

# Urban Artist Initiative/New York City Grants Program Guidelines and Criteria



ASIAN  
AMERICAN >alliance  
ARTS

HARLEM artsalliance

Bronx  
Council  
On the  
ARTS

queenscouncil  
onthearts

Smithsonian  
National Museum of the American Indian

NYFA  
New York Foundation for the Arts

**DEADLINE:** Application must be submitted and postmarked by October 29, 2009.

**AMERINDA Inc., the Asian American Arts Alliance, the Harlem Arts Alliance, and the Latino Artists' Initiative (sponsored by the Bronx Council on the Arts) – in partnership with the Queens Council on the Arts, the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, the New York Foundation for the Arts, and the Bronx Council on the Arts – announce the continuation of their consortium grants program, the Urban Artist Initiative/New York City (UAI/NYC). This fellowship program provides individual NYC artists of color with general support to advance their artistic and professional development.**

**UAI/NYC will consider applications from individual artists of color of African, Asian, Latino, and tribally enrolled Native American descent who reside in one of the five boroughs of New York City.**

**For 2009/10 UAI will be accepting on-line applications *only in visual arts and media*. UAI will be accepting on-line applications from *Native American artists in all disciplines*.**

**As a result of reduced funding, grants of \$1,500 will be awarded to artists in all areas of visual and media arts. Native American artists will be reviewed for \$1,500 grants in the visual arts, media, performing, and literary arts. A total of 34 UAI grants will be awarded, allocated in accordance with the City's demographics.**

## **Who can apply?**

- Individuals who self-identify as artists of color of African, Asian, Latino, or tribally enrolled Native American descent/ethnicity/heritage;
- A resident of New York City for the past year from the time of the application deadline. (All grant recipients must show proof of NYC residency status and have a Social Security number before receiving award money); (All Native American grant recipients must also show proof of Tribal Enrollment/Citizenship.);
- An artist of at least 18 years of age;
- Collaborations or collaborating artists, submit only one application with all participating artist's names.

## **Who cannot apply?**

- Any artist who has received a cash award from UAI/NYC in previous grant cycles. (If you received Special Recognition but did not receive any financial support, you are eligible to apply.);
- Graduate or undergraduate student enrolled in any degree program at the time of application deadline;

UAI/NYC is pleased to accept *online* submissions for grant applications. To apply, visit the websites of UAI's partnering organizations. (See below for more details.)

### **CATEGORIES FOR ALL APPLICANTS:**

#### **Visual Arts/Crafts and/or Architecture**

This category accepts all varieties and genres of visual arts, crafts, and/or architecture.

Architecture  
Crafts  
Drawing  
Installation  
Mixed Media  
Multimedia/Interdisciplinary  
Painting  
Performance Art  
Photography  
Printmaking  
Sculpture

#### **Media Arts**

Audio  
Digital/Computer Arts  
Film  
Video

### **FOR NATIVE AMERICAN ARTISTS ONLY:**

#### **OTHER CATEGORIES:**

#### **Performing Arts and Interpretive Arts**

Choreography  
Dance  
Music  
Music Composition  
Spoken Word  
Theater

#### **Literary Arts**

Fiction  
Non-fiction  
Poetry  
Playwriting/Screenwriting

## **How to Apply**

### **Applications are currently being accepted online.**

1. Visit the website of any of UAI's partnering organizations and click on link to UAI/NYC Application. You will be asked to register and create an account. Once registered, you will be able to return and login as needed to edit your application until you submit.

The application program will prompt you to provide the following information:

- Biographical (i.e. name, address, etc.)
- Work Sample
- Technical/Cultural Statement (optional, unless otherwise noted)
- Resume

See *Application Requirements* below. If you are applying with still images, you will also submit those online. Submit all work samples for Media Arts (or for other categories for Native American artists) via US Postal Service (USPS) mail. Please use delivery confirmation when mailing support materials, this will provide a tracking number.

Submit your work samples to one of the four organizations serving artists of color with whom you primarily self-identify:

**AMERINDA Inc.**

15 Rutherford Place  
NY NY 10003

**Asian American Arts Alliance**

20 Jay St., Suite 740  
Brooklyn NY 11201

**Harlem Arts Alliance**

229 W. 135<sup>th</sup> St., Front 1  
NY NY 10030

**Latino Artists' Initiative**

c/o Bronx Council on the Arts  
1738 Hone Avenue  
Bronx, NY 10461-1486

2. When you have completed and submitted your online application, you will be given a confirmation number. You must include this number with work samples submitted via USPS mail. This means you cannot mail your work sample until you have completed and submitted your online application.

NOTE: *Once you have submitted your application, you will no longer be able to make changes, so be sure you have reviewed everything carefully before hitting the submit button.*

3. You must submit the online component of your application and mail your work sample by 11:59 pm on October 29, 2009. ***If you are not required to submit your work sample online, you must mail your work sample, postmarked by October 29, 2009. Please mail your required work sample with your online confirmation number to one of the four organizations above.***

***Please indicate the category to which you are applying on the front of the envelope.***

## **Application Requirements**

1. **Work Sample**

You should use the Work Statement and the optional Technical/Cultural Statement (see below) to explain the material submitted in order to contextualize your intent and your specific participation in the documented work. Please submit a representation of your recent artistic work (within the last five years). For all work samples – other than still images, manuscripts, and musical scores - please submit, one or two works, either on separate videotapes or on one CD or DVD. Please indicate a primary and secondary cue point for each work sample. To assure that panelists are able to view these work samples, please do not put any labels on any of these work samples. Panelists will review three to five minutes of each applicant's work. For each discipline, submit the following materials:

## **Visual Arts: Architecture, Crafts, Drawing, Painting, Photography, Printmaking, Sculpture**

8 digital images must be submitted online using the following specifications:

- Dimensions: 1240 pixels x 1240 pixels maximum
- File Size: No larger than 4.0 MB (each image)
- File format: .JPG
- Color Scale: RGB
- Resolution: 72 DPI

The longest dimension of the image must be no more than 1240 pixels. Digital images will be uploaded directly onto your application. Do NOT send discs containing image files. Images will be shown in the order they are uploaded, four at a time horizontally. Panel moderators will read aloud the materials, dimensions, and date of the first and fifth image to the panel. Each image is projected roughly 30" x 40" in size.

## **Visual Arts: Installation, Mixed Media, Multimedia/Interdisciplinary, Performance Art**

Up to two of any combination of the following: VHS, CD, DVDs and/or up to eight digital images (see above for image formatting).

## **Media: Audio/Digital/Computer Arts/Film/Video**

- Audio: up to two of any combination of the following: Audio-CD, DVD or VHS.
- Digital/Computer Arts: Submit three to five minutes of PC compatible Windows Media format (avi), Apple Quicktime, RealVideo, and/or Macromedia Flash files on DVD or CD; and/or provide specific URLs with instructions on how to navigate the site.
- Film/Video: Submit a three to five minute excerpt on video: VHS (NTSC, 1/2") or DVD; VHS tapes must be cued. It is recommended, but not required, that the entire piece is submitted.

## **(For Native American Artists Only)**

### **Performing Arts and Interpretive Arts**

For all dance, music, and theater categories, please provide up to two works cued, each on separate VHS tapes or both on one DVD or CD.

- Music Composition, please also provide two copies of corresponding scores.
- Music Performance (Musician or Vocalist), please provide up to two work samples on one CD or DVD.
- Note concerning Theater Performance: UAI/ NYC is aware that the rules of Actors' Equity do not permit documentation of a performer's work except for educational purposes. Accordingly, theater performers are advised to provide a work sample which provides some in-depth example of your work rather than a broad representation of your work.
- Spoken Word: Include three to five minutes of performance on Audio-CD, DVD, or VHS.

## **(For Native American Artists Only)**

### **Literary Arts Fiction: Fiction, Non-fiction, Poetry,**

### **Playwriting/Screenwriting**

Writing samples in English (double-spaced manuscript maximum of 8 pages). Please submit original and 6 copies, and include the following items in this order:

- \* Title Page (include: title, year in which the work was written, your name, and your confirmation number)
- \* 1,000 character Work Statement
- \* Excerpt explanation paragraph (if necessary)
- \* Optional/Cultural Statement
- \* Up to 8 pages that best represent your work within the past five years

All pages following the Title Page, Work Statement sheet, and Optional/Cultural Statement must be numbered.

You should use the Work Statement and the Optional/Cultural Statement in the online application to explain where your excerpted manuscript fits into the larger work.

**(For All Applicants)**

2. **Work Sample Inventory:** A list of your work sample materials.
3. **Work Statement:** Please submit a statement, not to exceed 1,000 characters, that directly relates to the work sample submitted and that will explain this work to the review panel. Work statements will be available for panelists when they view your work sample.
4. **Optional/Cultural Statement:** Please submit a statement if your work is rooted in a specific technique and/or cultural tradition and requires additional explanation to contextualize your work. This statement should not exceed 2,000 characters. Statements will be available for panelists to read as they view your work sample.
5. **Resume:** Please submit a resume, not to exceed 5,000 characters, that details your artistic career as it relates to the discipline in which you have applied. You may choose C.V. or bio format.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### May I apply if I do not have access to the Internet?

Yes. Although we would like all applicants to apply online, we realize this is not possible for everyone. If you do not have access to the Internet, you may request assistance from any one of UAI/NYC's partnering consortium organizations.

### What are the criteria for selection?

Evaluation and selection of applications will be made by a diverse independent panel of artists and arts administrators who have solid knowledge in their fields. The main criterion will be artistic excellence, based on the panel's review of the quality and merit of work submitted. Artists are supported at all career levels.

### How are my materials returned?

Those wishing their materials mailed back to them should **enclose a self-addressed envelope with sufficient postage.**

### How can I find out more information to help my application to UAI/NYC?

For a schedule of citywide How-To-Apply Workshops and information on the participating organizations, contact one of the following listed below:

Note: additional workshops will be sponsored by the Brooklyn Arts Council (718) 625-0080, the Council on the Arts and Humanities for Staten Island (718) 447-3329, and Northern Manhattan Arts Alliance 212-568-4396.

#### **AMERINDA Inc.**

[www.amerinda.org](http://www.amerinda.org)

(212) 598-0968

#### **Asian American Arts Alliance**

[www.aaartsalliance.org](http://www.aaartsalliance.org)

(212) 941-9208

#### **Harlem Arts Alliance**

[www.harlemaa.org](http://www.harlemaa.org)

(347) 735-4280

#### **Latino Artists' Initiative**

Bronx Council on the Arts

[www.bronxarts.org](http://www.bronxarts.org)

Kim Vaquedano

(718) 518-6728

For more information, also contact:

**Queens Council on the Arts**

[www.queenscouncilarts.org](http://www.queenscouncilarts.org)

Lynn Lobell

(718) 647-3377

**New York Foundation for the Arts**

[www.nyfa.org](http://www.nyfa.org)

David Terry

(212) 366-6900

**Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian**

Johanna Gorelick

(212) 514-3704

**UAI/NYC Project Director**

Ted Berger

[tedsberger@aol.com](mailto:tedsberger@aol.com)

UAI/NYC has been made possible by funds provided for this cycle by Leveraging Investments in Creativity (LINC), the Joan Mitchell Foundation, the Starry Night Fund of the Tides Foundation. UAI/NYC has been Supported in previous years by the JPMorgan Chase Foundation, the Buddy Fund for Justice of the Rockefeller Philanthropic Advisors, the Booth Ferris Foundation, the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, and Leveraging Investments in Creativity (LINC).

UAI/NYC is a project of the Creative Communities Program of LINC (Leveraging Investments in Creativity), a ten-year national campaign to improve conditions for artists in all disciplines, so that artists can readily do their creative work and contribute to community life.