



northern  
clay center

# McKnight Artist Fellowships for Ceramic Artists

Eligibility Information & Application Checklist



## Application Information and Eligibility

Since 1996 the McKnight Artist Fellowship for Ceramic Artists has supported outstanding Minnesota ceramic artists who have already proven their abilities and are at a professional stage that is beyond early career. Two \$25,000 grants will be awarded annually. The program recognizes and supports mid-career artists living and working in Minnesota who demonstrate a sustained level of accomplishment, commitment, and artistic excellence.

This program is made possible by the generous support of The McKnight Foundation, Minneapolis, MN.

## McKnight Artist Fellowships Community Values Statement

The McKnight Foundation and the administering partners for the McKnight Artist Fellowships are committed to creating and supporting an artistic community in which all individuals are treated with respect and dignity. The community of the McKnight Artist Fellowships includes people who engage with the fellowships program whether as applicants, fellows, panelists, contractors, collaborators, fellowships administrators, and staff of the McKnight Foundation and partnering organizations. As a community, we commit to creating and maintaining relationships that are free from harm, prejudice, and harassment. Community members agree to communicate directly and transparently regarding issues of conduct that could negatively impact the well-being of participating members and organizations. In the case of an accusation, legal action, or conviction, the McKnight Foundation and its fellowship program partners may gather and assess relevant information. If deemed necessary, the McKnight Foundation and its fellowship program partners may take administrative action up to and including the recommendation of participation in reconciliation or restorative justice processes; disqualification of an application; the termination of a contract; and the recall and/or termination of a fellowship. This community will be what we make it and our aim is to collectively create an experience in which all artists and members of the McKnight Artist Fellowships community thrive.

## Eligibility

- Have or maintain MN residency for at least one year prior to application and for the duration of the fellowship year.
- Are midcareer with a body of work that demonstrates a sustained level of accomplishment, commitment, and artistic excellence.
- Can only apply to one McKnight Artist Fellowship in any artistic discipline within a year.
- Have not been a recipient of a McKnight Artist Fellowship within any artistic discipline in the last five years. (A 2022 award recipient cannot apply again until the 2028 grant cycle)
- Demonstrate growth and ongoing artistry since their most recent McKnight Artist Fellowship.
- Are not staff, board, or immediate family of the McKnight Foundation or fellowship administrative partners.
- Are not enrolled full-time in an academic program.

Please note: a college degree is NOT required to apply for this or any NCC award. We encourage applicants who would like to make clay and creativity a continuing part of their lives, even if they have not pursued post-secondary academic or similar training in a mentorship setting.

## Schedule

The application deadline for awards is the third Friday in May by 5 pm. All applications must be received at Northern Clay Center via our online form or in hard copy, along with the required digital images and work samples, by this day and time. THIS IS NOT A POSTMARK DEADLINE. Faxed, emailed, or late applications will not be accepted.

## Selection and Notification

Applications will be reviewed by a three-member panel, which will select recipients on the basis of perceived artistic excellence and demonstrated professional achievement, using artists' statements as support material. Applicants will be notified of the outcome of the selection process by mid-summer at the latest.

**For questions, visit our website at [www.northernclaycenter.org/artist-services](http://www.northernclaycenter.org/artist-services) or contact the Artist Services Coordinator, Sean Lofton, at 612.339.8007 x 302 or [seanlofton@northernclaycenter.org](mailto:seanlofton@northernclaycenter.org).**

## Application Process

Your application must include:

- This application form, in hard copy or via the online form.
- 10 digital images via webform submission or CD.  
Please do not display your name on the image. Images will be projected on the wall and viewed one at a time. **Image files should be labeled with last name, first initial, and numbers indicating your preferred viewing order (example: doej1.jpg).** Do not include any other information in the filename. Digital images must be saved as JPGs at 96 pixels per inch (ppi) and should not measure greater than 1024 pixels along the image's longest dimension. Additional information regarding image size and format is available at [www.northernclaycenter.org](http://www.northernclaycenter.org). If submitting a CD, discs will not be returned.
- 1 - 3 physical work submissions shipped or delivered to Northern Clay Center.
  - Please submit 1 - 3 individual physical works that can be viewed in the round by the selection committee. Please select works that will best demonstrate the direction of your practice. These works may occupy up to 30 linear inches and should be accompanied by special installation notes. For works requiring wall installation, please contact Sean Lofton at [seanlofton@northernclaycenter.org](mailto:seanlofton@northernclaycenter.org) before delivering or shipping works.
  - Should the delivery of physical work samples not be feasible, applicants may elect to submit a secondary grouping of 10 digital images to represent various angles & details of 1 – 3 works. Applicants that elect to submit digital work samples should follow the same image submission guidelines listed above and include image details on a singular image list containing information for all digital images being submitted as part of the application.
  - Shipping & Drop-off information:
    - Address:
      - Northern Clay Center  
Attn: Artist Services  
2424 Franklin Avenue East  
Minneapolis, MN 55406
    - Hours for Drop-off
      - **Sales Gallery Desk:**  
7 days a week, 10am – 5pm
      - **NCC Offices:**  
Monday – Friday, 9am – 5:30pm
- Image list for all digital images and separate entries for work samples. The image list must include artist name, titles, date of work, dimensions of work, medium, and image orientation, and should be formatted as a PDF.
- A current resume (maximum of five 8.5 x 11" pages formatted as a PDF), with your name at the top of each page.
- Artist Statement (maximum of 2 pages, formatted as a PDF). This statement should provide background into your working process and work. Use this opportunity to articulate your professional development as an artist, as well as your current artistic goals. A budget is not required.

**Do not staple or bind your application. Do not enclose your application in a folder or jacket.**

## Application Form

Please type or write clearly in black ink and use only white or off-white paper, as these forms will be photocopied. This application form may be duplicated or recreated on a word processor. You may also apply online at [www.northernclaycenter.org/artist-services](http://www.northernclaycenter.org/artist-services).

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

### Which of the following best represents your racial or ethnic heritage? Choose all that apply.

This information is not required. Elected responses will be used by McKnight Foundation and NCC to evaluate program outreach.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black of African American         | <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Pacific islander    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Native American or Alaskan Native | <input type="checkbox"/> White                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian                             | <input type="checkbox"/> A combination of the previously listed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Latinx (of any race)              | <input type="checkbox"/> A race/ethnicity not listed            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Middle Eastern (of any race)      | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to disclose                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Multicultural                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                           |

### Which of the following best represents your gender identity? Choose all that apply.

This information is not required. Elected responses will be used by McKnight Foundation and NCC to evaluate program outreach.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Man                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Trans Woman            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Woman                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Two-spirited           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gender Nonconforming/Nonbinary | <input type="checkbox"/> A gender not listed    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Intersex                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to disclose |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trans Man                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____           |

### AGE

This information is not required and will ONLY be used for NCC's and the McKnight Foundation's statistical purposes.

- 18 – 23     24 – 34     35 – 54     55 – 64     65 – 74     75 – 84     85 +

List any other McKnight grants that you have received and the year of the award.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**SEE "APPLICATION PROCESS" FOR REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS**