KRESGE ARTS IN DETROIT

2027 KRESGE ARTIST FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION GUIDELINES

OVERVIEW

Kresge Artist Fellowships are $50,000 awards for emerging and established metro Detroit artists. Each fellowship award includes artist 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 (e.g. making new work, renting or purchasing studio space, travel, general living expenses, paying off debt, etc.).

10 Fellowships and 10 Gilda Awards: In 2027, there will be 20 awards in total—10 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

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, Performance Art, Photography, Printmaking, Sculpture, Video Art, and Interdisciplinary Work

KEY DATES

- TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2026
  Application opens
- WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2026, 5:30-6:30 PM
  Info session: Application walkthrough (virtual)
  Kresge Arts in Detroit staff will provide an overview of the 2027 guidelines and walk through a sample application in SlideRoom, sharing best practices for applicants. This Zoom webinar session will be recorded.*
- THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 2027, 5:30-6:30 PM
  Info session: Application questions & answers (virtual)
  Kresge Arts in Detroit staff will address your specific, lingering questions about the application before the deadline. This Zoom webinar session will not be recorded.*
- THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2027 BY 11:59 PM
  Application deadline
- SUMMER 2027
  Kresge Artist Fellows and Gilda Award recipients announced

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

The deadline to apply is January 14, 2027. There are no exceptions. You are encouraged to apply early to ensure you don't miss the opportunity!

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 14, 2025–January 14, 2027), and
- Intend to remain a resident of the tri-county area throughout the year-long fellowship period (July 2027–July 2028).
- Have not received a Kresge Artist Fellowship within the last 10 years (2017–2026).

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 2027–July 2028), with the exception of ABD (all but dissertation) status Ph.D. candidates
- Individuals who have received a Kresge Artist Fellowship within the last 10 years (2017–2026)
- 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/KAF27-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.

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 indicate whether you would like to be considered for a Gilda Award—there is no separate application for this award. Your response to this question will not impact the outcome of your fellowship application.

Individuals who have received a Kresge Artist Fellowship are ineligible to receive a Gilda Award. Individuals may only receive the Gilda Award once.

SELECTION PANEL

All applications will be reviewed by a panel consisting of national and local artists and arts professionals. Panelists will remain anonymous until Kresge Artist Fellows and Gilda Award recipients are announced in the summer of 2027.

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.

APPLICATION OVERVIEW

ARTIST PROFILE

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

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE QUESTIONNAIRE

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

NARRATIVE

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 creative nonfiction documenting my family’s history in Detroit” or “I am a fiber artist who creates large-scale tapestries”).

- 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. 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 artist 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

Educational background and professional experiences that reflect your artistic accomplishments (e.g. 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

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WORK SAMPLES

Work samples are the most important part of your application!

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.

Each media sample may represent only one work.

ACCEPTED FILE FORMATS

AUDIO

- File type: .MP3
- Max file size: 30MB per work sample
- Duration: Recommended maximum of 5 minutes per work sample
- Podcasts clips are only 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
- Image files are only accepted for those applying in the Visual Arts category.

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.

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.

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/video only
- Genre represented - manuscripts 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 an image of a collage from a series still in progress. I used found imagery to...”).
    - LIMIT: 1000 characters max (includes spaces); approximately 165 words

ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS & SUPPORT

REQUIREMENTS:

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

- Work samples must represent your own creative work.
- Each media sample may represent only one work.
- No more than 8 work samples may be represented in your application.
- Samples must represent the work itself. Supplemental materials about the work will not be accepted (e.g. press, interviews, proofs of concept, etc.).
- Materials designed for promotional purposes will not be accepted (e.g. trailers, reels, flyers, interviews, press clippings, compilations, etc.).
- Artworks intended to sell commercial products will not be accepted.
- Educational tools, resources, and media (e.g. syllabi, lesson plans, instructional videos, etc.) will not be accepted.
- PDFs with external links will not be accepted. Applications are evaluated exclusively in SlideRoom.

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 would 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.

SUPPORT

- Visit 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 to access the online application between Dec 1, 2026 and Jan 14, 2027.
- Direct your questions about the application to Kresge Arts in Detroit: admin@kresgeartsindetroit.org; (313) 744-3204.
- For technical support (e.g. uploading work samples), visit support.slideroom.com or email support@slideroom.com. Please note that Kresge Arts in Detroit staff are unable to provide account or technical support for the SlideRoom platform.
- 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.