

## **Guidelines:**

Read the entire grant guidelines carefully. If you have questions or need assistance with the documentation of your work or in typing the required documents, contact staff at 612-332-3888, 800-801-3883 or [emerginggrant@vsamn.org](mailto:emerginggrant@vsamn.org).

## **Entry Categories:**

Applicants may enter one of these broad areas of arts:

**Visual Arts** -- Sculpture, Painting, Photography, Drawing, Mixed media, Film/video, Computer graphics, Fiber arts, Jewelry, Printmaking

**Performance** -- Music, Theater, Dance, Spoken Word, Comedy

**Writing** -- Essay, Short story, Play, Poetry, Screenplay

**Multi-Media** -- Combining elements of any of the above art forms

\*Each applicant is eligible to apply in only one category. If you are active in more than one area, choose the area with your strongest skills and work.

## **Eligibility:**

Applications will be accepted from individuals who meet all of these qualifications:

- Emerging artists working to establish a career in their arts medium;
- Residents of Minnesota who have a disability (See enclosed "How Does VSA Minnesota Define Disability" if you have any questions regarding eligibility.);
- Residents who have lived in Minnesota at least one year prior to deadline and must live in Minnesota for the 12 month grant period;

Grant recipients from the 2008-09 and the 2009-2010 cycles are ineligible this year. An artist is eligible to receive this grant every three years.

## ***As you consider applying for this grant, you will want to think about:***

**What is "new work"?** Examples of new work include, but are not limited too, a new series of sculptures, paintings or using and exploring new materials to create a new series of work, new poems for a chapbook, a new play.

**What new direction** would you like to go with your work, where is your work leading you and how can you accomplish something new and challenging?

**What will a whole new body of work, a new writing or performance bring to your artistic career?** How will the new work keep you on a steady and advancing career path?

**What will you need** to help you create new work? Some examples are research, classes, supplies, time to work or travel?

**Remember-** this grant is not for the documentation, publishing or production of work that you have already completed. Documentation, publishing and production can be included in your application in regards to the new work that you develop within the grant year.

**Grants MAY fund:**

- Travel or time to research, complete and present new work
- Professional documentation of new work
- Purchase of supplies, equipment or artist services
- Workshops, conferences or mentoring for professional development
- Rental of a studio, theatre or other space to produce or present work

**Grants may NOT fund:**

- Activities not directly related to the creation of new work
- Costs associated with any degree program or work on scholarly manuscripts
- Activities involving an organization that employs the artist
- Costs incurred before December 1, 2010, or after December 31, 2011.
- Work that is primarily educational, scientific, journalistic or technical in nature or content. All work being offered for review should have artistic expression as its primary reason for creation.

**Applications will NOT be accepted if:**

- The documentation artwork, writing or other materials were created before January 1, 2006, OR were created for credit in an undergraduate or graduate program.
- The artist is currently enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate program full-time;
- The artist is a member of VSA Minnesota staff, Board of Directors (and immediate families) or Program Committee;
- The artist is a legal resident of a state other than Minnesota;
- The application is late, incomplete or faxed;
- Statement of Disability is not included. This program is designed to recognize artists with disabilities as active, producing members of the Minnesota arts community. Therefore, each applicant is asked to state his/her disability. If the "Nature of Disability" portion of the application is left blank, the application will not be reviewed. This information will remain confidential. And will not be shared with grant review panelists.

**Criteria**

The jury process will apply the following criteria:

- Quality, creativity and feasibility of proposed new work as described in Narrative;

- Quality of the artist's work created since January 1, 2006 (technical proficiency, creativity, clear artistic voice and exceptional exploration in the chosen medium as demonstrated in work samples);
- Indication through the Artist's Résumé and Artist Statement that the artist is professional, emerging and that the artist's work is a serious pursuit guided by a personal, artistic vision.

Scoring of applications is 40% for Project Quality, 40% for past Artistic Quality and 20% for Artistic Career as seen in the Artist Resume & Artist Statement.

**Grant Payment Accommodation** - If you receive federal or state financial assistance (e.g., SSI or SSDI), you may face restrictions on receiving monetary awards. If you are chosen as a grant recipient, VSA Minnesota will accommodate your payment request.

**Publicity** - Applicants agree to be included in VSA Minnesota publicity about the awards, which notes each recipient's name, city and art form, and the fact that all recipients are persons with disabilities. Individual disabilities are not listed.

**Project Completion** - The project must be completed in 2011, and a brief **Final Report** turned into VSA Minnesota by December 31, 2011. No further grant funding from VSA Minnesota will be allowed until a Final Report is accepted.