

# TheJoyceAwards

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## ABOUT THE JOYCE AWARDS

Started in 2004, the Joyce Awards is the only regional programs dedicated to supporting new commissions by artists of color in major Great Lakes cities. The Awards program aims to amplify the practices of artists of color working in the Great Lakes while inspiring creativity and connection across diverse communities. Since its inception, the competition has awarded more than \$4 million to support 82 new works of visual, performing, literary, and multi-disciplinary arts by artists of color working in collaboration with arts, cultural, and community-based organizations located in one of six Great Lakes cities: Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, Indianapolis, Milwaukee, and Minneapolis-St. Paul.

**Starting this year, the Foundation has raised the award amount to \$100,00 each, with \$30,000 required to go directly to the commissioned artist(s) as a stipend.** Of the \$100,000, the collaborating commissioning organization can use \$70,000 towards new work development and presentation costs, including but not limited to compensation of staff time, community partner and participant stipends, materials, and other expenses.

**A distinct feature of funded projects is the requirement that artists and commissioning institutions include a robust community engagement process in their work.** In the majority of the awarded projects, intensive community interaction that engages the stories and concerns of diverse community groups, including communities of color, directly informs and shapes the culminating artwork. Many of the awarded commissions also build upon existing and past efforts by organizations to build substantial relationships with surrounding communities.

## UPCOMING DEADLINES

- Online application portal opens: July 5, 2023, but application and LOI questions can be downloaded in advance [here](#).
- **Letters of Inquiry (LOIs) for the 2024 Joyce Awards will be accepted until September 11, 2023 at 11:59am CDT.**
- Registration for new organizational applicants is due on **September 6, 2023**, at 11:59 pm CDT via [Fluxx](#).
- Full proposals will be requested by early October for projects that demonstrate artistic merit; resonance with timely local or national themes, histories, or



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concerns; relevance to wider communities that will be engaged in the project; opportunities for community co-creation; and the likelihood of completion within 24 months (from earliest project start date of June 1, 2024).

- For the 2024 Joyce Awards, full proposals are due **October 30, 2023**.

An esteemed national panel of artists and arts leaders reviews the final field of applications. Once winning applicants are notified in April 2024, their projects are publicized widely.

## **Joyce Award Eligibility**

### ***Artists***

- Joyce Awards applications can propose an artist(s) living and practicing *anywhere in the world*, provided that the proposed artist is working in collaboration with an arts or community organization located in the metropolitan statistical areas of one of six Great Lakes cities: Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, Indianapolis, Milwaukee, or Minneapolis-St. Paul.
- There is no restriction in regard to art discipline or medium.
- **Artists must be commissioned by an unrelated entity** – no self-commissions or commissions by an arts organization or company founded by or led by the artist. The commissioned artist may be related to the commissioning organization, currently or in the past, in such capacities as a resident artist, teaching artist, or board member.
- While there is no limit to the number of artists that can be proposed for a single commission, Joyce Awards have typically gone to individual artists. Successful commissions have also gone to an existing group or to collaborations between artists. To date, Joyce Awards have gone to no more than three artists working together on a single commission.
- As Joyce Awards support the commission of new works, an artist's proposed project should not have moved past the ideation stage. ("New" works may include projects or engagements that have been previously piloted or tested at much smaller scales)
- Although works need to be new, collaborations between artists and commissioning organizations need not be new. Joyce Foundation welcomes applications from artists and organizations who have worked together before.



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- However, artists who have received a Joyce Award in the past are not eligible to apply again as a commissioned artist. In addition, organizations that have received a Joyce Award in the past may re-apply if proposing a commission with an artist who has never received a Joyce Award in the past.
- **Hallmarks of past Joyce Award recipients include artists whose work:**
  - Demonstrates a high degree of creativity and innovation in process, approach, technique, concept or form while being grounded in the history and evolution of an art form and the discourse surrounding it;
  - Is as artistically and socially relevant to the current moment and historical legacies in the place of commission as it is imaginative and compelling;
  - Engages with and is informed by the stories and concerns of diverse communities, including communities of color;
  - Creates opportunities for community participation to shape the work, from the ideation stage through the culminating production;
  - Stands to benefit or have relevance for the intended communities/participants;
  - Will have a culminating and tangible program, product or process; and
  - Has the potential to be catalytic or transformative for the artist at this juncture in their career

## ***Arts and Community-based Organizations***

- Arts or community-based organizations located in the metropolitan statistical area (MSA) of one of the six cities where Joyce Awards are made (i.e. Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, Indianapolis, Milwaukee, or Minneapolis-St. Paul) may submit an application.
- **The most compelling applications have come from organizations that:**
  - Evidence the capacity to fully support an artist(s) through the commission and presentation of an original art work;
  - Are most likely to use the proposed project and collaboration with the prospective artist to build upon and deepen connections with surrounding communities, existing and potential institutional partners and local civic leadership;



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- Display the ability to harness additional funds as needed to ensure a project's completion within a 12- to 24-month timeframe (with projects beginning no earlier than June 1, 2024); and
- In collaboration with artist, can design and execute a robust community engagement plan that will involve the creative participation of community members from origination through completion and have direct benefit or relevance to the participants.
- Reaches art and non-art audiences
- Demonstrate a commitment to advancing racial equity in its work and fairly compensating community participants and artists.

## **Proposal Process**

### ***Registration (Due September 6, 2023 for the 2024 Joyce Awards)***

***Please note--***The Joyce Foundation uses an online grants management system, Fluxx. If an applicant has not registered in Joyce's Fluxx system, we ask that you please do as soon as possible.

Any applicant who does not already have access to the Joyce Foundation's grantee portal (<https://joycefdn.fluxx.io>) will need to register by going to <https://joycefdn.fluxx.io/lois/new?utf8=%E2%9C%93&commit=Create+an+account+now>.

Once your form is submitted, you will receive an email notification from the Foundation within five business days with log-in credentials. If you have logged into Fluxx in the past, but do not remember your password, please go to [https://joycefdn.fluxx.io/forgot\\_password](https://joycefdn.fluxx.io/forgot_password) to receive a password reset email.

### ***Letters of Inquiry (Due September 11, 2023 for the 2024 Joyce Awards)***

Letters of Inquiry are the first step of the application process and require brief responses from the commissioning organization and artist. To view a Word version of the LOI questions and required attachments, click [here](#).

### ***Full Proposal (Due October 30, 2023 upon the request of the Joyce Foundation)***

Upon review of Letters of Inquiry, a select number of full proposals will be requested



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within 2-3 weeks of the Letter of Inquiry deadline. To view a Word version of the Full Proposal questions and required attachments, click [here](#).

## ***Notification of Award (By April 2024)***

During the April 2023 board meeting, Joyce Foundation's Board of Trustees will review and approve award finalists based on the recommendations of an esteemed national panel of artists and arts experts. Following notification, Joyce staff will coordinate with commissioning organizations and artists receiving a Joyce Award on press announcements.

