

FY27 Individual Artist Fellowship Grant Evaluation Rubric

Resume or Bio – 40% of Total Score

Recognition	0-1 points: No notable recognition to date; lacks external validation or public acknowledgment.	2-4 points: Limited external recognition, though some signs of growing visibility or interest.	5-7 points: There is some recognition by peers, mentors, local community members, community of practice, or cultural tradition (for folklife/traditional arts); which may include smaller awards or grants.	8-10 points: Has received extensive recognition by peers, mentors, local community members, community of practice, or cultural tradition (for folklife/traditional arts); including notable awards, press coverage, and grants.
Training and/or Education	0-1 points: Minimal or no relevant training or education evident.	2-4 points: Some relevant formal or informal education or training; foundation is developing.	5-7 points: There is solid formal or informal training; education shows clear influence on artistic development.	8-10 points: Extensive formal or informal training; education has deeply informed their artistic development.
Experience with Craft	0-1 points: Little to no relevant experience; minimal engagement with their craft in any setting.	2-4 points: Some experience; may be in the early stage of career development.	5-7 points: There is clear experience; shows consistent engagement and growth.	8-10 points: Extensive experience; sustained and consistent engagement with their craft; clearly active in their discipline.
Related Experience	0-1 points: No or minimal related experience (e.g., teaching, curating, editing, or collaboration).	2-4 points: Some related experience, but limited in scope or relevance (e.g., teaching, curating, editing, or collaboration).	5-7 points: There are related experiences outside of the direct practice (or cultural tradition for folklife/traditional arts) across varied settings; shows consistency and growth (e.g., teaching, curating, editing, or collaboration).	8-10 points: Extensive, related experiences outside direct practice (or cultural tradition for folklife/traditional arts) (e.g., teaching, curation, or collaboration).

Artist Statement & Commitment to Growth – 20% of Total Score				
Artist Statement	0-1 points: Artistic vision and intentions are unclear or absent. Little to no reflection on purpose or direction.	2-4 points: Artistic vision or intentions are vague, general, or partially articulated. Limited reflection on purpose or direction.	5-7 points: Provides an artistic vision and defined intentions. Shows some depth of reflection on purpose and direction.	8-10 points: Provides a clear and fully articulated artistic vision. Intentions are well-defined and supported by thoughtful reflection on purpose and direction.
Commitment to Growth	0-1 points: Provides little evidence of evolution, experimentation, or risk-taking. Practice appears static or narrowly focused.	2-4 points: Shows some evidence of evolution in practice. Reflects on experimentation and risk-taking, but growth is not an ongoing consideration for the artist.	5-7 points: Shows evidence of evolution in practice. Reflects on experimentation, risk-taking, and how these experiences expand or redefine the work. Growth is an ongoing consideration for the artist.	8-10 points: Shows clear evidence of continuous evolution in practice. Reflects thoughtfully on experimentation, risk-taking, and how these experiences expand or redefine the work. Growth is integral to the artist's ongoing direction.
Work Samples – 40% of Total Score				
Originality	0-1 points: Limited originality; work appears derivative.	2-4 points: Displays some originality and little distinction.	5-7 points: Shows strong originality and solid distinction.	8-10 points: Demonstrates exceptional originality; work is highly distinctive.
Clear Concept	0-1 points: Concept is unclear or difficult to discern from the work; lacks ideas or themes.	2-4 points: Conceptually vague or inconsistent ideas or themes.	5-7 points: Conceptually coherent work; effectively conveys the intended ideas or themes.	8-10 points: Conceptually powerful work. Ideas or themes are fully realized, compelling, and deeply embedded in the visual or structural elements.
Technical Execution	0-1 points: Technical skill and execution of medium are minimal.	2-4 points: Some technical competence, but limited execution of the medium.	5-7 points: Solid technical skills and execution of medium.	8-10 points: Exemplary technical skills; exceptional execution of the medium.

Impact	0-1 points: The work has minimal impact that leaves little impression on the audience.	2-4 points: The work has some impact that engages the audience at moments but lacks lasting resonance or depth.	5-7 points: The work is clearly impactful and conveys emotion or reflection and engages the audience.	8-10 points: The work is deeply impactful and leaves a strong, lasting impression that resonates emotionally, intellectually, or sensorily with the audience.
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