



## 2019 Early Career Artists with Disabilities Grant Program

You can apply to VSA Minnesota for one of six \$2,000 grants for Early Career / Emerging Artists with Disabilities IF you:

- want to create new art work (writing, visual, composition/performance, multi-media),
- are a Minnesota artist who has a disability,
- are in the early or “emerging” part of your artistic career, and
- have not previously received an Emerging Artist Grant.

### History and Purpose of the Grant:

For 23 years (since 1996) the **Jerome Foundation** has funded and **VSA Minnesota** has administered grants to encourage the creation of *new* artistic work by Minnesota artists with disabilities. Over the years the grant name has evolved – from Artist Recognition to Career Advancement to Emerging Artists to Early Career (*see Definition of “Emerging” on page 7*). This is the LAST YEAR of this grant program, so if you have been putting off applying, THIS IS THE YEAR you need to apply! VSA Minnesota will continue to help artists with disabilities to seek new opportunities for funding and support.

### Guidelines, Changes, Help:

The guidelines HAVE CHANGED somewhat since last year. Please read them carefully. These funds are intended to support new, generative work to be completed in 2019. Use the tips, and if you have questions or need the application in another format, contact VSA Minnesota: 612-332-3888, 800-801-3883, [emerginggrant@vsamn.org](mailto:emerginggrant@vsamn.org). You can download guidelines at <http://vsamn.org/artists-disabilities/emerging-artist-grant/>.

### Entry Categories:

Enter in ONLY ONE of these broad areas of arts. If you are creating/generating new work 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....

**Composition & Performance** – Music/Dance/Theatre Composition/Improvisation/Performance, Theater, Dance, Choreography, Spoken Word, Comedy,....

**Writing** – Essay, Short Story, Play, Poetry, Screenplay....

**Multi-Media** – Combining elements of several art forms, each perhaps feeding, supporting or transforming the other to create an impact.

### Deadline:

Grant applications must be received OR postmarked by **February 1, 2019**.

VSA Minnesota will announce recipients by April 1, 2019.

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

Email to: [emerginggrant@vsamn.org](mailto:emerginggrant@vsamn.org). VSA Minnesota must be able to open, read and view.

## 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 2019.
- 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.
- Performing someone else's work (playing Chopin, acting Lear, dancing Balanchine).
- Costs associated with any degree program or work on scholarly manuscripts.
- Art activities for an organization that employs the artist.
- Costs incurred before February 1, 2019, or after September 1, 2019.
- 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, 2014, OR were created for credit in an undergraduate or graduate program.
- The documentation (art sample) cannot be opened by VSA staff or grant reviewers.
- 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's Board of Directors.
- The artist has previously received an Emerging Artist grant from VSA Minnesota.
- The application is late, incomplete or faxed.
- Statement of Disability is not included. This program is designed to recognize artists with disabilities, so 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:

- **75%: Artistic Quality** (technical proficiency, creativity, clear artistic voice and exceptional exploration in the chosen medium as demonstrated in work samples).
- **25%: Emerging Artistic Career** (indicated by résumé, past work, proposed project and statements that the artist's work is serious, 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 receive a grant, VSA Minnesota will accommodate extended payment requests to September 2019.

**Publicity** – Applicants agree to be included in publicity of grant recipients' names, cities, art forms, and being persons with disabilities. Individual disabilities are not listed.

A brief **Final Report** must be provided by March 2020 with a sample of the new work presented at a public program or reception in 2019 or early 2020.

## Tips:

- **Assistance:** You can ask someone to help you fill out the application. If you have questions, contact VSA Minnesota: 612-332-3888 or [emerginggrant@vsamn.org](mailto:emerginggrant@vsamn.org).
- **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/Composition/Performance Samples:

- **What to submit:** The artistic quality, creativity and originality of your work sample is 75% of your score, so 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.
- **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 wall or masking tape or you holding the painting.) The panel decides based on what they see, so clarity is important.
- **Audio/Video:** Make performance and multi-media samples as good as possible.
- **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 color formatting in printed materials.

### Application/Documentation/Resume/Etc.:

- **Application Instructions:** See page 4. You may submit your application via paper, computer disk, email or website storage (Vimeo, Google Docs, etc.). VSA Minnesota must be able to access your work. We will try to work through technical issues so grant panelists can see or hear your visual, audio or audio-visual/multi-media files.
- **Artist Resume, Artist Statement and Project Narrative:** These total 25% of your score. They can be simple or more detailed, showing your artistic history, your approach to your art, and your plans to move forward as a serious, committed artist.
- **Project Narrative:** This year you must say (A) what artwork you wish to pursue and (B) how you wish to share it with the public. Do you want to focus on a new method, explore a unique direction, or expand a past project? If you have started that exploration, show where you may be heading in your narrative and several samples. How will your solution help you create your art? For instance, "I want to write a new series of poems for a chapbook and readings"; or "I will write a play on relationship issues"; or "I wish to experiment with watercolor techniques and exhibit the new paintings..."; I want to use new photography editing software to blend images..." or whatever.
- **Budget:** *How will you spend the \$2,000?* What will it cost to take classes, travel, do research, hire a mentor, buy supplies, have a public reading/performance/exhibit, publish a chapbook, etc. You may anticipate no real expenses to do your art, so it's fine to "buy time for myself." Estimate your costs in a budget in the narrative.
- **Generating new, original work:** The work you are planning must be generative – original – not interpreting Chopin or Nat King Cole. If you are both writer/creator AND performer, be clear if you are submitting **Writing** (lyrics to songs, playscript, story-telling) OR **Composition/Performance** – looking at the skill with which you compose music, act, dance, direct, choreograph, sing, etc.
- **Work Sample Order:** As you organize your work samples, **indicate the YEAR each work was completed**; this may help panelists see your artistic direction emerge.

## 2019 Emerging Artist Application Instructions

Submit application materials by mail, PC computer disk or email. VSA Minnesota must be able to access and reproduce the information and files. Number pages in order with your name; use paper clips – **DO NOT use staples**.

**1. Documentation (Work Samples)** – Choose samples that accurately reflect your original work – work you've **completed since January 1, 2014**. Enter in ONE of four categories:

**Visual arts** – Up to 10 images of work saved as JPGs on CD, DVD, flashdrive 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).
- Email images to [emerginggrant@vsamn.org](mailto:emerginggrant@vsamn.org) (may be sent in several emails).
- Send videos up to 8 minutes on a DVD, flashdrive or upload to [www.vimeo.com](http://www.vimeo.com).
- PDFs and slides are NOT accepted.

**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.

**Composition/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. If your song has original lyrics, provide them in written form as well as the recording.

**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 cannot be held responsible for lost or damaged materials or guaranteed return of special packing materials.

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

**3. Artist Career Information** – A maximum of 5 pages in 12-point type or larger:

- A) **Artist Resume:** Note education, professional training, art-related work, mentors, recognition received (exhibits, commissions, publications, grants, awards), etc.;
- B) **List of Recent Art Work:** a selected list of your recent work; if any exhibits, publications, or performances have been shared with the public, where or how;
- C) **Artist's Statement:** to offer insight into your work, process, vision, inspiration....
- D) **Project Narrative & Budget:** What new work do you want to do with this grant? Is it a new direction, an expansion, exploration, different style, etc.? How will you present it to the public? Include your budget of anticipated costs for creation/production....
- E) An optional **Letter of Support** from a **Nominator** may attest to the artist's creativity, commitment, record of achievement or direction.

**4. Documentation List** – List on one page the art samples you are submitting, numbering the titles/descriptions to correspond with samples. If your writing was edited, you may want to credit the editors. If you were in the performance, indicate your role (performer, director, choreographer, tenor/soprano vocals, instruments played, 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).

# 2019 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  Composition/Performance  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: (7 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. Artist's Statement
- 6. Project Narrative & Budget
- 7. Documentation List (one page identifying your enclosed art samples)
- 8. Documentation (art samples being submitted: disk of jpg images, writing, etc.)
- 9. *OPTIONAL*: Nomination letter; Self-addressed stamped envelope IF you want your art samples returned; or Self-addressed postcard IF you want 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, 2014. 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 1, 2020.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Artist Signature (required)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## 2019 Emerging Artist Grant Application Cover Page

(please type or write clearly)

**Artist Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Arts category** (*check only one*):

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

**Return by February 1, 2019 (postmark or delivery) to:**

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

Or email: [emerginggrant@vsamn.org](mailto:emerginggrant@vsamn.org)

**Include:**

- \* Artist Information Page (page 5 signed)
- \* Application Cover Page (this page 6)
- \* Artist Resume (described on pages 3 and 4, #3A)
- \* List of Recent Art Work (described on page 4, #3B)
- \* Artist Statement (described on page 4, #3C)
- \* Project Narrative & Budget (described on page 4, #3D)
- \* (Optional) Letter of Nomination/Support (described on page 4, #3E)
- \* Documentation List (page 4, #4: one page identifying your art samples)
- \* Documentation (page 4, #1: your art samples – visual, writing, performance, multi-media)

## Definitions

### “Disability”

This Early Career / Emerging Artist Grant program for adult artists with disabilities uses the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) definition of disability. (See

[http://www.ada.gov/regs2010/titleIII\\_2010/titleIII\\_2010\\_withbold.htm](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 Early Career / Emerging Artist Grant program is funded by the Jerome Foundation, which focuses on “emerging artists” – those who have significant potential yet are under-recognized and have not received acknowledgement as established creators from fellow artists and other arts professionals (see <https://www.jeromefdn.org/node/1817> or <https://www.jeromefdn.org/jerome-hill-artist-fellowships>).

VSA Minnesota uses the term “emerging” to refer 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.” Jerome-funded 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. Age is not a factor (although the grant program supports adult artists, not students).

### “Minnesota resident”

An artist must have lived in Minnesota at least one year prior to deadline and must live in Minnesota for most of 2019 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](mailto:emerginggrant@vsamn.org).



528 Hennepin Ave., Suite 305  
Minneapolis, MN 55403

Return Service Requested

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**To ask questions or request an alternative format of this application, contact:**

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