



TEXTILE CENTER MCKNIGHT FELLOWSHIPS FOR FIBER ARTISTS

Pages 1-3	Program Information and Changes for 2022 Fellowships
Pages 4-8	Application System, Instructions/Guidelines, and Review Process
Pages 8-9	Info Sessions and Individual Meetings

If you are a returning applicant, please note that there are important changes in this year's process, and we have highlighted them in **RED, throughout this document.**

The McKnight Foundation has renamed its arts program. It is now McKnight's Arts & Culture Program. Our 2022 application process reflects this change.

McKnight Arts & Culture Program Goal:

The strategy of McKnight's Arts & Culture program is to fund organizations, programs, and projects that provide support structures for working artists and culture bearers to develop and share their work, and to lead in movements and communities. This includes artists and culture bearers working in a broad continuum of activities and approaches across disciplines and fields.

Please see more about this new program name at:

<https://www.mcknight.org/programs/arts-culture/our-approach/>

"Minnesota artists and culture bearers help the McKnight Foundation accomplish our mission to advance a more just, creative, and abundant future where people and planet thrive. McKnight has a legacy of leadership in the arts in Minnesota, and support for working artists has always been a mainstay of our arts grantmaking.

...

*The addition of **culture bearer** to our goal acknowledges that our program provides support to creative leaders in Minnesota from cultures that don't use the word **artist** (such as Native American and Hmong), as well as those who center the transmission and preservation of cultural lifeways."*

For more complete information, please see: <https://www.mcknight.org/programs/arts-culture/>

On The McKnight Foundation

Established in 1981, the McKnight Artist Fellowships provide annual, unrestricted cash awards to outstanding mid-career Minnesota artists in 14 different creative disciplines. Program partner organizations administer the fellowships and structure them to respond to the unique challenges of different disciplines.

The McKnight Foundation, a family foundation based in Minnesota, advances a more just, creative, and abundant future where people and planet thrive. The McKnight Artist Fellowships support the

conviction that the arts cannot flourish or enhance community life without the ideas, energy, and drive of individual artists, and that artists cannot make these contributions without unfettered creative time. A focus on racial equity is at the heart of the McKnight approach to funding. The McKnight Foundation and Textile Center welcome and encourage applications from artists representing diverse cultural perspectives and our organizations value diversity and equity, seeking to be inclusive and accessible to all applicants.

On the Fellowships for Fiber Artists:

The intent of the *McKnight Fellowships for Fiber Artists* is to recognize and support talented Minnesota fiber and textile artists whose work is of exceptional artistic and cultural merit, who have created a significant body of work over a period of at least 8 years, representing a sustained investigation and maturation of personal creativity, accomplishment, and commitment to the field of fiber art and Minnesota's arts ecosystem.

These fellowships are in support of artists who are at a career stage *beyond* emerging. Fiber Artists, as defined for the purposes of this fellowship, are artists who use textile and fiber arts materials, processes, histories, traditions, and/or sensibilities in their artistic and creative practice throughout the conception, execution, and resolution of their work.

These awards are made for the body of work and documents that you submit in your application. We are not asking you to make a proposal for a future project.

Application period opens: Wednesday, September 1, 2021, NOON, CST

Deadline for applications: Monday, November 1, 2021, 5 PM, CST

Fellowship Period: January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022

FELLOWSHIP BENEFITS

- \$25,000 (unrestricted) fellowship funding. Fellowship support may be used for the enhancement of any aspect of the fiber artist's life, including but not limited to purchasing materials and equipment; studio and creativity assistance; collaborating with others; pursuing workshop, exhibition, or travel opportunities related to the creation of studio and creative work; and other living expenses. Awards are subject to state and federal income tax guidelines.
- Critiques/studio visits with three experts from the field.
- Exhibition at the end of the fellowship period in the Joan Mondale Gallery at Textile Center.
- Participation in two public discussions that feature fellows and invited critics or experts from the field.
- Professional development support, such as attending conferences, workshops, or marketing or exhibition assistance.
- Access to Textile Center's resources, including library, dye lab, and artisan shop opportunities.
- Professional support sessions from consultants at Springboard for the Arts.
- **Opportunity to apply to McKnight Foundation's new residency partnership with Alliance of Artist Communities, for two years following the fellowship year.**

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Must have resided in Minnesota for at least 1 year prior to the application deadline (or since November 1, 2020).

- Must maintain residency in Minnesota for the duration of the fellowship period, January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022. Fellows who travel for work outside of the state during the fellowship year should be in the state for at least six months (at least 183 days), and have a plan to return to Minnesota.
- Must be midcareer (or beyond) with an extensive, independent body of creative work created over a period of at least 8 years—not including work done during a degree seeking academic program, representing a sustained investigation and maturation of personal creativity, accomplishment, and commitment to the field of fiber art.
- Must currently be producing work that falls within an art or cultural context, related to the field of fiber and textiles through materials, process, or sensibilities.
- Must demonstrate a high aesthetic level of ability, strong consistency of expression, and an established personal voice over the course of their career.
- Must have made a significant impact in the field of fiber art in the region, state, or nation as demonstrated by respect of peers and community, contributions to excellence, and public recognition of the art/creative form through exhibiting, teaching, preserving, and/or advocacy.
- Must not have been a recipient of a *McKnight Artist Fellowship* within any artistic discipline in the last 5 years. (all 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021 McKnight Fellows are ineligible.)
- Must demonstrate growth and ongoing artistry and creativity since their most recent McKnight Artist Fellowship, if they have received one previously.
- Must not be current staff, board, or immediate family of Textile Center, the McKnight Foundation, or any of McKnight’s other fellowship administrative partners (this last item applies only to the discipline for which you are applying). Independent contractors and faculty are not considered staff and are therefore eligible to apply.
- Must not be enrolled full-time in any academic program.

ARTISTS CAN ONLY MAKE A SINGLE APPLICATION IN A FELLOWSHIP YEAR

Applicants to this fellowship program will NOT be eligible to apply for any other 2021 McKnight Artist Fellowship. You can only submit one application for each fellowship year, as an artist is only eligible to win a single fellowship award. Please carefully consider which program best fits your work. To view all of McKnight's fellowship funding opportunities for the year, visit:

mcknight.org/programs/arts/the-mcknight-artist-fellowships/#apply

2022 McKnight Fellowship Programs Timeline (to date):

Discipline and Administrator	Application open start date	Application close date
Community-Engaged Practice Artists – Pillsbury House Theatre	August 20, 2021	October 15, 2021
Printmaking – Highpoint Center for Printmaking	September 27, 2021	November 15, 2021
Book Artists – Minnesota Center for Book Arts	December 1, 2021	March 1, 2022
Fiber Artists Textile Center	September 1, 2021	November 1, 2021
Choreographers, Dancers – The Cowles Center	January 5, 2022	March 30, 2022
Playwrights – The Playwrights’ Center	September 9, 2021	January 13 or 20, 2022
Visual Artists – MCAD	January 28, 2022	March 25, 2022
Ceramic Artists – Northern Clay Center	March 14, 2022	May 20, 2022
Theater Artists – The Playwrights’ Center	September 9, 2021	April 14, 2022
Composers – American Composers Forum	December 6, 2021	March 7, 2022
Musicians – MacPhail Center for Music	December 3, 2021	January 31, 2022

APPLICATION SYSTEM, INSTRUCTIONS, and REVIEW PROCESS

Application Deadline: November 1, 2021, 5:00 pm CST

Start your application early. Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted.

You will not be able to upload files after 5 p.m. CST on November 1, 2021. At that time the system immediately stops accepting applications, even if you are in the middle of working on it.

APPLICATION SYSTEM

- All applicants will use the online system *Submittable*. To access the system, click the **SUBMIT** button on our website and follow the instructions to create an account or log into an already established account with Submittable.
- After clicking “Apply,” Submittable will prompt you to either create an account or log in.
- To create an account, you will need to provide your email address, a password, and your first and last names.
- Once you create your account, you will be taken to the “Welcome to Submittable” page, containing information about Submittable. To enter the McKnight Fellowship Application, click “Continue.”
- Organize your application materials. We strongly recommend that you assemble all of the application components in advance.
- Upload your application materials. Required fields are marked with an asterisk.
- You must agree to the Terms of Use by checking a box prior to submitting.
- When you are finished, do not forget to click the “Apply” button to submit your application.

INSTRUCTIONS and GUIDELINES

PLEASE PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO GUIDELINES AS YOU PREPARE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS FOR SUBMISSION.

DO NOT INCLUDE YOUR NAME, EMAIL, WEBSITE, OR LOGO ON YOUR IMAGES OR STATEMENT. Also, please do not use these things on your document file names.

IF YOUR PROOF OF MINNESOTA RESIDENCE IS NOT CURRENT, YOUR APPLICATION WILL BE MARKED INCOMPLETE AND YOU WILL BE NOTIFIED.

ALL APPLICATIONS MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

Work Samples (Required)

- Upload 10 digital images of your work. Save each image as a JPG or JPEG.
- Images may not include any identifying information. Please remove all names, logos, etc.
- Maximum file size is 5 MB/image. Reduce file size when saving final JPGs, if necessary.
- CHECK YOUR IMAGES! Do not send thumbnails.
- **Submit your best work and your best images (from the last 6 – 10 years, suggested) that show a cohesive flow of excellence and innovation. This is the primary criteria for selection of finalists.**
- Upload and organize your images in the order that you want the jurors to view them.
- Your images should be rotated to view correctly when opened. Check them before you upload.

- No composite images allowed, which means do not include more than one photo per JPG.
- No explanatory text can be included on the images.

In the application process, work sample uploads allow for the inclusion of written image information during the upload process. Including the requested metadata with each photo, in addition to the Image List, helps the jurors facilitate a smooth review process.

Jurors will view these images on multiple, different computer screens and monitors, depending on what they have. Your images may include full views, alternative views (often helpful in understanding dimensional work), installation shots, details (often helpful in understanding what the jurors are seeing)—whatever it takes to convey the best presentation of excellence in your practice.

Image List (Required- Attach as a PDF)

Prepare an image list corresponding to the order of your 10 uploaded images. *Limit to 1 page.*

Your image list may not include any personal identifying information. Please remove all names, logos, etc. from this document. **DO NOT include any descriptive information on your image list**, except for what is asked for, or your application will be rejected and you will have to do this part over.

Include the following information for each image:

Title

Dimensions—Height x Width x Depth. DETAIL or INSTALLATION can be used, if appropriate

Materials Used

Techniques Used

Year Completed

Statement of Work (Required- Attach as a PDF)

Please prepare a creative statement no longer than 750 words.

You may attach a 2-minute MPEG video of you talking about your work, in place of a written statement. You cannot include any background information or images of work in the video. Please contact Tracy Krumm should you have any specific questions about this aspect of the application process.

- Your statement may not include your name or logo. Reviewers will not see your demographic information in the first round of selection.
- Your statement should address clarity and uniqueness of vision and commitment to your work.

Please use this statement to tell the jurors what you want them to know about your identity including your cultural background, ability or disability, or geographic location. If these characteristics of your identity influence the work you do as an artist, you may wish to include this information here.

There are no rules to writing this statement—but it is a chance to tell the jurors about yourself and your work. The statement needs to provide a context for the images that you have submitted, explain what you do, and importantly, why you do it. **This statement is NOT a project proposal. It is a statement about you and your work.**

Suggestions to consider including in your statement:

- How do you contextualize your work as an artist working in the field of fiber art?
- How does your work make a compelling contribution to the field of fiber art?
- What do you see as the future direction of your work and what is informing it?

Résumé or List of Accomplishments (Required- Attach as a PDF)

Submit a current résumé or list of accomplishments that highlights your professional accomplishments and achievements including exhibitions (solo and group), events, presentations, lectures, residencies, publications, awards, grants, and major collections.

If you are submitting a list of accomplishments, it is helpful to the jury to organize this list either categorically, chronologically, or both—with your latest achievements at the top of the list.

Please limit this document to 5 pages. This document MAY include a letterhead and your name.

Please make sure you include at least 8 YEARS of your most significant artistic and creative achievements and accomplishments—NOT INCLUDING work done during a degree-seeking higher education program. 8 YEARS is our benchmark for the definition of a mid-career artist, as it pertains to eligibility for these fiber artist fellowships.

This document is used initially by Tracy Krumm, McKnight Fellowships for Fiber Artists Program Director to establish this qualifying requirement. It is viewed by the jurors only if you advance to the semi-final round of the selection process.

Proof of MN Residency (Required- Attach as a PDF, JPG, or JPEG)

Applicant must have or maintain MN residency for at least one year prior to application deadline (since November 1, 2020). Applicants will have to upload a CURRENT document as proof, such as the following:

- MN Drivers License
- MN Identification Card
- Tribal Identification Card, indicating geographic location
- Copy of a lease or utility bill in the applicant’s name—**this format must include two documents—one to mark the beginning of the residency requirement, and one to mark the end**
- Other relevant supporting documents

Program Director will contact you to work with you if more information or an alternate format is needed.

REVIEW PROCESS

Jury Members

A three-member jury panel consisting of experienced and well-respected fiber and textile art professionals selects the McKnight Fiber Artist Fellows. The jurors are working artists, academics, critics, writers, historians, and curators within the field of Fiber Art, with an appreciation for and knowledge of a diverse range of styles, genres, histories and traditions within the discipline. Jurors, insofar as possible, represent a diversity of age, ethnicity, gender, and geography.

The McKnight Fiber Artist Fellowship jurors remain anonymous until after the selection process.

Selection Process

Applicants are evaluated and selected based on the quality of their work as evidenced in submitted materials, most importantly work samples. Distinctive voice, exceptional merit and integrity, and the content of the statement will be considered during the initial selection process. (*Budgets and proposals are NOT part of this fellowship proposal.*)

Consideration is given for accomplishments to date and the portfolio submitted. Promise for continued development and the impact the fellowship could have on the artist are discussed. **These fellowships are awarded for the body of work submitted, not a future proposed project.**

The jurors are asked to consider the breadth of artistic and cultural practices among Minnesota artists, which include a wide range of histories, styles and genres, which may be influenced by ethnicity, gender, and geography—in support of McKnight Foundation’s and Textile Center’s missions to support equity, diversity, and inclusion.

The jury process is not recorded for public dissemination. In an effort to help all applicants strengthen future applications, jurors are asked to generate general comments to be shared with the entire applicant pool. Jurors will generate specific comments on semifinalist and finalist applications.

Program director will notify all applicants of the jurors’ final decisions, with general juror comments shared, by January 15, 2021.

Semifinalists and finalists can schedule an appointment with Tracy Krumm, Program Director, after January 15, 2022, to discuss any specific comments jurors may have shared.

First Round Selection Process

- Jurors will independently review the images of work, image list, and statements via *Submittable* from each application.
- Jurors will view each image individually at its full size (not as the small preview you see when you submit your application).
- Your images will be viewed in the order you submit them (i.e., Image 1 will be first, Image 10 will be last). Title, media, and other information you submit with the images will be displayed with each image.
- Jurors will each choose and rank their highest eight applications to advance to the second round.
- Rank order of all applicants are tallied, and a semifinalist pool moves forward to a second round of review.
- Jurors are not given the names or demographic information of applicants in the first round.

Applicants who do not advance to the second round are notified via email by December 11, 2021.

Second Round/Semifinal Selection Process

- Jurors will re-review all images and artist statements of initial semifinalists to narrow down the pool to 8 semifinalists.

- Résumés/List of Achievements will be shared for this final pool of 8 semifinalists and the jury will engage in discussion and further review, on Zoom, about the applicants.
- Demographic information may be shared with the jury during this round, if they request it.
- Four (4) finalists will be selected for virtual studio visits from the pool of semifinalists.

Finalists

- Four (4) finalists will be selected to conduct remote, virtual studio visits via ZOOM with the jurors—on or around December 15—date to be determined by Textile Center.
- Textile Center will host the ZOOM sessions. Each finalist will be responsible for preparing their own presentation for the jurors, and will respond to juror questions, from their own studio or location of choice.
- Program Director will spend up to three consultation sessions with each finalist to be sure they are fully prepared to participate in the juror visits.

During the final stage of the selection process, jurors consider the visits, presentations of work, and conversation with finalists alongside previously submitted application materials in selecting two (2) fellowship recipients.

Upon completion of the final visits and deliberation, the Program Director will call the two fellowship recipients by 12 noon, the day following the presentations, and email the other finalists. Please note, deliberation can include an overnight time period.

INFORMATION SESSIONS and ONE-ON-ONE MEETINGS

INFORMATION SESSIONS

Textile Center program staff will conduct VIRTUAL information sessions via ZOOM, and IN-PERSON SESSIONS at Textile Center and partner sites to go over the application process, to discuss both content and technical aspects. Information about info sessions can be found under the INFO SESSION tab on our McKnight 2022 Fellowships Page—click here: [INFO SESSIONS](#)

Session #1- VIRTUAL—Monday, September 2, 6:00 pm via ZOOM. Link [HERE](#) to session registration.

Session #2- IN-PERSON—Tuesday, September 28, 6:00 pm at Textile Center. Participation is limited to IN-PERSON sessions due to COVID-19. Please pre-register by emailing tkrumm@textilecentermn.org.

FINAL Q&A Session- VIRTUAL—Monday, October 25, 6:00 pm on Zoom. Link [HERE](#) to session registration.

A recording of the virtual info session will be available by September 27, at the top of the main McKnight 2022 Textile Center website page: [2022 MCKNIGHT](#)

Other info sessions will be announced on our website and through our bi-weekly e-newsletter, *Textiles on the Town*. Outreach sessions will be subject to COVID-19 restrictions at each site.

SCHEDULING A ONE ON ONE MEETING

Please read all of the information in this document and on our website, and attend an IN-PERSON or

VIRTUAL INFO session or watch the pre-recorded session. After this, you may schedule a meeting by calling 612-436-0464 or emailing tkrumm@textilecentermn.org to set an appointment with Tracy Krumm. Limited appointments are available, through October 25, 2021.

If you need assistance preparing images, finding a computer to use, or other help, please see this linked list for additional resources:

[McKnight Additional Artist Resources](#)

We recommend contacting Springboard for the Arts for in-depth assistance with either paid consultations or their free workshops.

Springboard Consultations:

<https://springboardforthearts.org/professional-growth/career-consultations/artist-career-consultants/>

Springboard's free or minimal charge workshops:

<https://springboardforthearts.org/workshops/#:~:text=Springboard's%20Work%20of%20Art%3A%20Business,and%20replicated%20across%20the%20country>

Textile Center staff are unable to assist you with the actual writing of your documents. Let us know if you would like us to try and find a volunteer to assist you. We can however, provide feedback and help you upload your application if you need assistance!

Please note: we will not be able to schedule one-on-one meetings after October 25, 2021. A final group Info session with Q&A will be available right before the application period closes. Check the website for details.

QUESTIONS?

If you have questions after reviewing these guidelines, please contact:

Tracy Krumm
Director for Artistic Advancement
McKnight Fellowships for Fiber Artists Program Director
Textile Center
tkrumm@textilecentermn.org
612-436-0464