



Creative Community Fellowship – Frequently Asked Questions

What is the new program proposed for individual artists?

Cuyahoga Arts & Culture (CAC) proposes a partnership with National Arts Strategies (NAS) to bring the innovative and successful Creative Community Fellowship (CCF) to Cuyahoga County. CCF is an exciting two-year program for approximately 20 Cuyahoga County residents who want to use arts and culture to drive physical and social transformations in their communities.

The proposed new program continues CAC's longtime commitment to individual artists in Cuyahoga County. It is designed to empower artists, entrepreneurs, neighborhood advocates and organizers to use their creativity to help improve communities and drive positive change.

Our ongoing planning and listening work has affirmed the need for continued funding for individual artists. The program is aligned with CAC's commitment to using public dollars to support organizations, projects and programs that benefit the public and build connections to residents. Emerging artists and artists of color are particularly encouraged to apply.

Who is involved in the program?

CAC's lead partner is National Arts Strategies (NAS). Established in 1983 by the Ford, Andrew W. Mellon and Rockefeller Foundations, NAS has a long history of contributing to a strong, dynamic arts and culture sector and has a unique depth of experience. In Cleveland, NAS has led trainings for local arts leaders since the 1990s.

CCF was developed by NAS with the support of the Kresge Foundation, Bush Foundation, Knight Foundation, Penn Social Policy and Practice (University of Pennsylvania) and has been offered nationwide three times since 2014.

NAS will design and administer the program, curate the class of fellows, and provide all program content in line with CAC's goals. Once approved by CAC's Board of Trustees, CAC will engage three to five local partners to help recruit artists and deliver program services, working in partnership with NAS and CAC.

How would the program work?

The Creative Community Fellowship is a two-year program that would begin 2017. If approved, artists will be able to apply to participate in the program in 2017.

The fellowship would provide artists and creative innovators with a \$10,000 stipend and significant in-person and online training, tools, resources and stipends (valued at more than \$20,000 per fellow) to help them serve as change-makers in their communities.

The program is divided into two, one-year phases:

- In the first year, Fellows will be focused on creating community change. They will continue their learning, with structured activities, to build and test projects and ideas. Fellows will also receive tools and training that will cultivate habits of resilience and reflection required in effective leadership.
- In the alumni phase, Fellows will be introduced to the larger, national NAS network of alumni and educational offerings. Fellows will continue their work, drawing upon these new resources, plus evaluating and reporting on the impact of their projects.

Additionally, participants will have the opportunity to make time for their own work and access to funding that supports their efforts to create positive change in their communities.

The program is for individuals who use culture to respond to local needs and contribute to healthy neighborhoods. This combination will fuel their visions for community change, sparking new ideas and helping put them into action. The program will also provide a platform for Fellows to connect their work to their communities and to the field. This will create a local and global dialogue about the ways in which culture can restore and animate communities.

To learn more, view the [program timeline](#).

What are the core components of the program?

The fellowship starts with online courses to help fellows understand current research and trends in their fields. Participants spend time learning about their communities and their place in them.

Fellows will also spend eight days together at the Creative Community House, a living and learning community where they will come together to create a purpose and vision for their projects. Fellows will be challenged with questions like: why is this project important; what do you want to see different in the world as a result of your efforts on this project; and what do you hope to create over the next three years by doing this work?

Further training helps the fellows create support systems, test ideas with residents, and build capacity for sustaining their projects. They also learn how to budget and find funding for their projects long-term so they can continue them once the fellowship ends.

At the end of the fellowship, the participants will share their findings with the community and seek opportunities to build allies. They will also evaluate and share the impact of their project.

How many people will we serve with the new program?

The proposed program will serve approximately 20 Cuyahoga County residents, but the impact of the program extends far beyond the participants. Fellows will interact with hundreds – if not thousands – of Cuyahoga County residents during the program as they work to create healthier neighborhoods and seize opportunities for change in Cuyahoga County.

How would fellows be selected?

The selection process for Creative Community Fellows would be managed by NAS. Through an application process, NAS will select a diverse cohort of fellows from all over Cuyahoga County. Fellows will enter the program with community projects that they advance over the course of the Fellowship. Emerging artists and artists of color are particularly encouraged to apply.

What is the anticipated community impact of the program?

The proposed new program will reinforce CAC’s longtime commitment to individual artists in Cuyahoga County who are connecting to residents and the community through their work. The proposed program best aligns with CAC’s commitment to using public dollars to support organizations, projects and programs that benefit the public and build connections to residents.

- The proposed program ensures long-term, sustainable positive change by providing new tools and knowledge that will help Fellows push their work forward, and expand Fellows’ communities of allies who will change, shape, and support them as they work.
- The proposed program is designed to not only create artworks, but to provide the tools and resources for artists, entrepreneurs, neighborhood advocates and organizers to use their creativity to help improve communities and drive positive change in communities.

Who can apply?

Any artist, entrepreneur, neighborhood advocate or organizer who wishes to play a role in maintaining and improving community wellbeing through their arts and cultural projects or work is invited to apply.

What will the stipend be?

Creative Community Fellows will receive a \$10,000 stipend, plus access to transformational tools and networks to create meaningful change in their communities, valued at more than \$20,000 per participant.

What is CAC’s history of support for artists?

Since 2009, CAC has invested \$4,083,350 in fellowships for 161 individual artists living and creating work in Cuyahoga County. Through CAC’s primary grant programs, General Operating Support and Project Support, CAC provides direct support to arts and cultural professionals, including artists. Organizations funded by CAC invest in artists; they spend nearly sixty percent of CAC funds on staff, the majority of which are artists and program staff.

Where can I learn more about past Creative Community Fellowships?

Visit the [National Arts Strategies](#) website.