

PCIS Artist Definition

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The artist definition includes and is not limited to individuals in the categories of visual, performing & literary arts, architects and designers. It is recognized that a majority of artists do not earn a living through sales of their artwork. “Professional” therefore refers to the nature of the artist’s commitment to their work on a professional basis that is incorporated into their identity whether or not it is a means of making a living. Under no circumstances is the content or quality of the work within the application a consideration for eligibility.

Eligibility

The category of visual arts encompasses both two and three-dimensional artwork that can include one of a kind and production pieces.

Two-dimensional includes but is not limited to: drawing, illustration, painting, printing, etching, carving, photography, film and video, using any material whether original, traditional or digital.

Three-dimensional includes, but is not limited to: sculpture, installations, and crafts in all mediums including conceptual translations in model or the virtual format of digital media. Crafts are defined in the traditional areas of fiber & textiles (apparel incl.), clay, glass (stained glass incl.), metal (jewelry incl.), stone (lapidary incl.) and wood (furniture incl.). Installation art is a creative assemblage of objects that may be exhibited indoors or outdoors. **It is important to note that within these different media, hand fabrication is a crucial qualification, but casting and other industrial tools such as knitting machines can be used in a creative process or to produce production items.**

Production work is tolerated within the artist definition, but should be reviewed for creativity. For example, limited editions, frequent changes of new designs or lines of work and a balance between production and one-of-a-kind work are positive signs of a creative artist, designer or craftsman. The original design or creation of the production item must belong to the artist or craftsman in question. Replications of traditional designs of folk art are also allowed in the category of craft as long as there is no copyright infringement and the craftsman is carrying on a traditional line of folk art that transcends generations within a region or country.

The category of performing arts includes singers, musicians, actors, dancers, performing artists, choreographers, composers, stylists (photo & fashion incl.) and set designers. Actors and set designers may be working in the fields of theatre, television or screen film. Performance artists may work on the stage, street, or circus for example. In the same vein, performance artists may be clowns, jugglers or acrobats.

The category of literary art includes, but is not limited to; fiction writers, poets or playwrights. For example, a writer whose work is limited to journalism, biography, non-fiction or technical manuals would not qualify.

The category of architecture may only include architects or landscape architects who have received a college level degree in their respective fields. Those applicants who are currently unemployed or not teaching in their fields of architecture must show a continued commitment or practice in their field whether it be in the form of conceptual drawings or on the basis of consulting or volunteer work within their community.

The category of design includes, but is not limited to; graphic design, industrial design, interior design, set design, web design and animation. Interior decorators may be considered as interior designers provided they have an ASID certification. Other design forms within digital media may be considered under the category of web design.

Qualifying an applicant as a legitimate artist, crafts person, architect or designer involves an extensive review of their application form, supporting material, resume and artist statement or biography. The ability to show a commitment towards exhibiting, performing or working in one's category as a consistent part of the applicants life is the most important guideline. An applicant's ability to show community involvement through their work is also a quality of importance. If offered as proof of eligibility (except in the case of architecture where it is required) college transcripts or tax returns for respective categories should be requested. An applicant's education or employment may be noted as a way to help establish a commitment to their work, however, an applicant's lack of education or inability to make living in their field should in no way prevent their ability to qualify. In fact, a self-taught applicant who shows an equal commitment to his or her work compared to one who was educated by an institution, should be considered by the selection committee for their self motivation and commitment to their process.