



A Private Family Foundation, based in Alaska

## **Mission of the Rasmuson Foundation**

Rasmuson Foundation is a private family foundation, established to promote a better life for all Alaskans.

## **Individual Artist Awards Program Description**

Rasmuson Foundation honors the merit and significance of a life dedicated to serious artistic exploration and growth. The Foundation believes that the artist's energy, ideas, and creative drive cannot bear fruit without periods of time devoted to experimentation, education, and personal reflection. We also acknowledge that artists need opportunities to explore at various stages of their artistic careers.

With these guiding principles in mind, the Rasmuson Foundation has created three award programs for individual artists living and working in Alaska:

- Distinguished Artist: \$40,000 annual award for a mature artist of recognized stature with a history of creative excellence and accomplishment in the arts. One award is issued annually in this category.
- Project Awards: Awards of up to \$7,500 for emerging, mid-career, and mature artists for specific, short-term projects that have a clear benefit to the artist and the development of his/her work. Approximately 25 awards are issued in this category.
- Artist Fellowships: \$18,000 awards for mid-career or mature artists to focus their energy and attention for a one-year period on developing their creative work. Approximately 10 awards are issued annually.

These awards are made among ten artistic disciplines:

Choreography	Media Arts
Crafts	Multidiscipline/New Genre
Folk and Traditional Arts	Music Composition
Literary Arts	Presentation/Interpretation
Performance Art	Visual Arts

These awards are intended to provide artists the resources to concentrate and reflect on their work, to immerse themselves in a creative endeavor, and to experiment, explore, and develop their artistry more fully. It is our hope that these investments in individual artists will result in substantial contributions to the culture of Alaska, the vibrancy of our communities, and to art itself.

The program receives approximately 350 applications each year, in addition to approximately 40 nominations for the Distinguished Artist Award.

## Awards Selection Process

### ANNUAL TIMELINE (dates are approximate)

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- Selection of panelists to review applications
- Annual award guidelines published, and opening of application period
- Deadline for Fellowship and Project Award applications, and Distinguished Artist nominations
- Panelists sent login information and instructions for accessing and reviewing application materials
- Deadline for completing panel review (including scoring and panel comments)
- Panel convenes in Anchorage for three-day process and selects award recipients for Fellowship and Project awards
- Separate in-state panel convenes to review and select Distinguished Artist
- Award recipients notified by phone
- Applicants not selected notified by mail, including copy of panel comments
- Awards made public, including to local media at special media event
- Reception/Luncheon for recipients and VIP's
- Artists awarded grants for one-year period
- Final Reports from artists due
- Ongoing, with concentrated effort July–December
- January 1–March 1
- March 1
- March 15
- April 10
- April 15
- Last week of April
- May 1
- May 10
- May 15
- May 15 or 16
- June 1–May 31
- June 30 (12 months later)

### ARTIST APPLICATION PROCESS

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- Artists apply for the Fellowship and Project Award through an online application, custom developed for Rasmuson Foundation. A paper application is also available. Application includes the following components:
  - o Artist Statement
  - o Project Budget and Timeline (for Project Awards)
  - o Project Description
  - o Artist Resume
  - o Work Samples (discipline specific)
- Technical assistance is offered by the Foundation throughout the application period. Foundation staff also provide at least one or two “workshops” for artists to explain how to apply, and offer tips and strategies for the application process.
- Extensive statewide outreach is conducted to provide information about the awards program, including published information in several languages. The

Foundation also utilizes social media throughout the application campaign to generate interest in the arts community.

## SELECTING JUDGES AND THE PANEL PROCESS

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The Foundation convenes a “multidisciplinary” panel to review the applications. Approximately 12 panelists are selected, and are assigned applications within specific disciplines to review in advance of the in-person panel meeting held in Anchorage. Each of those discipline-specific panels convenes over the first two days of the full panel meeting, and selects semi-finalists from each discipline to advance to the final round. The full panel meets on the third day to select the award recipients, using a “committee of the whole” model, providing a multidisciplinary perspective for final award selection.

Panelists are selected from across the United States, and are explicitly not selected from the State of Alaska, in an attempt to limit bias in the review process. Panelists sought out have a particular expertise in their area of discipline. The Foundation seeks a diverse pool of individuals, representing a range of cultural perspectives, along with broad geographic representation. Most panels are a blend of artists, arts administrators, funders, and scholars.

The panel meetings are facilitated by Foundation staff (usually the Arts and Culture Program Director/Officer). Staff work to maintain the integrity of the process, but do not participate in voting or the selection of award recipients.

Panelists are provided a stipend by the Foundation for participation, and all expenses are paid for travel and per diem while in Alaska.

## NOTIFYING ARTISTS

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Artists selected for an award are contacted by Foundation staff through direct phone contact. During the notification, staff also confirm with each recipient if they are able to attend the awards event, which is approximately two weeks following notification.

The initial notification is followed by a letter that provides further details about the award, and what to expect regarding the grant.

Applicants not selected are notified in writing. The notification includes panel comments collected during the review process.

Foundation staff encourage applicants to contact the Foundation with any questions about the process.



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