



2017 Emerging Artist Grants

You are eligible to apply for one of six \$2,000 VSA Minnesota Emerging Artist Grants IF:

- you want to create new art work in 2017 (writing, visual, performance, multi-media),
- you are a Minnesota artist who has a disability,
- your artistic career is “emerging,” and
- you did NOT receive an Emerging Artist Grant in the past two years (2013-14).

Purpose of the Grant:

Since 1996 the **Jerome Foundation** has funded and **VSA Minnesota** has administered Emerging Artist Grants to encourage the creation of *new* artistic work by *emerging* Minnesota artists with *disabilities*. (See *Definition of “Emerging”* on page 7)

The Guidelines:

Please read these guidelines and tips carefully. If you have questions or need another format, contact VSA Minnesota: 612-332-3888, 800-801-3883, emerginggrant@vsamn.org. You can download guidelines at <http://vsamn.org/artists-disabilities/emerging-artist-grant/>.

Deadline:

Grant applications must be received OR postmarked by **January 17, 2017**.

Mail or Delivery to: VSA Minnesota, 528 Hennepin Ave., #305, Minneapolis, MN 55403.

Email to: emerginggrant@vsamn.org. VSA Minnesota must be able to open, read and view.

Entry Categories:

Enter in ONLY ONE of these broad areas of arts. If you are active in more than one area, choose the area with your strongest skills and work:

Visual Arts -- Sculpture, Painting, Photography, Drawing, Mixed Media, Film/Video, Computer Graphics, Fiber Arts, Jewelry, Printmaking....

Performance & Composition – Music Performance or Composition, Theater, Dance, Choreography, Spoken Word, Comedy,....

Writing -- Essay, Short Story, Play, Poetry, Screenplay....

Multi-Media -- Combining elements of any of the above art forms.

Grants MAY fund:

- **New** work that has artistic expression as its primary reason for creation.
- Documentation, publishing and production of **new** work that you develop in 2017.
- Travel or time to research, complete and present **new** work.
- Professional documentation expenses of **new** work.
- Purchase of supplies, equipment or artist services to create **new** work.
- Workshops, conferences, mentor, etc. to help you create **new** work.
- Rental of a studio, theatre or other space for creating/presenting **new** work.

Grants may NOT fund:

- Documentation, publishing or production of work that you have already completed.
- Activities not directly related to the creation of **new** work.
- Costs associated with any degree program or work on scholarly manuscripts.
- Art activities for an organization that employs the artist.
- Costs incurred before March 1, 2017, or after March 31, 2018.
- Work that is primarily educational, scientific, journalistic or technical in nature.

Applications will NOT be accepted if:

- The documentation artwork, writing or other materials were created before January 1, 2012, OR were created for credit in an undergraduate or graduate program.
- The artist is currently enrolled full-time in an undergraduate or graduate program.
- The artist is a legal resident of a state other than Minnesota.
- The artist or nominator is a member of VSA Minnesota staff or Board of Directors (and immediate families).
- The artist received an Emerging Artist grant in 2015/16 (must sit out two years after receiving a grant), has received the limit of three Emerging Artist grants, or has not submitted a final report for a past grant.
- The application is late, incomplete or faxed.
- Statement of Disability is not included. This program is designed to recognize artists with disabilities as active, producing members of the Minnesota arts community. Therefore, each applicant is asked to state his/her disability on page 5. This information will remain confidential and will not be shared with grant review panelists.

Criteria:

The jury process will apply the following criteria in deciding awards:

- **80%: Artistic Quality** (technical proficiency, creativity, clear artistic voice and exceptional exploration in the chosen medium as demonstrated in work samples).
- **20%: Emerging Artistic Career** (indicated by résumé, past work and statements that the artist's work is a serious pursuit guided by a personal, artistic vision).

Considerations for Grant Recipients:

Grant Payment Accommodation – If you receive federal or state financial assistance (e.g., SSI or SSDI), you may face restrictions on receiving monetary awards. If you are chosen as a grant recipient, VSA Minnesota will accommodate your payment request.

Publicity – VSA Minnesota will announce recipients by April 1, 2017. Applicants agree to be included in publicity about the awards, which notes each grant recipient's name, city of residence, and art form, and the fact that all recipients are persons with disabilities. Individual disabilities are not listed. You will also be asked to participate in future exhibits, programs or receptions featuring new work created by Emerging Artist Grant recipients.

Project Completion – These grant funds are intended to support work that will be completed in 2017. A brief **Final Report** must be provided to VSA Minnesota with a sample (visual/audio) of the newly created work by March 31, 2018. No further grant funding from VSA Minnesota will be allowed until a Final Report is accepted.

Tips:

- **Assistance:** You can ask someone to assist you in filling out the application.
- **Nominations:** Anyone can nominate an artist with a disability for a grant by filling out the application, enclosing art samples, and attesting to the artist's commitment and record of achievement. You (the artist) must sign that you created the original art work, are a Minnesota artist with a disability, and, if selected, will create new work.

Art/Writing/Performance Samples:

- **What to submit:** Consider what best shows your artistic direction or focus (e.g., all poetry, essays, watercolors, etc.) rather than a little bit of everything you do. The artistic quality, creativity and originality of your work sample is 80% of your score.
- **Proofread** your writing sample and application so that it reads accurately. Typing or clear writing makes it easier and clearer for the grant reviewers.
- **Photos:** If you submit visual samples, select good quality photos which show details and color clearly. (Show the painting – not the room it's in, not the masking tape, not you holding the painting – unless that's part of your art.) The panel decides based on what they see, so clarity is important.
- **Images:** Preview JPGs on one or more computers to make sure the images are viewable. Images that cannot be opened or are formatted improperly will not be viewed by the review panel. If showing details of a larger artwork, place images in the same sequence if possible; e.g., image 1 is the full artwork; image 2 is a detail.
- **Black & White:** Grant reviewers receive printed information in black & white, so don't worry about fancy color formatting in printed materials.

Application/Documentation/Resume/Etc.:

- **Instructions:** Please follow the Application Instructions on page 4. If you have questions, contact VSA Minnesota: 612-332-3888 or emerginggrant@vsamn.org.
- **Ease of entry:** Submit your application on paper, on a computer disk or by email. We'll try to work through any technical issues.
- **Artist Resume, Artist Statement and Narrative:** Your **resume** and **optional artist statement and narrative** are 20% of your score. Try to show that you have an artistic history and that you plan to move forward as a serious, committed artist.
- **How You'll Spend the Money:** If you wish to use a grant primarily to continue your ongoing projects, a brief narrative or artist statement can help make that clear to the grant panel. If the new work you wish to pursue has a particular direction or focus, try to show that in your narrative or artist statement (as well as by several art samples). For instance, "I want to create a new series of sculptures/paintings/poems for a chapbook"; or "I will write a play for a festival dealing with..."; or "I wish to experiment with techniques of ..."; or "I will use the grant to do research ... take classes ... buy supplies ... travel ... hire a mentor ... so that I can create new work."
- **Creating new work:** Seeing your past work and a glimpse (in samples or writing) of what *new work* lies ahead can excite a grant review panel. In cases where you are both writer/creator AND performer, be clear if you are submitting **Writing** (the musical composition, lyrics, play, spoken word script, choreography plan) OR **Performance** – looking at the skill with which you perform, act, dance, direct, etc. Will your new work focus on creating new work, a new or evolving performing style, or both?
- **Work Sample Order:** You can organize your work samples any way you prefer, but **indicate the YEAR each work was completed**; this may help panelists see your artistic direction emerge.

2017 Emerging Artist Application Instructions

Application materials may be submitted by mail, PC computer disk or email, so long as VSA Minnesota can access and reproduce the information and files. If printing, **please DO NOT use staples**; use paper clips and/or number pages in order with your name on each page.

1. Documentation (Work Samples) – Choose samples that accurately reflect your current work and have been **completed since January 1, 2012**. Enter in ONE of four categories:

Visual arts – Up to 10 images of recent work saved as JPG files on CD, DVD or email.

- Name & Save photo files as, for instance: JaneDoe01.jpg, JaneDoe02.jpg, in the preferred order of review. Each image should be under 2MB, 1920 pixels on the longer side, and open to the proper viewing orientation (vertical or horizontal). Do not embed images in other files (PowerPoint, Microsoft Word, Adobe).
- PDFs and slides are NOT accepted.
- Images emailed to emerginggrant@vsamn.org may be sent in several emails.
- Videos up to 8 minutes may be sent on a DVD or uploaded to www.vimeo.com.

Written work – Up to 15 pages (8.5 x 11”), 1” margins, 12-point type, double-spaced (poetry may be single-spaced). If emailed, use Word, RTF or PDF file, not .dat. You may give context for work samples in the narrative, but don’t include a synopsis or title page.

Performance – A maximum of 8 minutes will be heard/viewed; submit one or more samples of recent work (CD, DVD, Vimeo) and indicate the viewing order.

Multi-Media – Submit samples of your work in the art forms you use (or plan to use in your new work), using the maximums above. If submitting images AND video, up to 8 images and 5 minutes of viewing can be accepted. Please indicate the viewing order.

Do not send originals of your documentation materials. VSA Minnesota will make every effort to handle documentation materials with care, but cannot be held responsible for lost or damaged materials, nor can we guarantee that special packing materials will be returned.

2. Artist Information Page AND Cover Page – Fill out pages 5-6; sign and date page 5.

3. Emerging Artist Career Information – A maximum of 3 pages in 12-point type or larger:

- A) **Artist Resume:** in any format/style you like, note such things as education, professional training, art-related work, mentors, recognition received (exhibits, commissions, publications, grants, awards, etc.);
- B) **List of Recent Art Work;** if it has been shared with the public, where or how;
- C) **Artist’s Statement and/or Narrative** to offer insight into your work, process, inspiration, vision and plans. (A Nominator may also attest to the artist’s commitment, creativity, record of achievement or direction in a one-page statement.)

4. Documentation List – List (preferably on one page) the art materials you are submitting, numbered to correspond with samples. If your writing was edited, you may want to credit the editors. If you were involved in a performance, indicate your role (performer, director, choreographer, etc.). Include:

- (A) title of the work,
- (B) medium,
- (C) YEAR of completion and
- (D) size of the work (width” x height” x depth”, or length of writing or performance).

2017 Emerging Artist Information Page

Artist Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ZIP: _____

Daytime phone #: _____ E-mail: _____

Website (if any): _____

Disability (as you like to describe it): _____

Ethnicity: White Black/African American American Indian/Alaskan Native
 Asian Hispanic/Latino Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
 Other (describe) _____

Arts category in which you are applying (*check only one*):

Visual Arts Performance/Composition Written Work Multi-Media

Specific medium within your arts category (*e.g., sculpture, painting, poetry, music*):

Nominations: Contact info for someone nominating or assisting you in applying:

Nominator Individual/Organization: _____

Address: _____

Daytime phone #: _____ E-mail: _____

Checklist: (6 PAGES MAXIMUM for items 1-6)

- 1. Artist Information Page -- signed (this page 5)
- 2. Application Cover Page (page 6: just the artist's name, city, art category & medium)
- 3. Artist Résumé
- 4. List of recent art work completed, published, performed, exhibited, etc.
- 5. Documentation List (one page identifying your enclosed art samples)
- 6. *OPTIONAL:* Artist Statement and Narrative
- 7. Documentation (art samples being submitted: disk of jpg images, writing, etc.)
- 8. *OPTIONAL:* Self-addressed envelope with postage IF you want your art samples returned, or you can pick up your materials at VSA Minnesota.
- 9. *OPTIONAL:* Self-addressed postcard IF you want mail confirmation that your application has been received. (All email addresses will be emailed confirmation.)

Please read and sign the following statement:

I affirm that I meet all eligibility requirements (as defined on page 1-2-7), that all information in this application is true to the best of my knowledge, and that I created the art submissions since January 1, 2012. I release VSA Minnesota from responsibility for any loss or damage of documentation materials submitted with this application. Should I receive an award:

(A) I agree to allow VSA Minnesota to publicize my name, city and art form in its news releases, website and public events honoring award winners; and

(B) I agree to submit a final report of my newly created work by March 31, 2018.

Artist Signature (required)

Date

Return by **Jan. 17, 2017** to VSA Minnesota, 528 Hennepin Ave. #305, Minneapolis MN 55403

2017 Emerging Artist Grant Application Cover Page

(please type or write clearly)

Artist Name: _____

City: _____

Arts category (*check only one*):

- Visual Arts
- Performance/Composition
- Written Work
- Multi-Media

Specific medium within your arts category (*e.g., sculpture, painting, poetry, music, etc.*):

Return by January 17, 2017 (postmark or delivery) to:

VSA Minnesota
528 Hennepin Avenue, Suite 305
Minneapolis, MN 55403-1810

Or email: emerginggrant@vsamn.org

Include:

- * Artist Information Page (signed)
- * Application Cover Page (this page)
- * Artist Resume
- * List of Recent Art Work
- * Documentation List (one page identifying your art samples)
- * Documentation (your art samples – visual, writing, performance or multi-media)
- * (Optional) Artist Statement, Narrative, Other Art Experience (TOTAL 3 pages including required Resume)

Definitions

“Disability”

For the purposes of this Emerging Artist Grant program for adult artists with disabilities, VSA Minnesota uses the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) definition of disability. (See http://www.ada.gov/regs2010/titleIII_2010/titleIII_2010_withbold.htm for complete definition.)

A person of any age is considered to have a disability if *any* of the following apply:

- a) A person has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, such as hearing, seeing, walking, breathing or speaking.
- b) A person has a *record* of a substantially limiting impairment to a major life activity, such as a person who has recovered from cancer or an individual previously categorized as learning disabled.
- c) A person is *regarded* by others as having a substantially limiting impairment, which in reality either is not substantial (such as controlled high blood pressure) or does not cause any substantial limitations (such as a facial scar or physical disfigurement).

If any of the above apply, an individual is eligible to participate in the granting programs of VSA Minnesota. The artist’s signature acknowledging this eligibility is required, but the grant review panel does not further discuss the disability – only the art and supporting materials.

“Emerging Artist”

VSA Minnesota’s Emerging Artist Grant program is funded by the Jerome Foundation, which focuses many of its grant programs on “emerging creative artists.” (See their definition at <http://www.jeromefdn.org/about>.) Thus, these grants are intended to support “emerging” Minnesota artists with disabilities who show significant potential, yet are under-recognized by their peers and arts curators, producers, critics and administrators. Age is not a factor (although the grant program supports adult professional artists, not students).

The term emerging refers to artistic development, professional accomplishment, and recognition, not to evolution within an artist’s work. Evidence of some professional achievement is expected, but not an extensive record of accomplishment. Recognition may include exhibitions, critical reviews, commissions, performances, grant awards, residencies, fellowships, publications and productions. The number of these acknowledgements is considered as well as timing, size, characteristics, geographic context and significance. Résumés and references (individuals familiar with an artist’s work) help determine eligibility as “emerging.” A distinction the Jerome Foundation makes is that the grants are not intended for mid-career or established artists who want to do something different and are not yet established (are emerging) in the new field.

An artist may receive a maximum of three (3) Emerging Artist Grants from VSA Minnesota.

“Minnesota resident”

An artist must have lived in Minnesota at least one year prior to deadline and must live in Minnesota for most of 2017 when the new artwork is to be created.

These definitions are not intended to label people in ways that they may not wish to be labeled; rather, they are intended only to define eligibility in VSA Minnesota programs.

If you have a question about any of these definitions or aspects of the grants, please contact VSA Minnesota at 612-332-3888 or 800-801-3883 or emerginggrant@vsamn.org.



528 Hennepin Ave., Suite 305
Minneapolis, MN 55403

Return Service Requested

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Grant Application Information also available in various formats at:

- Website: www.vsamn.org
- Email: emerginggrant@vsamn.org
- Phone: 612-332-3888 or 800-801-3883
- Office: VSA Minnesota, 528 Hennepin Ave., #305, Minneapolis, MN 55403