GRANTS & COMPETITIONS
A SOURCEBOOK FOR ARTISTS AND DESIGNERS
## OVERVIEW

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## ACADEMIC FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

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## LISTINGS

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As an artist or designer, you have made a commitment to choosing a career path in a creative field. We believe participating in competitive opportunities is integral to the development of a robust studio practice. Applying to any competitive opportunity requires a great deal of effort, from preparing materials to creating a statement of intent. The students and alumni we have worked with through the years have told us the application process itself was a beneficial learning opportunity that helped them attain significant skills that remained useful throughout their careers.

We hope this booklet answers some of the questions you may have on where to begin your search for these opportunities. Good luck with your search, and remember we are always here to answer any questions you may have.
The Joseph Meyerhoff Center for Career Development’s mission is to foster the professional growth of MICA students and alumni. The Center strives to help students and alumni succeed in their chosen career paths by offering a variety of programs, services, and resources. We meet with students and alumni as individuals and in groups, introducing valuable research tools and providing resources for their journeys as art and design professionals.

**Location**
The Gateway, 2nd Floor
1601 W. Mount Royal Avenue

**Hours**
Professional staff members are available Monday–Friday during the regular business hours of 9am–5pm throughout the year.

**Contact**
To schedule a career counseling appointment call 410-225-2420. Contact the office via email at careerdevelopment@mica.edu.

**Resource Library**
Our resource library offers information on all aspects of career development. Many of our handouts can be downloaded anytime from the Online Resource Library.

**Weekly Workshops and Special Programming**
Career Development offers weekly workshops, informational meetings, and special programs on many professional development topics.

**The Internship + Career Fair**
As well as Fine Art Reviews are both held annually to bring organizations representing a wide-range of regional art and design professionals to MICA students and alumni seeking internships, jobs, exhibitions, residencies and networking opportunities.

**MICAnetwork.com** is the Center's online listing of employment, internships, and other opportunities.
DIFFERENT TYPES OF GRANTS

Some of these terms are interchangeable and may be used in different ways than defined below.

**Individual Artist Grant** Funding provided to an artist to use freely without stipulation; given as a way to support and encourage an artist's continued ability to make their work, and usually highly competitive.

*Examples:*
- Maryland State Arts Council’s Individual Artist Award
- Franz and Virginia Bader Fund

**Project or Production Grant** Funding for an individual or an organization to initiate or complete a specific project or program

*Examples:*
- The Alexia Grants
- Art with Heart

**Travel Grant** Grants awarded to allow travel to another location that would be beneficial to the development of an artist or designer's work.

*Examples:*
- Jerome Foundation Travel and Study Grant Program
- Fulbright U.S. Student Program

**Emergency Grants** Grants awarded to artists in times of need typically given after a medical emergency, natural disaster, or financial tragedy.

*Examples:*
- Craft Emergency Relief Fund (CERF)
- Foundation for Contemporary Arts Emergency Grants

**Professional Development or Career Grant** Grants awarded to artists so that they can participate in trainings, workshops, conferences, or residencies that are intended to help them develop new skills or progress in their careers.

*Examples:*
- Fund For Teachers ArtTable Diversity Internship
- Fellowships
- Smithsonian Fellowships
- Windgate Fellowship Awards

**Scholarships** Awards and grants of financial aid for tuition and fees. Selection criteria may include one's past accomplishments and experiences; often offered by the institution for which the applicant will be paying tuition.

*Examples:*
- Print and Graphics Scholarship Foundation
- Korean American Scholarship Foundation
- Our Town
- The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts

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**GRANT: N. SOMETHING GRANTED, AN AWARD OR GIFT, A SUM OF MONEY**
**Apprenticeship Programs** Opportunities to gain insight and professional advice by working with an established career artist

**Calls for Entry** Museums, commercial galleries, alternative spaces, and periodicals offer opportunities for artists to submit artwork for exhibitions or publications through a juried process

**Contests** Monetary awards or exposure and recognition in exhibition venues such as magazines, art fairs, or film festivals

**Crowdsourcing Funding** An approach to fundraising that enables many individuals to collectively fund a specific project or small business

**Artist-in-Residence/Residencies** Offer space and time for artists to apply singular focus to the creation of new work

**Equipment Access Awards** Competitive programs that award winners with access to special equipment, such as printmaking studio keyholder programs

**Fiscal Sponsorship** Refers to the practice of non-profit organizations offering their legal and tax-exempt status to groups engaged in activities related to the organization’s missions; typically involves a fee-based contractual arrangement between a project and an established non-profit.

**In-Kind Gifts** Donations of materials, merchandise, equipment, or labor

**Matching/Challenge Gifts** Donors match a particular amount of money raised from other sources.

**Request for Qualifications (RFQ)** Often cities or commissions advertise RFQ’s for artists interested in being considered as candidates for public art projects or public art registries

**Request for Proposals (RFP)** This term is often seen for opportunities to submit proposals for murals or public art projects

**Space Awards** Competitive programs that grant studio space at no or minimal cost

**Letter of Inquiry/Letter of Interest (LOI)** A short letter that summarizes a non-profit’s or individual’s proposal sent to a potential funder or sponsor

**Letter of Support/Recommendation** A partner organization’s formal letter that demonstrates encouragement and approval of participation for a grant application

**BELOW:** Lofty Nathan ’09 (Painting and Video BFA) has received The Grainger Marburg Travel Grant, fellowships from The Garrett Scott Foundation, Compound Group, and IFP Spotlight. Pictured is 12 O’Clock Boys, 2013.
As a professional artist, not only do you need great work, but part of creating a successful career means treating your practice seriously. In order to be ready for success, make sure to have high quality images of your work, and all the pertinent information (year created, dimensions, title and medium) for each piece in one place. This information should be organized and labeled in a way that it is easily accessible when needed. If you would like to document your work yourself, review these tutorials: Photographing 2D Works, Photographing 3D Works. For performance based installation work or pieces made from materials that are hard to document, it may be worth it to hire a photographer.

Some artists use a content management system to keep themselves organized like GYST. You should have multiple sized files for each image already prepared in order to have images small enough to upload into Submittable or SlideRoom. If you do time based work, make sure to have a demo reel prepared or works uploaded to Vimeo.

You will also need your artist’s statement, bio, an updated artist resume or CV, and a list with contact information of potential references.

As a professional artist, you absolutely need to have a website. If you do not have one yet, you can create a portfolio on MICA Portfolios. Your site should be listed on your artist resume so curators, critics, etc. who like your work can continue to follow you.

In order to be competitive when applying to grants or residencies, you will need to have a
history of exhibitions on your resume. To begin exhibiting your work, start at MICA by applying to the undergraduate Student Space Gallery or graduate Grad EX. Once you have exhibited on campus, then try for some juried or group shows in the community; consider putting together DIY exhibitions with your peers.

One of the best ways to find shows is by networking with other artists and attending art openings. Artists are usually not given solo shows until they have had several group exhibitions. Following others on social media is another great way to network and stay connected with other artists and your local artist community.

**REGIONAL LISTINGS FOR EXHIBITION OPPORTUNITIES**

MiCanetwork
MICA Fine Art Reviews
BmoreArt
Maryland Art Place (MAP)
SHOWSPACE
Maryland Federation of Art
Copycat Building
DC Spacefinder

**PLACES TO LOOK FOR NATIONAL EXHIBITION OPPORTUNITIES**

Café Events
Re-Title.com
Rhizome
College Art Association
NYFA Opportunities
Brooklyn Arts Council
ArtDeadline.com
ArtShow
Art Deadlines List

**LEFT:** Wickerham & Lomax is the collaborative name of Baltimore-based artists Malcolm Lomax ’09 (Painting BFA) and Daniel Wickerham ’14 (Painting BFA). Recent exhibitions by Wickerham & Lomax include Girth Proof at Dem Passwords, Los Angeles; the premiere of Encore in the AFTALYFE at the Artists Space booth, Frieze NY 2014; and BOY’Dega: Edited4Syndication for New Museum’s First Look series. Pictured is the Sondheim Exhibition Installation, 2015.
In most cases, grant applications will require a narrative component—a statement of purpose or intent that describes the project, defines goals, and establishes a timeline. This part of the application is where you must offer detail on how you will achieve your goals and what types of support you will need. Please note that requirements vary widely from opportunity to opportunity. If your project is focused on working with a specific community group, make sure that you are engaging with them to better understand their needs and to create potential partnerships.

Sample checklist:
What are the goals of your project?
What are the goals of the funding organization?
What stage is the project currently in?
How are you going to accomplish it?
How long will it take you to complete the project?
How much funding will you need?
What types of support do you need?
Who is your audience?

Prepare Your Proposal:
Again, each proposal will require different elements. Here are some general guidelines to consider when preparing a proposal.

When preparing a proposal:
Be concise and clear
Use action verbs
Create a story that your reviewers can visualize
Give specific examples
Create white space and small paragraphs
ALWAYS have someone proofread your materials!

LEFT: Allison Gulick, '13 (Curatorial Practice MFA), received the Challenge America Fast-Track grant for $10,000 from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). The Challenge America Fast-Track category from the NEA offers support primarily to small and mid-sized organizations for projects that extend the reach of the arts to underserved populations. Pictured is the title wall for her project, Reloading the Canon: African Traditions in Contemporary Art which took place at the James E. Lewis Museum of Art at Morgan State University in Baltimore, 2013. Photo by Nathaniel Phillips ’13.
TELL A STORY...

Typically grant applications are only one page. Always be sure to follow the directions as to how many words your proposal can be.

Examples:
Art Biz Canada / Kim Bruce sample
Grantspace.org sample

**Heading Page:**
This lists your name and a title for your proposal. Putting images of your work or relevant imagery for the project can be impactful. When choosing a title, select something direct that potential jurors could immediately understand.

**PROPOSAL:**
First Paragraph:
This is a very brief statement of your mission, your work or your need, what you want to accomplish, and the name of the grant for which you are applying.

Body Paragraphs:
These paragraphs include further details about your work and the activities you hope to accomplish to achieve your outcomes. Make sure to include details that allow the reader to visualize your plans. Be as specific as you can be, unless the grant specifies otherwise. Some grants are looking to support those that are proposing to conduct open-ended research with undefined outcomes.

Last Paragraph:
Explain how you will know you are successful. What will the impact be on your practice, career, your audience, or the community?
A budget will often be required in your proposal. Make sure that you are considering all of the relevant costs and that your plans are feasible.

Some expenses that can be included in a budget are in-kind donations (a donation of materials, food, space, or non-monetary donations), and personal contributions (money you will need to personally contribute to supplement the required expenditure of your proposal if the grant is less than what you require).

**Examples:**
- Meyerhoff Internship Fellowship
- MICA Graduate Research Grant

### EXPENSES

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<tr>
<th>Item Description</th>
<th>Cost in USD</th>
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<tr>
<td>Rental car (Enterprise 36.00/day with surcharge &amp; tax)</td>
<td>$174</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gas (Graduate Studio Center to Ewing, Virginia; 496 miles one way for total 992 miles)</td>
<td>$110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campgrounds ($20/night for three nights)</td>
<td>$60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park Admission</td>
<td>$32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>$80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Materials (film, paper, drawing supplies)</td>
<td>$44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$500</strong></td>
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Supporting Materials:
Some opportunities may allow you to submit supporting materials. This could include images of your work, screen shots of airfare estimates, letters from contributing partners, or even sketches of proposed pieces.

Most organizations will tell you very specifically how they would like you to submit materials so make sure to follow their guidelines EXACTLY. Failure to follow application instructions could get you automatically eliminated.

Consider labeling each page of your grant application with your name so the administrator can keep your materials organized. If they do not offer specific suggestions and you are emailing your materials, make sure to have a clear subject line. Example: “BIG Grant Application Materials.” Label the files you are attaching in a way that is easy for your reviewers to know whom the file belongs to. Example: “SmithG_2016BIGGrant.pdf”. ALWAYS submit your materials on time if not before the deadline, as it is very unprofessional and inappropriate to seek extensions.

On Rejection:
Unfortunately rejection is a routine part of this process, as you will not be awarded everything you apply for. After receiving this information, you can kindly contact the administrator and ask to receive feedback on your materials unless they specify otherwise. This information can often provide valuable tips for future success.

On Acceptance:
Now that you have gotten the grant or opportunity, make sure to write a note to the funders expressing your gratitude! Follow all the defined guidelines for delivering any submittables, receipts, or final reports on time. Document your project so you can share images with the funder and use for your own promotional purposes.
APPLICATION ASSISTANCE FOR GRANTS & COMPETITIONS
MICA students and alumni have had incredible success with applications for grants and competitions. Career Development's staff work closely with applicants and have helped MICA students build an amazing track record of success with some of the most prestigious and competitive programs.

WRITING ASSISTANCE
MICA’s Writing Studio is available to all current students who need their materials reviewed. Students may struggle with the basics of writing, which can greatly affect the effectiveness of written proposals and grant applications. If writing is something you would like to improve, Bird on Bird and On Writing Well may be helpful books to review.

WRITING HELP FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS
For undergraduate and graduate international students for whom English is a second language (ESL), ESL Services are offered. Students can seek assistance from the staff at the Writing Studio.

BELOW: Lu Zhang ’04 (General Arts BFA) received an MFA in Painting from the Frank Mohr Institute in the Netherlands. Zhang has exhibited in the U.S. and abroad including shows at C. Grimaldis Gallery in Baltimore, Randall Scott Gallery in Washington DC, and The Center for Art and Culture in France. Zhang has received a grant from the Maryland State Arts Council for works on paper and been awarded The Trawick Prize Young Artist Award. In 2014, she became an inaugural recipient of a Rubys Artist Project Grant in Literary and Visual Arts. Pictured is (topolog) typo(log), 2015. Photo by JHU Homewood Photo.
After creating a cohesive and strong body of work and participating in multiple exhibitions, seeking grants and awards is the next step in an active professional artist's studio practice. Grants and awards are not meant to serve as one's only income, but can be important for allowing creatives to sustain their practice. This sourcebook offers some general guidelines and a sampling, not an exhaustive list, designed to generate enthusiasm and to provide information on some popular funders and resources.

**NOTE:** LINKS MAY CHANGE. If you find that a link is not active, type the home or main URL associated with it, then search within the site for the award information.

The Joseph Meyerhoff Center for Career Development has not participated in the development of these sites and is not responsible for the availability or content. Links to sites are provided solely as a convenience to the user and do not constitute any endorsement, authorization, sponsorship, or affiliation by MICA.
Wide arrays of creative opportunities are listed in this sourcebook. Always carefully review eligibility requirements, restrictions, deadlines, and specific guidelines for each opportunity, as it is not uncommon for these to change from year to year, and for grant cycles to vary. Eligibility requirements can include gender, age, geography, ethnicity, career point, and education or training.

Some grants, awards, and residencies will not be easily found online, so often the best way to find potential opportunities is by “mining” the resumes and CVs of artists who you admire.

Most granting organizations have an overall mission statement and/or clearly specified requirements for each grant. Make sure that they are seeking to fund projects like the one you are proposing. Often artists submit proposals that do not fulfill the grantors requirements because the applicant has not carefully reviewed what has been funded in the past. For residencies, make sure that the past participants are at the same point in their careers as you are by reviewing their resumes and websites.

Ask questions: Each funder may designate a process and/or support staff to help guide applicants and answer questions regarding the application process. Make note of these resources and don’t hesitate to call them with your questions.

As you look for opportunities, make sure to keep up an organized list of upcoming deadlines and required materials in one place. Often awards will be due every year at the same time and artists may apply more than once for prestigious awards. Keeping a calendar that lists yearly upcoming deadlines is a great way to always be looking ahead for future success.
ACADEMIC FELLOWSHIPS & SCHOLARSHIPS
Contact your department chairperson or departmental office each year for information on various opportunities for currently enrolled, returning, and graduating students.

Announcements may appear through departmental emails and in Career Development newsletters. The Graduate Studies Division holds information sessions and posts listings in their weekly newsletter to inform master’s degree and post-baccalaureate candidates of numerous available awards.

FOR UNDERGRADUATES AT MICA
- Competitive Scholarships for Returning Undergraduate Students
- Competitive Scholarships for International Students
- Competitive Scholarships for Transfer Students
- Competitive Scholarships for Graduating Seniors
- Chairs Awards
- Meyerhoff Internship Fellowship
- Diversity Grants
- The Y.L. Hoi Memorial Award
- Community Engagement Grants
- FASQA Award
- OCE Grant Funds

FOR GRADUATE AND POST-BAC STUDENTS AT MICA
- Graduate Research Development Grants
- Grad Pop-Ups!
- Graduate Competitive Fellowships
- Meyerhoff Internship Fellowship
- You+Professional Continuum Funding
- Diversity Grants
- OCE Grant Funds

For additional sources of financial support or scholarships to fund your MICA education, please contact the Office of Financial Aid at 410-225-2285.

LEFT: Rachel Guardiola ’15 (Mount Royal MFA) received a Graduate Research Grant while at MICA, and recently was awarded her first solo exhibition at the Arlington Art Center. Guardiola has been selected to create her piece Into the Zone (Anthology of Accounts and Findings) (detail at left) for Light City 2016, and will be traveling to the Arctic Circle in the summer to participate in The Arctic Circle Art & Science Residency. Pictured is Figure 38, 2014.
If you are seeking funding for graduate school, make sure to visit the financial aid offices of the schools to which you are applying. Typically the institution to which you attend will offer the majority of your scholarships.

College Art Association  
IIE Passport Study Abroad Funding  
The Foundation Center  
United Negro College Fund  
American Association of University Women  
American Institute for Foreign Study  
Kate Neal Kinley Memorial Fellowship  
Mustard Seed Foundation  
Paul and Daisy Soros Foundation Fellowship for “New Americans”  
The Point Foundation the National LGBTQ Scholarship  
Worldstudio AIGA Scholarships  

MICA students have an excellent track record of success with national awards for graduate study.

ABOVE: Ryan Rennie ’15 (Ceramics BFA) is currently a Masters of Fine Art candidate at The New York State College of Ceramics, Alfred University from which he received full funding to attend. As part of this award, Rennie teaches ceramics and receives a monthly living stipend from Alfred. Pictured is The Bather, 2015.
ABOVE: Xinyi Cheng ’14 (Hoffberger MFA) participated in the AIM program at the Bronx Museum of the Arts, and was an artist-in-residence at the Lower East Side Printshop. She will be doing a residency in 2016 in Amsterdam at Rijksakademie. Pictured is The Rain, 2014.

MICA graduates have received grants and residencies for international travel and independent research. Sponsoring organizations have included the American Scandinavian Foundation, the Japan America Foundation, the Asian Cultural Council, the Fulbright U.S. Student Program, and the U.S. Peace Corps.
LISTINGS
Elizabeth Turk ’94 (Rinehart MFA) was named a MacArthur Fellow for 2010, awarding her a $500,000, no-strings-attached grant. The Fellowship is for individuals who have shown exceptional creativity in their work and the promise to do more. Pictured is the artist in her studio, photo by Erik Stoner.

New York Foundation for the Arts (NYFA) Source
For Non-US Citizens
For international applicants searching on NYFA Source, be sure to click the box named “keyword” and type “international applicants”. This will result in listings that you should be eligible to apply to.

Foundation Grants to Individuals Online
By membership only—login is available at Career Development and many public libraries also offer access for free.

“Most U.S. foundation scholarships (funding) go to U.S. citizens and residents and not to international students or alumni. However, Foundation Grants to Individuals Online our searchable database of grantmakers that give to individuals lists more than 100 funders who give grants to foreign applicants for a variety of purposes. If you use this database, start with a Type of Support search for ‘foreign applicants.’ ”

— Foundation Center Website

College Art Association
National Endowment for the Arts
Women Arts
The Granstmanship Center
MICA Delicious
Fundsnet Services
Grants.gov
Fiscal Sponsorship Directory
Fractured Atlas
As you seek opportunities, be aware of what organizations are sponsoring each grant so you can reach out with any questions and also be informed of any open informational sessions. Non-profits often change the awards they offer from year to year based on their funding, and as a result the newest opportunities may not be posted on their websites. One way to stay informed is to sign up to receive the organization’s newsletter, or consider becoming a member.

ABOVE: Dave Essa ’13 (Painting BFA) has been awarded an Open Society Fellowship of $60,000 to allow him to work full time on his ongoing project working with inmates in the Maryland Correctional Institution in Jessup. Previously, Essa had been awarded a Maryland State Arts Council, Individual Artist Award; a Creative Baltimore Fund Grant; and a Grit Fund Grant. Pictured is My Mother Always Told Me I’d Grow Up To Be A Lawyer, 2015.

REGIONAL PARTNERS

Association for Baltimore Area Grantmakers
Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance
Baltimore Office of Promotion and the Arts
Station North Arts
Highlandtown Arts
Bromo Arts District
D.C. Commission on Arts and Humanities
Maryland Humanities Council
Baltimore County Commission on Arts and Sciences
Howard County Arts Council
Baltimore Community Foundation
Baltimore Office of Sustainability
Fusion Partnerships
Strong City Baltimore
Maryland Citizens of the Arts
Robert W. Deutsch Foundation

REGIONAL GRANTS AND AWARDS

The Rubys Artist Project Grants
The Baker Awards
The Urban Arts Leadership Program Fellowship
Sondheim Artscape Prize

Creative Baltimore Fund
PNC Transformative Art Prize
Hoop House Public Art Microgrants
The Grit Fund
Awesome Foundation Grant
Bethesda Painting Awards
The Trawick Prize
The Hamiltonian Fellowship Program
Visual Artist Fellowship
Mid Atlantic Creative Fellowships
Individual Artist Award
The Pew Center for Arts and Heritage
Open Society Foundation

NATIONAL ARTS COUNCILS

Like following Regional art organizations, it is also helpful to be informed of opportunities and initiatives offered nationally.

National Endowment for the Arts
National Assembly of State Arts Agencies
Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation
Mid-America Arts Alliance
Maryland State Art Council
New England Federation for the Arts
US Regional Arts Organizations
ARTIST REGISTRIES
One way artists can gain exposure is to participate in artist’s registries. Curators can easily find artists who participate for exhibition opportunities.

MICA Portfolios
Caroll Michels List of Artist Registries
BRIC Arts (Brooklyn Artists)
The Creative Finder
Culturehall
The Drawing Center
InLiquid
The Irving Sandler Artists File
Maryland State Arts Council
NUTUREart
The Painting Center
White Columns Curated Artist Registry
Withoutabox (Film Registry)
WESTAF Registry
Art in Embassies

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Industry specific organizations often list opportunities. Becoming a member of relevant professional organizations sometimes allows special access to grants and other opportunities.

American Art Therapy Association
Animation World Network
AIGA: The Professional Organization for Design
American Institute for Architects
National Education Association
College Art Association
American Society of Media Photographers
Society for Photographic Education
American Institute for the Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works
National Sculpture Society
Sculptor.org
National Alliance for Media Arts and Culture (NAMC)
Regional Manufacturing Institute of Maryland

ABOVE: Rachael Hulme ’14 (Photo BFA) and ’15 (MAT) is a photographer, art educator, and researcher living and creating in Baltimore, Maryland. She is recipient of the Jan Meyer ’87 Traveling Fellowship, presented by MICA’s Photography department. Pictured is Curiosities, 2013.
There are different financial models for residencies. Some charge a fee for you to attend while others are free. Some allow you to do a work exchange to offset costs, and some even provide you a stipend. Typically artists may pay for their first experiences, then as their career progresses they are admitted into more prestigious paid residencies.

Before applying, always be sure to check out the portfolios and artist resumes of artists who have attended previously to see if you would be a good fit for the program.

Writing a Letter of Intent for an artist residency is somewhat similar to writing a grant proposal, but it may ask you to specify why you would like to be at that particular site.
Alexander Rutsch Award, Painting  
The Rome Prize, Emerging Artists and Scholars  
Bush Foundation, Community Engagement  
Art Prize, All Artists  
Artist's Fellowship, Emergency Grant  
Center for Craft Creativity and Design, Craft Artists  
Creative Capital Foundation, All Artists  
Creative Work Fund, All Artists  
Elizabeth Greenshields Foundation, Representational 2D Art  
Foundation for Contemporary Artists, All Artists  
Dorthea Lange—Paul Taylor Prize, Photographers  
Franklin Furnace, Performance and New Media  
Honickman First Book Prize, Photographers  
Knight Prototype Fund, Designers, Makers  
Puffin Foundation, All Artists  
Cinereach, Emerging Film Makers  
Nathan Cummings Foundation, Inequity or Climate Change  

Multi-Arts Production Fund, Performance Art  
New American Paintings, Painters  
Working Artist, All Artists  
Whitney ISP, All Artists & Curators  
Virginia Agroot Foundation, 3D Artists  
Film Independent, Film Makers  
American Illustration + American Photography, Illustrators and Photographers  
Aaron Siskind Foundation, Photographers  
AIGA's Design For Good list, Social Impact Design  
Art Directors Club (ADC) Young Guns Award, Design & Media Arts  
CMYK Magazine, Design, Photography, Illustration  
Society of Publication Designers (SPD) Competition, Graphic Design  
Adobe Achievement Awards, Design and Media Arts  
Tremaine Foundations, Curators

ABOVE: MICA students and alumni regularly win Elizabeth Greenshields Foundation Grants, which offer $15,000 to emerging representational artists during their formative years. In 2013, Matthew Adelberg '15 (Painting BFA, 16' MAT) was awarded an Elizabeth Greenshields grant. Pictured is The Good and The Bad Inclination, 2015.
Some of the most prestigious individual artist awards do not take applications—awards are made through a nomination process. While you cannot apply for these awards, applying for and receiving other grants and awards can bring you to the attention of nominating committees, can help build a network of leaders in the art world who know your work, and can raise your visibility to the organizations that administer these awards.

**AVOID SCAMS**

Some competitions are unethical. Before entering, you might consider how your project will be used and what value the competition offers you. For Design, read the AIGA statement on design competitions and speculative work here. For Fine Arts, information on how to avoid scams check out ArtScams.Com.
Festivals are important for promoting new work. Often selected participants are given lodging, food and travel expenses. Start showing your work in smaller lesser-known festivals, and as your career progresses you can be included in the more prestigious events.

IndieWire
Festival Focus
Annecy International Animated Film Festival
Brooklyn International Film Festival
CineMart International (Rotterdam)
LA Film Festival
Johns Hopkins Film Festival
Leeds International Film Festival
MadCat Women’s International Film Festival
Maryland Film Festival

Ottawa International Animation Festival
ACM SIGGRAPH: The ACM special interest group on Computer GRAPHics and Interactive Techniques
SLANT
Slamdance
SXSW
Sundance
Transmodern Performance Festival
CTN Animation Expo

ABOVE: Film and Video Chair Nadia Hironaka was awarded a 2015 Guggenheim Fellowship by the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation. The foundation, which bestows the fellowship annually to those “who have demonstrated exceptional capacity for productive scholarship or exceptional creative ability in the arts,” recognized Hironaka in the film-video category. Pictured is Light Switch Daydream, 2005.
PUBLIC ART & CREATIVE PLACEMAKING

Artists can answer calls for RFP’s (requests for proposals) in order to be considered to create a piece of public art. Many cities have a percent-for-art program meaning that a certain amount of the budget for all new public buildings has to be spent on public art. Be sure to use a program like SketchUp to let the selection panel envision your piece or provide a to-scale model.

LEFT: In 2014, Landry Randriamandroso ’09 (Community Arts MFA) was commissioned to do five murals of birds as part of Baltimore City’s 1-Percent-for-Public-Art Program, which connects visual artists and local residents for neighborhood beautification projects. Pictured is Red-bellied Woodpecker, 2014.

DIRECTORIES

Americans for the Arts Public Arts
Art Place America
Café for Artists
Las Vegas Art Commission
Project for Public Places
Public Artist
Public Art Fund
Public Art Review
In 2014, 22,252 projects were successfully funded on Kickstarter. In 2011, MICA partnered with Kickstarter to create the MICA curated Kickstarter page. Since then, many MICA undergraduates, graduate students, and alumni have successfully raised the funds necessary to complete their projects.

Career Development can meet with you to advise you when curating a Kickstarter project. Check out the guide for How to Kickstart Your Project for additional information.

If you start a Kickstarter campaign to fund a project and would like it to be showcased on the curated MICA page, email the details to careerdevelopment@mica.edu once the campaign is live.

FUNDRAISING PLATFORMS FOR INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS AND SMALL BUSINESSES

- Kickstarter
- IndieGoGo
- CrowdRise
- Hatchfund
- Fundmytravel
- IOBY

LEFT: Jessica Karle ’12 (Graphic Design MFA) and Tim Hoover ’12 (Graphic Design MFA) raised $18,502 through their Kickstarter campaign to fund a book to promote their venture Kern and Burn (pictured). The book was created to inspire those who pursue self-initiated projects. Their blog 100 Days of Design Entrepreneurship shared their process and research for the book.
We hope that you have found this resource helpful. We are here to assist MICA students and alumni with their applications and proposals. Give us a call to book your appointment today at 410-225-2420.