The Joyce Foundation

Programs

- Education & Economic Mobility
- Environment
- Gun Violence Prevention & Justice Reform
- Democracy
- Culture
- Journalism

GRANT STRATEGY
Advancing racial equity and economic mobility for the next generation of Great Lakes residents.

HISTORY & SIZE
Founded in 1948. Based in Chicago with assets of $1.1 billion, distributing $50 million annually.

APPROACH
Moving ideas to actions by supporting policy research, development, and advocacy.
MISSION: With a focus on Chicago, support the development, growth, and visibility of artists and art organizations of color to advance racial equity, inspire creativity, and foster more culturally vibrant, diverse, and sustainable communities

ANNUAL BUDGET: $2.625M

FOCUS AREAS: Creative Organizations & Creative Individuals

CREATIVE ORGANIZATIONS: Support the long-term stability and resilience of organizations of color based in Chicago, helping expand their operational capacity and foster creative excellence

CREATIVE INDIVIDUALS: Support organizations that commission or feature artistically rigorous and challenging cultural work by artist of color and offer professional development to support their growth (including Joyce Awards)
PARTNERS: Collaborations between artists of color and leading arts, cultural and/or community-based organizations in one of the below Great Lakes cities

PROJECT: Compelling, relevant new work, Completed in 12-18 months

LOCATION OF ORG & ACTIVITY: Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, Indianapolis, Milwaukee, or Minneapolis-St. Paul

AWARD AMOUNT: $75,000 per award, with at least $25,000 for artist stipends.
*Starting 2023, will increase total # awards to six

HISTORY: Since inception in 2003, more than $4M to commission 77 new works.

SCOPE: High-impact, community-centered works across disciplines (i.e. dance, theater, music, literary, sculpture/installation, film/photography, etc.)
Joyce Awards: Eligibility

Eligible Joyce Award proposals:

✓ Artist located anywhere in world
✓ Artist commissioned by unrelated entity (cannot be founder, Artistic Director, or ED of commissioning org)
✓ Commissioning org located in metropolitan statistical areas (MSA) of: Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland, Indianapolis, Milwaukee, Minneapolis-St. Paul
✓ Commissioning org is 501c3 or fiscally sponsored by 501c3 that’s been in existence for at least 1 year
✓ Not commissioning prior Joyce Awards artists
✓ Propose the creation of “new work,” completed in 12-18 months and culminating in tangible program, product, or process
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Joyce Awards: Goals

- Foster innovative, high-impact community-centered commissions by artists of color in collaboration with orgs based in Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, Indianapolis, Milwaukee, or Minneapolis-St. Paul

- Generate and feature intensive community interaction and engagement, which directly informs and shapes the culminating work

- Enable artists at a significant inflection point of their careers to stretch themselves artistically

- Increase visibility of contributions of artists of color in Great Lakes region

- Provide commissioning organizations resources needed to engage surrounding communities at large and respond to the concerns of/uplift voices of diverse communities
Aram Han Sifuentes
Visual Artist

I am a visual artist, fiber artist, social practice artist,

View video on the Joyce Foundation's website:
Application Process

- Letters of Inquiry Deadline: September 12, 2022
- First time org applicants Fluxx registration Deadline: September 7, 2022
- Invited to submit full proposals: October 2, 2022
- Full proposals Deadline November 1, 2022. Full proposals are reviewed by external panel
- 2023 Awards Board Approval: April 2023
Application Questions: For the Org

1. What is the initial concept and plan for the artist commission?

2. Which communities will this commission engage? And how does this commission build on existing community engagement? What do you hope to achieve through community engagement?

3. What prior experience of commissioning artists will the organization draw upon for this collaboration?

4. If relevant, how does this project build on previous partnerships between the commissioning organization and the artist(s)? (Optional)

5. Issues of equity are core to the Joyce Foundation’s historical mission of promoting quality of life, safe and healthy communities, and a just society. How, if at all, has your organization demonstrated and continue to demonstrate a commitment to racial equity in its work? (Optional)
Application Questions: For the Artist(s)

1. Please describe your creative work and artistic practice to date? How, if at all, does community engagement fit within your larger artistic practice?

2. What interests and/or inspires you about this particular commission?

3. How will this commission allow you to build on, stretch, deepen or nuance your artistic practice? How will this commission facilitate a “step up” for you artistically and professionally?

4. Are you a full-time executive leader of the commissioning organization and/or co-founder?

Required Docs: Complete artist(s) biography and artist work samples, including digital images, video links, etc.
What do we Look for?

Hallmarks of past Joyce Award projects include work that:

- Clearly defined, and engages with/informed by the stories and concerns of diverse communities (race, gender, sexual identity, disability, age, citizenship, education, religion)
- Creates opportunities for communities (outside and inside the arts) to meaningfully inform, guide, or find their way in and shape the work
- Demonstrate benefit for target communities/participants as much as org and artist
- Offers compelling, distinctive artistic vision while reimagining or engaging conventional ideas, processes, technique, or ways of making
- Reflects or responds to current moment and/or historical legacies in the place of commission
- Have a culminating or tangible product or process
The most compelling applications have come from organizations that:

- Capacity to successfully support artist and community through the commission and presentation of an original work
- Ability to harness additional funds as needed to ensure project’s completion within a 12 to 18-month timeframe
- 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 partners and local civic leadership
- Demonstrate commitment to racial equity in their work
The Foundation processes Joyce Awards applications through an online grant portal called Fluxx.

The grant submission process has 3 steps:

1. Letter of Inquiry
2. Formal Proposal
3. Review Process
Welcome to the Joyce Foundation Online Grants Portal

The Joyce Foundation is a nonpartisan private foundation that invests in public policies and strategies to advance racial equity and economic mobility for the next generation in the Great Lakes region. Our support for racial equity and economic mobility is not only a statement of our belief in a just and inclusive society, but also a recognition they are essential conditions for building broad-based prosperity.

We support policy research, development, and advocacy in five areas: Education & Economic Mobility, Environment, Gun Violence Prevention & Justice Reform, Democracy, and Culture. Joyce focuses its grant making in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin, and partners with funders to explore promising policy solutions in other states or at the federal level.

We encourage you to learn about each program to determine whether your project falls within the Joyce Foundation’s guidelines.

Create Your Organizational Profile

To be considered for funding tell us about your organization. Please click on the “Create an Account Now!” button below to start.

If approved, you will receive an email notification from the Foundation within five business days with log-in credentials.

The Joyce Foundation is dedicated to reducing barriers to completing your online request; please contact

accounting@joycefoundation.org or call 312-780-2454 so we can address any particular needs.

Create an account now
Welcome to the Joyce Foundation Online Grants Portal

Applicant Instructions

Prior to beginning the application process, you will need to complete the online registration form below. We will email you within five business days with further instructions.

This form is not an LOI.

NOTE: You will not be able to save your information before submitting or edit it after submission, so please make sure your responses are accurate and complete before submitting your registration. You must respond to all required information, which appears in red.

Questions? Please contact applications@joycefdn.org or (312)782-2464.

Organization Information

You can look up your organization’s information via GuideStar using your Tax ID (EIN) in the field below. Fill in your EIN, click “Search” and select the matching organization. Clicking “Yes” will auto-populate your organization’s information into this form.

Guide Star Profile Lookup (if applicable)

Search

Tax ID/EIN

Format xx:xxxxxxx

Organization Legal Name
Welcome to the Joyce Foundation Grantee Portal!

If you would like to learn more about the grant-making process and the program guidelines for the Joyce Foundation, please visit our website at www.joycefdn.org. We suggest you review the submission process and deadlines prior to submitting a letter of inquiry.

From this page, you can . . .

- Refer to guides on how to use the portal
- Submit a letter of inquiry
- Submit a full proposal (if invited)
- Track the status of your pending proposal
- Review your current grants and report due dates
- Submit reports
- Monitor grant payments

For assistance, call 312-782-2464.

HOW TO USE THE GRANTEE PORTAL

This section contains downloadable how-to guides and a short video for using the portal. We encourage you to watch the short video prior to starting the online application and open the guides in a different browser to reference during your submission process.

NOTE: This portal does not autosave. Click the "SAVE" button as you work to ensure your data will not be lost. If you would like to download the letter of inquiry and complete this in Word before submitting it online, download from here.

- General navigation and card structure
- How to complete a letter of inquiry
- How to complete a full proposal (if invited)
- Video overview on how to use the grantee portal

HOW TO APPLY

Application Process:
HOW TO USE THE GRANTEE PORTAL

This section contains downloadable how-to guides and a short video for using the portal. We encourage you to watch the short video prior to starting the online application and open the guides in a different browser to reference during your submission process.

NOTE: This portal does not autosave. Click the "SAVE" button as you work to ensure your data will not be lost. If you would like to download the Standard Grant application to work on in Word before completing the form in the portal, you may download it here.

- General navigation and card structure
- How to complete a letter of inquiry
- How to complete a full proposal (if invited)
- Video overview on how to use the grantee portal

HOW TO APPLY

Application Process:

1. To submit a letter of inquiry, please click on the “Submit LOI” link below to begin the application process.
2. Once you have submitted a letter of inquiry, a read-only version will be available in the “Submitted Requests” link.
3. If you are invited to submit a full proposal, you will receive an email with instructions on how to complete the application.
4. To edit your full proposal, please click on “Drafts” link and select the proposal record.
5. If Joyce staff have any additional questions about your proposal, you will receive an email alert to log in. Please click on “Feedback Required” link to review notes from Joyce staff.
6. After you have submitted your final proposal, the proposal will appear in the “Submitted Requests” link.

The link below is for our standard grantmaking.

Submit LOI

Submit an LOI for the Joyce Awards

The Joyce Awards is dedicated to commissioning artists of color in six major Great Lakes cities: Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, Indianapolis, Milwaukee, and Minneapolis-St. Paul. Please review our FAQs to see our eligibility requirements.

The button to apply will display below from July 5, 2022 to September 12, 2022.

Apply for the Joyce Awards
For Further Questions

- For Fluxx-related questions, please email applications@joycefdn.org

- For questions about your proposal, please email JoyceAwards@joycefdn.org

- Book a time to speak with Mia at https://calendly.com/mkhimm/2023joyce-awards-application-consultation?month=2022-08

- To explore past Joyce Awards projects: https://www.joycefdn.org/joyce-awards/past-winners

- To access the application as a word doc: https://assets.joycefdn.org/content/uploads/Joyce-Awards-2023-LOI.docx