

TheJoyceAwards

About 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 million to commission 55 new works and collaborations between artists and cultural 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 the performing and visual 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 several successful proposals, this intensive interaction with community goes on to inform and shape the culminating artwork.

Letters of Intention (LOIs) for the Joyce Awards are accepted in early April. Full proposals will be requested within 5-8 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 arts experts reviews the final field of applications and once winning applicants are notified, their projects are publicized in December of every year.

Joyce Award Eligibility

Artists

Joyce Award proposals may be led by artists living and practicing anywhere in the world. There is no restriction in regards to art discipline or medium. 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 as it was rigorous;
- Engages with and was informed by the stories and concerns of diverse communities; and
- Creates opportunities for community access and learning from the ideation stage through the culminating production of a process.

Arts Organizations

Arts 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 original art work;
- 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;



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- Display an ability to harness additional funds to ensure a project's completion within a 24-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 development through completion.

Proposal Process

Letters of Intention (Due April 12, 2017)

Letters of intention are the first step of the application process and should contain the following elements:

- 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 art organization's mission, strategic plan, and goals for community and stakeholder engagement
- Detail of the organization's last two programming seasons and information, if relevant, about any previous programming in the last five years that involved the commissioning of artists and the creation of a related programming schedule
- 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

Full Proposal (Due June 15, 2017 upon request of the Joyce Foundation)

Upon review of Letters of Intention, full proposals will be requested. Full proposals should contain:

- A fully developed concept paper detailing the collaboration with the artists from commission to related education, and programming to 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 or video links, etc.
- The full program budget
- A firm project timeline

Notification (By December 2017)

In the year-end board meeting, 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. Organizations receiving a Joyce Award will coordinate with Joyce staff on announcements and press.

