i.e. performances, exhibitions, honors, awards, commissions, residencies, lectures, or publications).

- Only include details that relate to your creative practice
- List most recent information first
- LIMIT: 7,500 characters (includes spaces); approximately 1,250 words



# Work Samples

## REQUIREMENTS

### LITERARY ARTS

Submit 3–8 unique work samples in any combination of manuscript, audio, or video files.

### VISUAL ARTS

Submit 3–8 unique work samples in any combination of image or video files.

### 1 WORK SAMPLE = ONLY 1 WORK

You may include different sections of the *same* work in a single work sample. You may not include sections of *different* works in a single work sample.

## WORK SAMPLE INFO

Include the following details about each work sample:

- Title of the work
- Your role in the creation of the work
- Note whether the sample is an excerpt or the complete work
- Year completed or note “work in progress”
- Length (in pages) of the complete work - *manuscripts only*
- Duration (in minutes) of the complete work - *audio and video only*
- Medium represented - *images only*
- Genre represented - *manuscripts only*
- Approximate dimensions (length x width x depth) - *images only*
- Description: Provide panelists with a synopsis or supplemental information to explain the context, concept, and/or execution of each work sample (e.g. “Included is the third chapter of a nonfiction book I’m writing about The Great Migration. The protagonist, a character based on one of my ancestors, has just arrived in Chicago...”).
- LIMIT: 1,000 characters (includes spaces); approximately 165 words

Work samples are the most important part of your application!

## ACCEPTED FILE FORMATS

### AUDIO

- File type: .MP3
- Max file size: 30MB per work sample
- Podcasts are accepted as work samples in the arts criticism and spoken word disciplines.

### IMAGE

- File type: .JPG, .PNG, .TIFF
- Max file size: 5MB per work sample

### MANUSCRIPT (WRITTEN WORK)

- File type: .PDF
- Max file size: 10MB per work sample
- Length: Recommended maximum of 20 pages total per application (*not per work sample*)
- Formatting:
  - Submit written work samples on 8.5” x 11” pages in industry-standard format (double-spaced in 12 pt. type) unless an alternate format is essential to understanding the work.
  - Include page numbers
  - Do not include title pages
- **PDFs with external links will not be accepted.** Applications are evaluated exclusively in Slideroom.

### VIDEO

- File type: .MOV, .MP4
- Max file size: 250MB per work sample (approximately 2.5 minutes in high definition or 5 minutes in standard definition)
- **Video files must be uploaded directly to Slideroom.** Files shared through Youtube or Vimeo links are not accepted, as the content of those links can be edited after submission. Applications are evaluated exclusively in Slideroom.

# Additional Instructions & Support

## REQUIREMENTS

Applications that fail to adhere to the following guidelines will be deemed ineligible:

- **1 work sample = only 1 work**  
You may include different sections of the *same* work in a single work sample. You may not include sections of *different* works in a single work sample.
- No more than 8 work samples may be represented in your application.
- Materials designed for commercial and promotional purposes will not be accepted (i.e. trailers, reels, flyers, interviews, press clippings, compilations, and so on).
- PDFs with external links will not be accepted. Applications are evaluated exclusively in Slideroom.

## SUPPORT

Visit [kresgeartsindetroit.org/apply](https://kresgeartsindetroit.org/apply) to access the application worksheet, FAQs, and additional resources; as well as to RSVP for the application info sessions.

Visit [kresge.slideroom.com](https://kresge.slideroom.com) to access the online application between Dec 2, 2024 and Jan 16, 2025.

Direct your questions about the application to Kresge Arts in Detroit: [admin@kresgeartsindetroit.org](mailto:admin@kresgeartsindetroit.org); (313) 744-3204.

For technical support (e.g. uploading work samples), visit [support.slideroom.com](https://support.slideroom.com) or email [support@slideroom.com](mailto:support@slideroom.com).

Follow us on Instagram (@kresgeartsdetroit) and Facebook (@kresgeartsindetroit) for application tips, information, and reminders, and join our email list to get application information delivered directly to your inbox. Sign up at [bit.ly/KAID-email-list](https://bit.ly/KAID-email-list).

## DO'S & DON'TS

- **DO** keep formatting simple. **Bold**, *italic*, and underlined text will NOT be saved in the online application.
- **DO** present your strongest work first. Panelists review work samples in order.
- **DO** edit your work samples to begin and end where you want the panel to begin and end.
- **DO** ensure the documentation of your work samples is of the highest possible quality.
- **DO** include some examples of **recent creative work** (i.e. work made within the past 5 years). You may also include older work.
- **DO** use the work sample description field to provide the panelists with information about your work.
- **DO** ensure your statements are easy to understand, even to someone outside of your creative discipline.
- **DO** relate your statements clearly to the work samples included in your application.
- **DO** ask a family member, friend, or colleague to read your statements to make sure that they are clear.
- **DON'T** feel like you have to use the full word count—a longer statement is not necessarily a better statement.
- **DON'T** submit 8 work samples if you feel your practice is well represented with fewer.
- **DON'T** submit external links in lieu of uploading your files to Slideroom. Work samples must be uploaded to your application in Slideroom.

