

# TheJoyceAwards

## Ten Frequently Asked Questions

**1. Question: Can non-arts organizations apply for the Joyce Award?**

**Answer:** Any 501c3 non-profit organization or organization fiscally sponsored by a 501c3 organization that has the proven ability to present and support artists' creative production and engagement with local residents and stakeholders can apply for a Joyce Award. In the past, non-arts community and immigrant services agencies have won and successfully managed awards.

**2. Question: Can new or smaller-budget organizations apply to commission artists for the Joyce Award?**

**Answer:** Yes. All organizations are welcome to apply as long as they have been in existence for one year or longer and have the demonstrated financial capacity, regardless of current operating budget, to use Joyce Award funds as outlined in their original proposal and to raise additional funds as needed.

**3. Question: Can artists initiate the Letter of Inquiry for Joyce Awards?**

**Answer:** Yes, artists can initiate and complete the Letter of Inquiry if they have the preliminary consent of a commissioning organization and access to the necessary organizational information required in the online grant management portal. Because successful Joyce Awards typically involve extensive community engagement and program and partnership development, which all require financial oversight and due diligence, artists cannot commission themselves. Thus, an artist who is the founder or leader of an arts organization or company cannot be commissioned by an entity with which they are an administrator, member, or otherwise affiliated. Be sure to click on the Joyce Award Letter of Inquiry link to start the application. Note that commissioning organizations (or those serving as the fiscal sponsor) are expected to complete the full proposal, if requested.

**4. Question: How many times can one apply for a Joyce Award?**

**Answer:** There is no limit. Though most awardees are first-time winners, regardless of whether they have previously won a Joyce Award or not, commissioning organizations can submit up to two proposals per cycle and can commission any artist that is not the previous recipient of a Joyce Award.

**5. Question: How many artists can be proposed at one time?**

**Answer:** Most Joyce Awards go to individual artists. However, other successful commissions have gone to an existing group (e.g., The Carolina Chocolate Drops)

or to collaborations between artists. To date, Joyce Awards have gone to no more than three artists working together on a single commission.

**6. Question: Is there a standard amount of the award that should go to artist commission fees?**

**Answer:** While there is no set or standardized amount, the Joyce Foundation expects that artists will be fairly compensated. Because it is expected that they are being commissioned to create new and original work, artists should receive commensurate fees for ideation and time spent. Other significant portions of the grant should support community engagement activity, programming, and production costs.

**7. Question: Can we commission an artist to repeat a project they have performed elsewhere?**

**Answer:** No. The Joyce Award program is intended to support the commission and presentation of new work and seeks to provide artists a platform for the creation of artwork that has the potential to raise the visibility of their practice and elevate their careers.

**8. Question: What if I want to commission an artist for a project beyond the city limits of Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, Indianapolis, Milwaukee, or Minneapolis-St. Paul?**

**Answer:** Though some Joyce Awards have purposefully sought to connect various geographies, a significant majority of Joyce Award activity as well as the culminating presentation or production must take place in one of these designated cities.

**9. Question: The Joyce Award period is from 12 to 18 months. What if the project will take less time or need more time to be completed?**

**Answer:** Because Joyce Awards are built around the creation of new works and artists' and commissioning organizations' community interaction from project ideation to completion, it is expected that these grants will require sufficient time for incubation, development, stakeholder engagement, and production. Projects can take a bit less than 12 months to complete but should not run longer than 18 months.

**10. Question: What if I need additional help?**

**Answer:** Should you need additional assistance navigating the Fluxx online grant management portal or have a specific question regarding Joyce Awards guidelines that is not answered here, please email [applications@joycefdn.org](mailto:applications@joycefdn.org) or call our main line at (312) 782-2464.