



Strategic Opportunity Stipends Guidelines + Application 2012

SOS, a project of the New York Foundation for the Arts working in collaboration with arts councils and cultural organizations across New York State, is designed to help individual artists of all disciplines take advantage of specific opportunities that will significantly benefit their career development. Applications for funding must describe the opportunity and how it will:

- take the applicant's career to the next level within the context of her/his resume
- be unique to the applicant's artistic career thus far
- involve a third party invitation or partner

Artists working in all disciplines (including literature, media arts, visual arts, music and theater) may request support ranging from \$200 to \$1,500.

Who can apply?

You must be 18 years of age or older.
You must be a *full-time* resident for the past year from date of application deadline in one of the participating counties listed on this page of the application. All recipients must show proof of residency status before receiving award money.

Who cannot apply?

- 1 Any past SOS recipient who has outstanding final reports or retains unused award payment.
- 2 A graduate or undergraduate student enrolled in any degree program at the time of application, including high school students.
- 3 A recipient of a New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship award in the previous year. Current participants in NYFA's MARK program may apply, but not for MARK-related opportunities.
- 4 An employee, member of the Board of Trustees or Artists' Advisory Committee of NYFA, an immediate family member of a current SOS panelist or a current employee or member of the Board of Trustees of any current SOS sponsoring organization.

Applications should be submitted to the appropriate regional sponsoring organization via email. Please see the list of sponsoring organizations on the last page of this application.

DEADLINES

Applications must be received via email by 5:00 PM on the specified dates.

ROUND 1 – September 12, 2011

for opportunities occurring between November 2011 - October 2012

ROUND 2 – April 5, 2012

for opportunities occurring between June 2012 - October 2012

SOS grants are available to New York State artists living in these counties:

Capital: Albany, Columbia, Fulton, Greene, Montgomery, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, Warren and Washington

Genesee Valley/Finger Lakes: Cayuga, Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, Seneca, Wayne, Wyoming, and Yates

Mid-Hudson: Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster and Westchester

Western: Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie and Niagara

Central: Chenango, Cortland, Delaware, Herkimer, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga, Oswego and Otsego

Long Island: Nassau and Suffolk

North Country/Adirondack: Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Hamilton, Jefferson, Lewis and Saint Lawrence

Southern Tier: Broome, Chemung, Schuyler, Steuben, Tioga and Tompkins.

(See back cover for list of sponsoring organizations).

SOS Supports

The following does not include all possible opportunities eligible for support; it illustrates a general range of activities for which artists can receive assistance:

- * **travel and accommodations** associated with an imminent, concrete opportunity such as a reading or workshop presentation of the artist's own work, audition, artist's own exhibition (state and federal standard gas mileage is 55.5 cents per mile);
- * **materials** to make or finish work that is integral to a specific, unique opportunity;
- * **professional development activities**, unique to the applicant's career to date;
- * **professional fees and services** for a specific opportunity such as lighting, graphic design, carpentry, or professional development;
- * expenses related to **care of dependents** that would allow an artist to take advantage of a specific opportunity;
- * **rental of equipment, instruments, or materials** to complete work scheduled for a gallery exhibition, performance, publication, etc.;
- * **purchase of inexpensive or one-time-use items (\$50 or less)** associated with, and necessary for, an opportunity;
- * **promotional expenses** related directly to a specific opportunity.

SOS Will Not Support

- * Curatorial projects
- * Activities related to ongoing work
- * Applicant's own artistic fees
- * Entry, application, registration or participation fees to allow an applicant to secure an exhibition, performance or other opportunity, excluding professional development courses.
- * Expenses involved in establishing, maintaining or administering an organization or company
- * Costs involved in real estate: purchase, construction, improvements, etc.
- * Activities connected with an applicant's employer
- * Finishing funds that are not related to an opportunity
- * Commercial marketing (press kits, publicists, etc.) not related to a specific opportunity
- * Teaching opportunities
- * Medical, legal or accounting fees
- * Arts-in-Education programs
- * Purchase of expensive "big ticket" equipment

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* Routine documentation of work without a specific opportunity

* Hospitality expenses related to an upcoming opportunity, including food for opening receptions.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How much money is awarded?

Amounts awarded for Strategic Opportunity Stipends range from \$200 to \$1,500.

What is the selection process?

Evaluation and selection of applications will be made by a panel of artists and arts administrators from each region with diverse disciplinary, geographic and ethnic backgrounds. Family members of applicants may not serve as panelists for that review round. If you are interested in serving as a panelist and are not currently an applicant, please contact the sponsoring organization for your region (see final page). Incomplete applications will not be considered.

What does the panel consider?

Because the intent of this award is to substantially advance an artist's career, *applications should clearly describe the concrete impact the artist's career will gain from the proposed opportunity.* An important element of the panel's work is to compare the resume directly to the opportunity being applied for. The panel determines if the opportunity will take the applicant's artistic career to the next level: based on the artist's career as the resume describes it, the opportunity should be something new. Recipients are chosen based on the most competitive career advancement opportunities. The merit of the opportunity and its feasibility will also be considered. A third-party must invite the artist to participate in the proposed opportunity. Or alternatively, a third-party must partner with the artist or sponsor the opportunity. An artist may devise an opportunity and approach a third party to assist with its execution and apply for funds to realize it.

A note on ongoing work: SOS funding exists to help artists act on or generate unique events to advance their careers. The uniqueness of a given opportunity in an artist's career is determined by review of his or her resume and description of the opportunity. Therefore, even exceptional opportunities may be viewed as ongoing career development if they duplicate previous activities in an applicant's career. In addition, because photographing or recording new work is an ongoing part of an artist's career, documentation of work, unless associated with a unique opportunity, is considered ongoing work.

What does SOS cover related to Professional Development?

SOS covers a one-time opportunity for professional development, promoting or developing the applicant's artistic career. This may include a class, course, conference, workshop or other activity provided by a qualified third-party. This opportunity must be unique to the applicant's career thus far, and the applicant must be able to explain how the opportunity takes her/his artistic career to the next level. However, the opportunity may also benefit the artistic work.

Are all qualified opportunities funded?

No. Unfortunately, requests for SOS support are usually greater than available funds. Therefore, it is important for artists to submit the strongest possible application. Awards are given to the opportunities that most leverage the applicant's career in a given applicant pool. Applicants are encouraged to contact the sponsoring organizations to solicit feedback in advance of the deadline to ensure the strongest possible application.

Are artist residencies covered by SOS?

In some cases, residencies may be funded if the residency is distinct from ongoing work, and if acceptance into the residency is a competitive process. Successful applications will explain how the residency and the residency experience will advance their artistic career in the context of their resume.

Are workshops covered by SOS?

Examples of competitive SOS opportunities include:

- artists presenting her/his own work during a workshop opportunity
- workshops or classes on career development that are unique to the applicant's career thus far

What if I collaborate with someone?

Applications for collaborative proposals between two artists must be made in the name of one artist with the other artist listed on the application form. One application will be accepted per collaborative pair; however, resumes from both artists must be included. Artists applying collaboratively should document a history of working together. Applications for collaborations between more than two artists will not be accepted.

What are the deadlines for applying?

Applications will be accepted in 2 rounds, each with its own submission deadline and award dates. The deadlines for completed applications are September 12 and April 5.

Applications must be **emailed** to the appropriate regional office by 5:00 p.m. on the day of the deadline. No mailed or faxed applications will be accepted. An artist may apply only once in each round.

When am I notified?

Artists are notified by October 22 for Round 1 applications and by May 19 for Round 2 applications.

If I receive an award, what must I do?

Upon receiving notice of award, the artist must show proof of residency in the region (lease, tax return, utility bills, etc.) from at least 12 months prior to the deadline of the round applied to. Funds cannot be released without this proof. A one-page final report and submission of receipts or record of expenses are due within 4 months of award notification. Money not used by the artist must be returned within 4 months of award notification. Artists who fail to do so will forfeit the chance to apply for any future SOS funds.

HOW TO APPLY

Generate ONE PDF and email the file as an attachment to the sponsoring organization for your region, listed on *page 6* of this application. In order to be considered for an SOS award, the PDF must include the following:

- The completed SOS application (pages 4 and 5 of this document.)
- A brief, chronological resume (not exceeding 2 double-spaced pages). Please indicate your artistic discipline within your resume.
- A letter, email or other confirmation of the specific opportunity for which you are applying.

Name your PDF file as follows:

LASTNAME_FIRSTNAME_SOSApplicationRoundX 2012.

SOS APPLICATION

Date of application _____

Round 1 Round 2

Name of opportunity _____

Date of opportunity _____

Category

Crafts Dance Interdisciplinary Folk Arts Design Arts Literature

Media Music Performance Art Theater Visual Arts

Other: _____

Name of Applicant

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

County _____ Phone _____ Email _____

State Assembly Member (required)

State Senate Member (required)

for a listing of State representatives please visit assembly.state.ny.us or senate.state.ny.us online

If this is a collaboration, what is the name of collaborator _____

Summary

Type or write the relevant facts of your opportunity below. **Use only the space below.**

Description of the opportunity:

Please describe what is the unique and significant gain this opportunity will provide for your career? How will it take your career to the next level? How is it unique to your resume thus far?

What specifically is the money needed for that is covered by SOS?

Budget

What is the total budget for this opportunity/project? \$ _____

Itemize a brief list of expenses for your opportunity that **this stipend will cover**. Be specific about items and amounts. **NOTE:** *While opportunities/projects may exceed \$1,500, total SOS request should not.*

Item	\$ Cost
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Total amount requested (not to exceed \$1,500) \$ _____

Do not submit slides, videos or other audio or visual materials of your work; they will not be reviewed or returned.

- I consent that this application may be used anonymously in teaching contexts (optional).
- I certify that I am over the age of 18, have lived in New York State for one year before application deadline, and am not matriculated in any degree program at the time of application.
- I certify that all statements made in this application are true to the best of my knowledge, and that the signature below is mine.

Applicant's Signature (By typing your name here, you are consenting to the above terms.)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING YOUR SOS APPLICATION

Make sure your application is completed by using the application check-list below. Generate ONE PDF and email the file as an attachment to the sponsoring organization for your region, listed on page 6 of this application. Name your file as follows: LASTNAME_FIRSTNAME_SOSApplicationRoundX2012.

Application PDF Check-list

- The completed SOS application (pages 4 and 5 of this document.)
- A brief, chronological resume (not exceeding 2 double-spaced pages). Please indicate your artistic discipline within your resume.
- A letter, email or other confirmation of the specific opportunity for which you are applying.

SOS SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS

Capital

The Arts Center of the Capital Region
265 River Street
Troy, NY 12180
Ph: (518) 273-0552, ext. 229
Lauren Hittinger
email: lauren@artscenteronline.org

Central

Cultural Resources Council
411 Montgomery Street
Syracuse, NY 13202
(315) 435-2158
John Shaffer
email: johnshaffer@mycnyarts.org

Genesee Valley / Finger Lakes

Arts & Cultural Council for Greater Rochester
277 North Goodman Street
Rochester, NY 14607
Ph: (585) 473-4000, ext. 206
Jennie Hale
email: jhale@artsrochester.org

Long Island

East End Arts Council
133 East Main Street
Riverhead, NY 11901
Ph: (631) 727-0900
Patricia Snyder
email: psnyder@eastendarts.org

Mid-Hudson

Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison Landing, P.O. Box 4
Garrison, NY 10524
Ph: (845) 424-3960
Carinda Swann
email: director@garrisonartcenter.org

North Country/Adirondack

Arts Council for the Northern Adirondacks
6459 Main Street
Westport, NY 12993
Ph: (518) 962-8778
Caroline Thompson
email: info@artsnorth.org

Southern Tier

The ARTS Council of the Southern Finger Lakes
32 West Market Street
Corning, NY 14830
Ph: (607) 962-5871 x 226
Emily Marino
email: grants@eARTS.org

Western

Cattaraugus County Arts Council
PO Box 406
Olean, NY 14760
Ph: (716) 372-7455
Anne Conroy-Baiter
email: anne@myartscouncil.net

Since 1971, the **New York Foundation for the Arts**(NYFA) has been one of the country's foremost supporters of individual artists working in all disciplines. NYFA awards close to \$1million in cash grants annually and provides information and services to individual artists.

For complete information about NYFA and its ongoing programs, activities and services, please visit www.nyfa.org or call 212-366-6900.



SOS, a project of the **New York Foundation for the Arts** in collaboration with arts councils and cultural institutions across New York State, is administered with leadership support from the **New York State Council on the Arts**, a state agency.