



# Strategic Opportunity Stipends Guidelines + Application 2010

**SOS, a project of the New York Foundation for the Arts, working in collaboration with arts councils and cultural organizations across New York State, is designed to help individual artists of all disciplines take advantage of specific unique opportunities that will significantly benefit their work or career development.**

**Artists working in all disciplines (including literature, media arts, visual arts, music, and theater) may request support ranging from \$100 to \$600 for specific, forthcoming opportunities. These do not include works-in-progress.**

## **Who can apply?**

You must be 18 years of age or older. You must be a *full-time* resident for the past year from date of application deadline in one of the participating counties listed on this page of the application. All recipients must show proof of residency status before receiving award money.

## **Who cannot apply?**

- 1** Any past SOS recipient who has outstanding final reports or retains unused award money.
- 2** A graduate or undergraduate student enrolled in any degree program at the time of application, including high school students.
- 3** A recipient of a New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship award in the previous year. Current participants in NYFA's MARK program may apply, but not for MARK related opportunities.
- 4** An employee, member of the Board of Trustees or Artists' Advisory Committee of NYFA, an immediate family member of a current SOS panelist, or a current employee or member of the Board of Trustees of any current SOS sponsoring organization.

Applications should be submitted to the appropriate regional sponsoring organization. Please see the list of sponsoring organizations on the last page of this application. A PDF of the SOS applications can be accessed online at [nyfa.org/sos](http://nyfa.org/sos).

## **DEADLINES**

The following dates are **NOT** postmark deadlines. Applications must be received by 5:00 PM on the specified dates.

**Round 1** – for opportunities in: November- February  
**September 24**

**Round 2** – for opportunities in: March- June  
**January 27**

**Round 3** – for opportunities in: July- October  
**May 25**

**SOS grants are available to New York State artists living in these counties:**

**Capital:** Albany, Columbia, Fulton, Greene, Montgomery, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, Warren and Washington

**Genesee Valley/Finger Lakes:** Cayuga, Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, Seneca, Wayne, Wyoming, and Yates

**Mid-Hudson:** Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster and Westchester

**Western:** Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie and Niagara

**Central:** Chenango, Cortland, Delaware, Herkimer, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga, Oswego and Otsego

**Long Island:** Nassau and Suffolk

**North Country/Adirondack:** Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Hamilton, Jefferson, Lewis, Saint Lawrence

**Southern Tier:** Broome, Chemung, Schuyler, Steuben, Tioga and Tompkins.

*(See back cover for list of sponsoring organizations).*

## SOS Supports

The following does not include all possible opportunities eligible for support, it illustrates a general range of activities for which artists can receive assistance:

- \* **travel and accommodations** associated with an imminent, concrete opportunity such as a reading or workshop presentation of the artist's own work, audition, artist's own exhibition (state and federal standard gas mileage is 55 cents per mile);
- \* **materials** to make or finish work that is integral to a specific, unique opportunity;
- \* exceptional chance for advanced **study with a significant mentor** (outside of a classroom setting and not related to any degree program);
- \* **professional fees and services** for a specific opportunity such as lighting, graphic design or carpentry;
- \* expenses related to **care of dependents** that would allow an artist to take advantage of a specific opportunity;
- \* **rental of equipment, instruments, or materials** to complete work scheduled for a gallery exhibition, performance, publication, etc.;
- \* **purchase of inexpensive or one-time-use items (\$50 or less)** associated with, and necessary for, an opportunity;
- \* **promotional expenses** related directly to a specific opportunity.

## SOS Will Not Support

- \* Curatorial projects
- \* Activities related to work-in-progress
- \* Applicant's own artistic fees
- \* Entry, exhibition, registration, or tuition fees, including those for workshops
- \* Expenses involved in establishing, maintaining, or administering an organization or company
- \* Costs involved in real estate: purchase, construction, improvements
- \* Activities connected with an applicant's employer
- \* Finishing funds that are not related to a special
- \* Strictly commercial activities
- \* Commercial marketing (press kits, publicists, etc.)

not related to a specific opportunity

- \* Teaching opportunities
- \* Medical, legal, or accounting fees
- \* Arts-in-Education programs
- \* Purchase of expensive "big ticket" equipment
- \* Routine documentation of work without a specific opportunity
- \* Hospitality expenses related to an upcoming opportunity, including food for opening receptions.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### How much money is awarded?

Amounts awarded for Strategic Opportunity Stipends range from \$100 to \$600.

### What is the selection process?

Evaluation and selection of applications will be made by a panel of artists and arts administrators from each region with diverse disciplinary, geographic, and ethnic backgrounds. Family members of applicants may not serve as panelists for that review round. If you are interested in serving as a panelist and are not currently an applicant, please contact the sponsoring organization for your region (see back page).

### What does the panel consider?

Because the intent of this award is to substantially advance an artist's work or career, *applications should clearly describe the concrete impact the artist's career will gain from the proposed opportunity.* An important element of the panel's work is to compare the resume directly to the opportunity being applied for. The panel determines if the opportunity will be a unique and advanced experience for this artist, based on the artist's career as the resume describes it. The merit of the opportunity and its feasibility will also be considered. Self-generated opportunities will not be considered, a third-party must invite the artist to participate in the proposed opportunity. **A note on works-in-progress:** SOS funding exists to help artists act on unique events in their careers. The uniqueness of a given opportunity in an artist's career is determined by review of his or her resume. Therefore, even exceptional opportunities may be viewed as ongoing work if they duplicate previous activities in an applicant's work or career. In addition, because photographing or recording new work is an ongoing part of an artist's career, documentation of work, unless associated with a unique opportunity, is considered ongoing work.

**Are all qualified opportunities funded?**

No. Unfortunately requests for SOS support are usually greater than available funds, therefore it is important for artists to submit the strongest possible application. Applicants are encouraged to contact sponsoring organizations to solicit feedback in advance of the deadline to ensure the strongest possible application.

**How is a mentorship defined?**

A mentorship is an opportunity to work with a professional artist in a one-on-one or small group setting. The applicant must specify what specific skill the mentor will impart and the mentor's qualifications. The strongest applications will explain how the mentorship will directly benefit a separate forthcoming opportunity for the applicant, the mentorship experience itself does not constitute a significant opportunity.

**Are artist residencies covered by SOS?**

In some cases residencies may be funded if the residency is distinct from ongoing work. Successful applications will explain how the the residency and the residency experience will advance their artistic career in the context of their resume.

**Are workshops covered by SOS?**

Artists must be presenters of their own work during a workshop opportunity in order to be eligible for SOS funding. Workshops are distinct from classes in that the artist must be in the role of presenter rather than student or trainee.

**What if I collaborate with someone?**

Applications for collaborative proposals between two artists must be made in the name of one artist with the other artist listed on the application form. One application will be accepted per collaborative pair; however, resumes from both artists must be included. Artists applying collaboratively should document a history of working together. Applications for collaborations between more than two artists will not be accepted.

**What are the deadlines for applying?**

Applications will be accepted in 3 rounds, each with its own submission deadline and award dates. The deadlines for completed applications are September 24, January 27 and May 25.

Applications must be in the appropriate regional office by 5:00 p.m. on the day of the deadline. No emailed or faxed applications will be accepted. An artist may apply only once in each round.

**When am I notified?**

Artists will be notified of results within one month of each deadline.

**If I receive an award, what must I do?**

Upon receiving notice of award the artist must show proof of residency in the region (lease, tax return, utility bills, etc.) from at least 12 months prior to the deadline of the round applied to. Funds cannot be released without this proof. A one-page final report and submission of receipts or record of expenses are due within 4 months of award notification. Money not used by the artist must be returned within 4 months of award notification. Artists who fail to do so will forfeit the chance to apply for any SOS funds in future rounds.

**HOW TO APPLY**

Applications should be submitted to the appropriate regional sponsoring organizations at the addresses on the back of this page. Complete the application form. Submit copies of this form along with resume(s) and letter(s) of confirmation collated and stapled together into 7 sets.

\*7 copies of the completed application

\*7 copies of a brief, chronological resume (not to exceed 2 double-spaced pages). Please indicate your artistic discipline within your resume.

\*7 copies, on organization letterhead, of a letter or other written confirmation of the specific opportunity for which you are applying. For study with a mentor, include mentor's resume or background information.

*(Application forms are pages 4 & 5 of this packet).*

# SOS APPLICATION

Please type or print legibly. Provide all requested information.

Round 1   Round 2   Round 3

Date of application \_\_\_\_\_

Name of opportunity \_\_\_\_\_

Date of opportunity \_\_\_\_\_

Category

Crafts    Dance    Interdisciplinary    Folk Arts    Design Arts    Literature

Media    Music    Performance Art    Theater    Visual Arts

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Name of Applicant**

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Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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County \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

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State Assembly Member (required)

State Senate Member (required)

*for a listing of State representatives please visit [assembly.state.ny.us](http://assembly.state.ny.us) or [senate.state.ny.us](http://senate.state.ny.us) online*

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If this is a collaboration, what is the name of collaborator \_\_\_\_\_

## **Summary**

Type or write the relevant facts of your opportunity below. **Use only the space below.**

*Description of the opportunity:*

*What is the unique and significant gain this opportunity will provide for your work or career?*

*What specifically is the money needed for?*



## SOS SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS

### Capital

The Arts Center of the Capital Region  
265 River Street  
Troy, NY 12180  
Ph: (518) 273-0552, ext. 229  
Lainy Slider  
email: [lainy@artscenteronline.org](mailto:lainy@artscenteronline.org)

### Central

Upper Catskill Community Council of the Arts  
11 Ford Avenue  
Oneonta, NY 13820  
Ph: (607) 432-2070  
Corrine Armstrong  
email: [carmstrong@uccca.com](mailto:carmstrong@uccca.com)

### Genesee Valley / Finger Lakes

Arts & Cultural Council for Greater Rochester  
277 North Goodman Street  
Rochester, NY 14607  
Ph: (585) 473-4000, ext. 206  
Jennie Watson  
email: [jwatson@artsrochester.org](mailto:jwatson@artsrochester.org)

### Long Island

East End Arts Council  
133 East Main Street  
Riverhead, NY 11901  
Ph: (631) 727-0900  
Tara D'Amato  
email: [tdamato@eastendarts.org](mailto:tdamato@eastendarts.org)

### Mid-Hudson

Garrison Art Center  
23 Garrison Landing, P.O. Box 4  
Garrison, NY 10524  
Ph: (845) 424-3960  
Carinda Swann  
email: [info@garrisonartscenter.org](mailto:info@garrisonartscenter.org)

### North Country/Adirondack

Arts Council for the Northern Adirondacks  
6 Champlain Avenue, P.O. Box 187  
Westport, NY 12993  
Ph: (518) 962-8778  
Athena Roth  
email: [artsnorth@westelcom.com](mailto:artsnorth@westelcom.com)

### Southern Tier

The ARTS Council of the Southern Finger Lakes  
32 West Market Street  
Corning, NY 14830  
Ph: (607) 962-5871 x 226  
Lynn Dates  
email: [thearts@earts.org](mailto:thearts@earts.org)

### Western

Arts Council in Buffalo and Erie County  
700 Main Street  
Buffalo, NY 14202-1962  
Ph: (716) 856-7520  
Lauren Albrecht  
email: [regrantsoffice@gmail.com](mailto:regrantsoffice@gmail.com)

Since 1971, **New York Foundation for the Arts**(NYFA) has been one of the country's foremost supporters of individual artists working in all disciplines. NYFA awards close to \$1million in cash grants annually and provides information and services to individual artists.

For complete information about NYFA and its ongoing programs, activities, and services, please visit [www.nyfa.org](http://www.nyfa.org) or call 212-366-6900.



**SOS**, a project of the **New York Foundation for the Arts** in collaboration with arts councils and cultural institutions across New York State, is administered with leadership support from the **New York State Council on the Arts**, a state agency.