

NC Arts Council Fellowships in Songwriting and Music Composition

Fellowships are:

Awards of merit to
individual artists to
recognize excellence

Support the creative
development of N.C. artists

Support the creation
of new work

Fellowship Funds may be used to:

- Set aside time to work
- Pursue projects that further artistic development and support the realization of specific creative ideas
- Buy supplies and equipment
- Fund expenses related to the activities listed above: for example, costs related to studio construction or improvements

Fellowship funds may not be used to support academic research or formal study toward an academic or professional degree

A few items to note
prior to applying:

Fellowship applicants must certify on the application form that they:

- are at least 18 years old
- are a U.S. citizen or holder of permanent resident alien status
- have been a year-round resident of N.C. for at least one year immediately prior to the application deadline
- will remain a N.C. resident during the grant period and be physically present in the state for the majority of the grant period
- are not enrolled at the time of application and will not be enrolled during the grant period in an academic or degree granting program.

Tips on making your application compelling and competitive

Compelling:

- Evoking interest, attention, or admiration in a powerfully irresistible way
- Inspiring conviction

Competitive:

- Having a strong desire to succeed
- Being well-suited to compete

NC Arts Council Fellowships in Songwriting and Composition

1. How do you plan to use the fellowship?
2. How will receiving a fellowship impact your artistic development?
3. Why is it important that you receive a fellowship at this point in your artistic career?

NC Arts Council Fellowships in Songwriting and Music Composition

Question 1:

How do you plan to use
the fellowship?

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How do you plan to use the fellowship?

“I would use the fellowship to record a new cd.”

“I would use the fellowship to build a home studio.”

“I would use the fellowship to write a new composition.”

Everyone’s plan is different and unique to each individual. Please give detailed information about the work you are wanting to accomplish with the fellowship. It is not compelling to a panel to answer with a vague sentence that gives no detail about plans for the your work you would like to accomplish.

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How do you plan to use the fellowship?

“I would like to reduce my work hours so I have more time to work on my current composition/songwriting project /recording of my work. The project centers on...”

Yes! Making time to compose is an acceptable use of the fellowship

Be sure to include compelling details about your project

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How do you plan to use the fellowship?

“I would like to apply for the following songwriter’s workshops/residencies so I can develop my current project, which is about...”

Yes! This is an acceptable use of the fellowship

Be sure to include specifics about your work, as well as the particular workshops/residencies to which you will apply

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How do you plan to use the fellowship?

“I have two young children, and the fellowship would buy me X hours of child care so I can focus on finishing my current composition/songwriting, which focuses on...”

Yes! Child care *while writing* is an acceptable use of the fellowship

Be sure to provide compelling details about your work

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How do you plan to use the fellowship?

“I will purchase a laptop computer, possible recording equipment and composition software to create a space in my home exclusively for composing.”

Yes! This is an acceptable use of the fellowship.

Be certain about what recording equipment you will need.

Be sure to provide compelling details about your project and what you plan to do

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Question 2:

How will receiving a fellowship
impact your artistic development?

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How will receiving a fellowship impact your artistic development?

“A successful concert recording of my composition will contribute to my development towards greater visibility and self-sufficiency as a working artist.”

Yes! Provide compelling details about how this will happen

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How will receiving a fellowship impact your artistic development?

“I have completed my second cd recording and would like to use the funds to have it packaged and marketed. I would like to hire ABC Music Marketing to promote my cd in press/magazines, radio, and internet marketing campaign.”

Yes! Provide compelling details about how this will happen

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Question 3:

Why is it important that you receive a fellowship at this point in your artistic career?

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Why is it important that you receive a fellowship at this point in your artistic career?

“I will use the fellowship to revamp my website, publicize my latest music project for bookings and performances of my work to generate exposure.”

Yes! Provide as many details as possible about your work and how you will accomplish this

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Why is it important that you receive a fellowship at this point in your artistic career?

“After years of teaching composition/songwriting writing, I have recently left my job to pursue my own work full time. The fellowship would allow me to focus on the development of my current work. It’s about...”

Yes! Provide compelling details about your work

Work Samples and Support Materials

Work Samples

Two full length or partial audio works with a total combined running time not exceeding 10 minutes. An optional full length work of any duration may also be included. *

Required: PDF Work Sample Form with descriptions.

Required supplemental information about audio files for all work submitted.

Required: PDF Work Sample Form with descriptions.



Work Sample Form

Edit Header

Type the URLs and description for your Web link work sample in the space provided. If uploading samples directly into the system, leave the URL blank, but fill in other information.

To create a Web link, copy the URL from the Web page and paste it in the appropriate space. Select the text, then right click, select "Hyperlink," then click "OK". The link should launch when you hover over it and then use Ctrl+ Click to follow the link. Remember to check your work.

Save this as a PDF: Under File, select Save As. Then under the Save as type drop down menu select PDF.

How to upload this form to your application: From your application's Work Samples page, scroll down to Uploaded Materials and use the +Select files button to select your completed Work Sample Form file. The completed Work Sample Form should now appear in the application.

Applicant Name:

If you need technical assistance, please call (919)807-6501 or the program officer for your discipline.

Highly edited promotional clips and still images will not be accepted.

URL 1	TITLE	DATE PREMIERED	LENGTH OF SAMPLE
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

URL/Sample 1 additional information:

URL 2	TITLE	DATE PREMIERED	LENGTH OF SAMPLE
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

URL/Sample 2 additional information:

URL 3	TITLE	DATE PREMIERED	LENGTH OF SAMPLE
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

URL/Sample 3 additional information:

For **symphonic compositions**, please upload a PDF of the score for each recorded work you submit.

Required: PDF Work Sample Form with descriptions

For **electronic and experimental compositions**, please upload a PDF of the score for each recorded work you submit.

If you do not have a score, submit a technical statement describing the techniques, materials, and instruments used in the creation of the submitted work samples.

Required: PDF Work Sample Form with descriptions

For **jazz compositions**, please upload a PDF of the score or lead sheet for each recorded work you submit.

Required: PDF Work Sample Form with descriptions

For **songwriting**, please upload a PDF of the lyrics and instrumentation for each recorded work you submit. Instrumentation may be in the form of a score or a lead sheet. Songs without lyrics will not be reviewed in this category they will go to composition.

Required: PDF Work Sample Form with descriptions

Some common mistakes to avoid

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Some common mistakes:

Typos in your narrative

Not getting another set of eyes to review your documents

Not submitting the correct work samples or document
format:

- Work sample have to be in mp3 format
- Resume should be a pdf document no more than four
(4) pages

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Some common mistakes

- Submitting too much
 - Don't send any images of yourself
 - Don't send any images of your cover art
 - Don't send multiple work samples and expect us to choose
 - Don't send reviews, articles or letters of recommendation

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Some common mistakes

- The wrong resume
 - Prioritize your songwriting or composition experience
 - Think creatively about customizing your resume
 - This needs to be in a pdf document and no pictures of the resume

In summary...

Follow the guidelines

Answer the questions

Use all of the space given
for answers

Include as many specifics
as possible

Submit your strongest
work from the past three
years

Be compelling
and competitive

Next Steps after the Nov 1 deadline:

All applications are reviewed for any missing information

You will be contacted by me regarding missing information and there will be a short turn around time. If this deadline is not met your application will not be eligible.

Panel will meet sometime in the late Spring

Notifications will not happen until after the State budget has been approved and passed. We then wait for approvals from the NCAC Board of Directors and the Secretary of the Dept. of Natural and Cultural Resources.

This can happen sometime between July, August, or September. All applicants will receive a mailed letter of notification once everything has been approved.

Good luck!

If you hit a technical snag in your application, or have questions not addressed in the guidelines or in this webinar, please contact program staff:

Songwriters and Music Composition:

Andrea Lawson, andrea.lawson@ncdcr.gov,
919-807-6511

General and technical questions: Amy Hoppe,
amy.hoppe@ncdcr.gov, 919-807-6501