

# TheJoyceAwards



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## **About the Joyce Awards**

Started in 2003, the Joyce Awards is the only regional program dedicated to supporting artists of color in major Great Lakes cities. Since its inception, the competition has awarded nearly \$3.7 million to commission 69 new works and collaborations between artists and cultural or community organizations in six Great Lakes cities: Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, Indianapolis, Milwaukee and Minneapolis-St. Paul. Each award of \$75,000 supports an artist in the creation and production of a new work and provides the commissioning organization with the resources needed to engage audiences, new partners, and their surrounding communities at large. Of the \$75,000 the artist(s) receive \$25,000 in total as an artist fellowship while the collaborating commissioning organization receives \$50,000 to use towards compensation of staff time, production costs, materials, participant stipends and other expenses.

Past Joyce Awards have spanned visual, performing, and multi-disciplinary arts and have fostered exciting, new collaborations between artists, institutions and communities. A distinct feature of funded projects is the requirement that artists and host institutions include a robust community engagement strategy in their project plan. In many of the awarded commissions, intensive community interaction goes on to inform and shape the culminating artwork.

Letters of Inquiry (LOIs) for the 2021 Joyce Awards will be accepted until September 14, 2020. Full proposals will be requested within 2-3 weeks of LOI receipt for projects that demonstrate artistic merit, innovation, resonance with timely local or national themes, histories or concerns, a plan for community engagement and the likelihood of full execution within 18

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months of receiving an award. For 2021 Joyce Awards, full proposals are due November 2, 2020.

An esteemed national panel of artists and arts leaders reviews the final field of applications. Once winning applicants are notified in May 2021, their projects are publicized widely.

## **Joyce Award Eligibility**

### *Artists*

Joyce Award proposals may be submitted by artists living and practicing *anywhere in the world*, provided that they are proposing a collaboration with an arts or community organization in one of six Great Lakes cities: Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, Indianapolis, Milwaukee or Minneapolis-St. Paul. There is no restriction in regard to art discipline or medium. Artists must be commissioned by an unrelated entity – no self-commissions or commissions by an arts organization or company founded or run by the artist. As Joyce Awards support the commission of new works, an artist’s proposed project should not have moved past the ideation stage. Although works need to be new, collaborations between artists and commissioning organizations need not be new. Joyce Foundation welcomes applications from artists and organizations who have worked together before. Hallmarks of past Joyce Award recipients include artists whose work:

- Demonstrates artistic excellence as well as new thinking or approaches while being firmly grounded in the history and evolution of an art form and the discourse which surrounds it;
- Is as artistically and intellectually relevant to the current moment and historical legacies in the place of commission as it is rigorous;
- Engages with and is informed by the stories and concerns of diverse communities;
- Creates opportunities for community access and learning from the ideation stage through the culminating production; and
- Will have a culminating and tangible program, product or process.

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## *Arts and Community-based Organizations*

Arts or community-based organizations physically located or doing substantial work in the metropolitan areas of the six cities where Joyce Awards are made (i.e. Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, Indianapolis, Milwaukee or Minneapolis-St. Paul), may submit an application. The most compelling applications have come from organizations that:

- Evidence the capacity to support an artist or group of artists through the commission and presentation of an original art work;
- Are most likely to use the proposed project and collaboration with the prospective artist to build upon and deepen connections with surrounding communities, existing and potential institutional partners and local civic leadership;
- Display the ability to harness additional funds as needed to ensure a project's completion within a 12 to 18-month timeframe; and
- Can design and execute a robust community learning, engagement plan and audience development strategy that will ensure the community's awareness of and access to the project from origination through completion.

## **Proposal Process**

### *Letters of Inquiry (Due September 14, 2020 for the 2021 Joyce Awards)*

Letters of Inquiry are the first step of the application process and require brief responses to the following questions:

#### For the Commissioning Organization

- What is the initial concept and plan for the artist commission?
- What prior experience of commissioning artists will the organization draw upon for this collaboration?
- Which communities will this commission engage? And how does this commission build on existing community engagement? What do you hope to achieve through community engagement?

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- If relevant, how does this project build on previous partnerships between the commissioning organization and the artist(s)? (Note that both prior and new partnerships will be given equal consideration in the review process.)

For the Artist(s)

- Please describe your creative work and artistic practice to date? How, if at all, does community engagement fit within your larger artistic practice?
- What interests and/or inspires you about this particular commission?
- How will this commission allow you to build on, stretch, deepen or nuance your artistic practice?

**Please note**--The Joyce Foundation uses an online grants management system, Fluxx. If an applicant has not registered in Joyce's Fluxx system, we ask that you please do as soon as possible at <https://joycefdn.fluxx.io/lois/new?utf8=%E2%9C%93&commit=Create+an+account+now>. Once registered, you will receive an email notification from the Foundation within five business days with log-in credentials.

If you have logged into Fluxx in the past, but do not remember your password, please go to [https://joycefdn.fluxx.io/forgot\\_password](https://joycefdn.fluxx.io/forgot_password) to receive a password reset email.

**Full Proposal (Due November 2, 2020 upon the request of the Joyce Foundation)**

Upon review of Letters of Inquiry, a select number of full proposals will be requested within 2-3 weeks of the Letter of Inquiry deadline. Full proposals should contain:

- All financial information as requested by Joyce's standard proposal procedures found on our website. Visit <http://www.joycefdn.org/apply>
- A fully developed concept paper detailing the collaboration with the artist from development of the commission, to related community programming and engagement and final production
- A clear and well-articulated plan for community engagement and audience development

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- A complete biography and letter of support from the proposed artist indicating interest and availability to participate in the program
- Artist work samples including digital images or video links, etc.
- The full program budget identifying how Joyce’s funding will be used
- A firm project timeline
- Plan for evaluating project impact

## *Notification of Award (By May 2021)*

During the April 2021 board meeting, Joyce Foundation’s Board of Trustees will review and approve award finalists based on the recommendations of an esteemed national panel of artists and arts experts. Following notification, Joyce staff will coordinate with commissioning organizations and artists receiving a Joyce Award on press announcements.