



Overview and Guidelines

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 Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, Indianapolis, Milwaukee, and Minneapolis–St. Paul. Each award of \$50,000 supports an artist in the creation and production of a new work and provides the commissioning organization with the resources needed to engage potential audiences, new partners, and their surrounding communities at large.

Past Joyce Awards have spanned visual, performing, and multi-disciplinary arts and have fostered exciting, new collaborations between artists and institutions. 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, this intensive interaction with community goes on to inform and shape the culminating artwork.

Letters of Inquiry (LOIs) for the Joyce Awards are accepted through mid-April. Full proposals will be requested within 4–7 weeks of LOI receipt for projects that demonstrate artistic merit, innovation, resonance with timely local or national themes or concerns, a plan for community engagement, and the likelihood of full execution within 18 months of receiving an award.

A panel of artists and arts experts reviews the final field of applications and, once winning applicants are notified, their projects are publicized in December of every year.

TheJoyceAwards

Joyce Award Eligibility

Artists

Joyce Award proposals may be led by artists living and practicing anywhere in the world. 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. 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 that surrounds it;
- Is as artistically and intellectually relevant 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.

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 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 artwork;
- Are most likely to use the proposed project and collaboration with the prospective artist to foster deeper 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.



TheJoyceAwards

Proposal Process

Letters of Inquiry (due April 12, 2020)

Letters of Inquiry are the first step of the application process and should contain the following elements along with those outlined in the Fluxx online submission portal:

- Initial concept and plan for the artistic commission
- Information about the proposed professional artist's creative work to date and how the proposed collaboration would further the commissioning organization's mission, strategic plan, and goals for community and stakeholder engagement
- Detail of the organization's last two programming or presenting seasons and information, if relevant, about any previous programming in the last five years that involved the commissioning of artists and related community involvement
- Identification of the target audiences and an audience development plan
- Projected timeline
- Estimated budget
- Organizational assets, staff resources, and prospective partnerships that support the organization's ability to carry out the project
- Plan for evaluating project impact

Please note: The Joyce Foundation uses an online grants management system, Fluxx. New Joyce Award applicants will need to start with the registration process. Please begin the process 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 instructions to create 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 to receive a password reset email.

If you have any questions regarding Fluxx, please email applications@joycefdn.org or call our main line at (312) 782-2464.



TheJoyceAwards

Full Proposal (due June 15, 2020 upon the request of the Joyce Foundation)

Upon review of Letters of Inquiry, a select number of full proposals will be requested. 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 through related community programming and final production
- A clear and well-articulated plan for community engagement and audience development
- 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, 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 December 2020 / January 2021)

During the year-end board meeting, the Joyce Foundation’s Board of Trustees will review and approve award finalists based on the recommendations of a national panel of artists and arts experts. Commissioning organizations receiving a Joyce Award will coordinate with Joyce staff on press announcements.

