



August Wilson Center Fellows Program Application

About the August Wilson Center Fellows Program

The August Wilson Center for African American Culture preserves, presents and interprets the art, culture, and history of African Americans in Western Pennsylvania and people of African descent throughout the world. Artists are the lifeblood of the creative economy Pittsburgh is attempting to foster, illustrated by the City's regional investment in a future represented by its Downtown Cultural District, home to the August Wilson Center. The African American community, both historically and in the present day, has an inordinate number of cultural workers adding to the creativity of the city, yet many African American artists and performers lack the resources to advance their artistic development and products. African American artists have the potential to become worldwide ambassadors for the city if they can be supported in their artistic development by a comprehensive program of services that allows the time and the resources for them to fully realize their creative voices.

The August Wilson Center Fellows program is intended to support the needs of African American artists and/or artists of African descent living and working in Southwestern Pennsylvania. Local artists will be provided with new venues to create and present their performances, pursue individualized career advancement, participate in collaborative creative and marketing projects, strengthen community connections, acquire financial services and collect a regular stipend. The August Wilson Center seeks to do more than provide a physical platform for cultural expression and the arts; it also wants to ensure that creative people in Western Pennsylvania have access to the soft-skill and other resources they need to further their craft and careers. The program will ensure artist participation as an integral part of the program's development; provide access to venues for artists to create and present their work; provide services to artists that will enable them to devote more time to their work; and improve and emphasize the arts' civic role in Western Pennsylvania.

The AWC Fellows Program was made possible through the financial support of an anonymous donor, with an additional grant from the Pittsburgh Foundation.

Timeline

The second round of the AWC Fellows program begins May 2010 and concludes June 2011.

AWC Fellowship Grant Information Session

Saturday, January 30th, Noon – 2:30pm
August Wilson Center, Education Center
980 Liberty Avenue, Downtown Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Application Deadline:	February 26, 2010 (postmark deadline)
Committee Selection of Fellows:	March - April 2010
Notification of Fellows:	May 2010
Public Announcement of Fellows:	May 2010

Eligibility

Eligible artists applying to the AWC Fellows Program must:

- Be African American or of African descent
- Be a resident of one of these counties: Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Lawrence, Washington or Westmoreland
- Be a professional artist, 18 years of age and older. Artists in any degree-granting program, or for whom art is a hobby, will not be considered.
- **NOTE: Members of the August Wilson Center's Board, Staff and Committees, and their immediate family members, are ineligible to apply for the Fellows Program.**

Benefits

The AWC Fellows Program will provide the following to its Fellows:

- Generous stipend
- Access to the August Wilson Center's new facility, including equipment, offices, galleries, theater and meeting spaces
- Marketing, curatorial, technical and administrative support for projects
- Individualized professional development consulting and support in areas such as arts administration, planning and marketing, Web site development, fiscal sponsorship, booking support, educational expenses, etc.
- Access to venues to rehearse, meet, and present their work through the life of the project, whether new artistic work or works in progress
- Documentation of all final work
- Organized, regularly scheduled opportunities for peer-to-peer cross-disciplinary interaction and discussion with other Fellows
- Presentations and consultations by accomplished visiting artists, based on artist availability
- A dedicated AWC Fellows Project Manager who will act as a liaison between Fellows and AWC staff

Expectations

Fellows will be expected to do the following as part of their Fellowship:

- Attend an orientation at the beginning of the Fellowship
- Provide quarterly updates on their work to AWC staff
- Publish intermittent blogs on their work to be posted on the AWC Web site
- Submit a final report on the AWC Fellows Program and their project's success
- Include a community art component in their programs, such as presenting finished work in an underserved community, mentoring high school students, or teaching a class for arts educators in a low-income school district. Artists may collaborate with organizations with which the AWC has previously worked, or with different organizations.
- Participate in the evaluation of the program

Disciplines

Artists may apply in any one of the following disciplines:

Media Arts

For artists working with digital media, including film, sound, video, animation, computer-generated art and Internet-based works.

Music Composition and Performance

For composers and musicians who work in a range of genres, including but not limited to: jazz, blues, gospel, traditional African, chamber, symphonic, electronic, experimental or as singers/songwriters.

Performance-based Arts

For artists who create original work for live performance. Performance areas include theatre, choreography and dance, performance art, original storytelling, poetry, spoken-word, playwrights, writers in experimental forms, puppetry, movement/physical performance, and multidisciplinary works.

Visual Arts

For artists working who work in two-dimensional and three-dimensional media, including painting, sculpture, photography, printmaking, book arts, drawing, mixed media, installation and functional crafts.

Selection Process

The August Wilson Center will review all applications and choose a slate of finalists, based on the selection criteria. These finalists will then be invited to make project presentations to the panel of members of the August Wilson Center Programming Committee, comprised of regional arts professionals active in various visual, performing and literary arts fields.

The panel will make recommendations to the August Wilson Center on Fellows. The August Wilson Center will then review the recommendations to pick the individual Fellows.

Applications will be rated based on the following:

- 10% - Application Materials
- 50% - Presentation to panel
- 40% - AWC's final review

All applicants will be notified of their status before the committees meet. All finalists will be notified of the results by May 2010, and finalists will be publicly announced in May 2010.

Selection Criteria

The following criteria will be used in evaluating applicants:

- Quality of the applicant's work as indicated by submitted documentation and panel presentation
- Demonstration of a serious and consistent dedication of the professional practice of the arts through submitted artwork and other documents
- Evidence that the applicant is at a critical juncture in their creative development that will be advanced by the program
- Demonstration of the applicant's potential innovation in the use of the AWC facility's resources. To learn more about the August Wilson Center's new facility, visit AugustWilsonCenter.org

Application Process

Artists must submit the following materials to apply:

- Fellowship Application Cover Sheet
- Artist resume
- Artist statement:
A 4-page-maximum work statement describing the specific artistic goals and project(s) that you wish to achieve as an AWC Fellow, as well as a description of your proposed community engagement activity
- List of materials/slides
- Work portfolio, as detailed below
- Supplementary materials, such as reviews, catalogues, brochures, etc.
- 1 large SASE (self-addressed stamped envelope), for return of materials
- Application and all supplemental materials must be received by mail or hand-delivered by **Friday, February 26, 2010** to: August Wilson Center, Attn: AWC Fellows Program, 980 Liberty Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222. No faxed or e-mailed submissions will be accepted.

Notes:

- If you would like your supporting materials returned to you, please enclose a large SASE with the proper postage. We are not responsible for the return of materials sent without a large SASE, or without the correct postage.
- Please mail all of these materials together.

Sample Format Specifications:

Media Arts

Artists working in still media arts should follow the guidelines for visual arts submissions. For those working in film, sound, and video, follow the guidelines for performance-based arts or music. For artists working in Internet-based art, submit a listing of the appropriate Web sites for review. **Note: CDs/DVDs will be viewed on Mac systems. Make sure your disc can be opened on a Mac; if it cannot be opened, your application will not be considered.**

Music Composition and Performance

Submit an audio recording, in either audiotape or CD format, labeled with the artist's name, title of work and running time. The recording should be cued to the appropriate segment for review. Audio segment for review should not exceed 10 minutes. Multiple audio clips require a table of contents. **Note: CDs/DVDs will be viewed on Mac systems. Make sure your disc can be opened on a Mac; if it cannot be opened, your application will not be considered.**

Performance-Based Arts

Submit a video documenting the performance, in either VHS or DVD format, and labeled with the artist's name, title of work, and running time. If submitting a DVD, specify the digital format: MPEG, Real Player, MSM Media Player, etc. The video should be cued to the appropriate segment for review. Video segment for review should not exceed 10 minutes. Multiple video clips require a table of contents. The panel will only review video artwork. Please do not submit videos documenting artistic process, unless it is a critical element of the finished piece. Artists may submit links to Web sites with video examples of their works if DVD/VHS is unavailable. **Note: CDs/DVDs will be viewed on Mac systems. Make sure your disc can be opened on a Mac; if it cannot be opened, your application will not be considered. For internationally recorded samples, DVD format should be Region I.**

For word-based performance arts, such as spoken word, script works and poetry, submit a written sample of your work (1 act of a stage play or 10 pages of poetry). Submissions should be typed in size 11 font, with a one-inch page margin and your full name placed at the top right corner of each page. If available, please submit a video of either this or another similar work being performed (you reading your poems, a theatre company performing your play, etc.). Please follow the video guidelines as listed above.

Visual Arts

Submit 10 slides of recent work in either 35-mm or digital format. Include multiple views where necessary.

- 35-mm slides must be standard 35mm, 2" x 2" size, organized in a 9" x 12" slide sheet. Each slide should be marked with the artist's name, slide number, and work title, and must indicate the top of the image. **DO NOT SEND GLASS MOUNTED SLIDES.**
- Digital slide images should be at a 72-150 dpi and no larger than 8" x 10". All images should be included on one CD. Format all images as JPEG. Do not include any URLs or directions to Web sites.
- **Note: CDs/DVDs will be viewed on Mac systems. Make sure your disc can be opened on a Mac; if it cannot be opened, your application will not be considered.**
- Prepare an easy-to-read slide list. For each slide, include: artist's name, title of work, date completed, dimensions and medium. The numbers on the slide list should correspond with the numbers marked on slides.



Application Cover Sheet

First Name _____

Last Name _____

Complete Mailing Address _____

County of Residence _____

Primary Telephone _____

Secondary Telephone _____

Primary E-mail _____

Date of Birth ____/____/____

Fellowship Category (please check one):

- Media Arts
- Music Composition and Performance
- Performance-based Arts
- Visual Arts

How did you learn about the AWC Fellows Program? Please check all that apply.

- Mailing
- AWC Web site
- Word-of-mouth
- Newspaper article (specify) _____
- E-mail announcement (AWC or other, specify) _____
- Social Media (Facebook, Twitter or other, specify) _____
- Other (please specify) _____

Did you attend the AWC Fellows Program information sessions?

- Yes
- No

Mail or deliver application with supplemental materials by February 26, 2010 to:

August Wilson Center for African American Culture
Attn: AWC Fellows Program
980 Liberty Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222-3736

No faxed or e-mailed submissions will be accepted.