



2020 Fellowship Awards Updates

This document includes the new 2020 Fellowship timeline, information about how grant panels are formed, information about how the decision was made to postpone the 2020 Fellowship Awards, and a public apology to our 2020 Fellowship applicants.

NEW 2020 FELLOWSHIP TIMELINE

The award selection process will begin in late 2020 with the announcement of recipients in February 2021. [Artist Trust currently has other merit-based grant programs in progress, which were taken into consideration while developing this timeline.](#)

Month	Action
July	Communication with artists
August	Eligibility check
September/ October	Panelist invitations and accompanying documentation Applicants will be invited to update their applications
November/December	Panel opens and applications are reviewed online
January	Panel meets and Board approval
February	Notification and announcement

HOW ARTIST TRUST'S GRANT SELECTION PANELS ARE FORMED

Selection panelists are intended to be representational of the Washington State arts community and reflective of Artist Trust's commitment to racial equity and statewide engagement. Panelists are invited with the following attributes in mind: racial/ethnic diversity, geographic diversity, a diversity of disciplines / practices, gender diversity, and a range of career stages. Panelists are recommended by staff, board, community partners, previous selection panelists, and artists and stakeholders in the community. From these recommendations and with our commitments to racial equity and statewide engagement in mind, a short list of panelists is developed for each award by the programs team and approved by the CEO in accordance with the organization's bylaws.

You can recommend panelists by contacting the Programs team at programs@artisttrust.org.

ABOUT THE DECISION TO POSTPONE THE 2020 FELLOWSHIP AWARDS

In March, when the pandemic's impact on Washington State artists first became clear, we consulted with our community via an impact survey. More than 1,000 artists statewide responded, and 77% reported significant lost income and had no safety net. The top need identified in this survey was immediate cash relief to cover basic needs. In this crisis moment, Artist Trust took the most responsive, artist-serving action to support artists suffering this staggering financial crisis: We quickly pivoted, pressing pause on "business as usual" to meet this urgent need. This included pausing our merit-based awards.

Over the last few months, we have concentrated nearly all our capacity to COVID-19 artist relief efforts. To date more than \$620,000 in relief has reached nearly 400 artists across the state. This is more money than has ever been distributed to more artists than any single year in our 34-year history, but the need is incredibly high and continues to grow. The Relief Fund has received nearly 2,800 applications totaling more than \$6 million in requests for support. While there's no way we can help every artist in need, we're working as quickly as we can to raise more money for this fund. We're also keeping an eye to the future to be with artists for the long haul, and we have recently resumed delayed merit-based grant programs.

AN APOLOGY TO ARTISTS

We sincerely apologize to all 2020 Fellowship applicants for postponing the 2020 award cycle. We recognize that we didn't honor the original timeline for the award, and we sincerely regret the financial and emotional impacts this delay has on our community of artists. We're sorry for delayed and disjointed communication with Fellowship applicants about the award postponement. We're now in communication with all Fellowship applicants, and welcome questions and feedback.