

MCBA/JEROME BOOK ARTS RESIDENCY APPLICATION GUIDELINES

APPLICATION CYCLE OPEN: JUNE 13 – July 31, 2025, 11:59PM CDT

The MCBA/Jerome Book Arts Residency Program awards three \$3,000 awards and studio access to Minnesota-based early career book artists in a year-long residency from September 2025 – November 2026. The goal of this program is to encourage creation and exhibition of new and compelling artwork, strengthen skills and career development, and deepen relationships in the book arts community.

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I. Application Timeline

The MCBA/Jerome Book Arts Residency Program deadline is Thursday, July 31st at 11:59PM CDT. Applicants are welcome to schedule one-on-one meetings (virtually or over the phone) with the Director of Exhibitions and Artist Programs before submitting their applications. Contact: aschneider@mnbookarts.org / 612.215.2528 to set up an appointment.

Friday, June 13, 2025

Application cycle begins

Tuesday, July 1, 2025, 6PM CDT

Information Session (Zoom)

Thursday, July 31, 2025, 11:59PM CDT

Applications Due

Week of September 15th, 2025

Recipients Announced to Public

Saturday, September 20, 2025

Orientation at MCBA

September 20, 2025 – November 30, 2026

Residency period

II. Residency Schedule

The MCBA/Jerome Book Arts Residency Program requires a year-long commitment from September 20, 2025 – November 30, 2026, plus time in January 2027 for deinstallation of artwork. Residency recipients must attend all of the following:

Saturday, September 20, 2025, 1PM–3PM
Orientation at MCBA

Week of January 26th, 2026, 6PM–9PM
Group Critique Session with guest artist

Week of March 2nd, 2026, 6PM–7PM
Interim Project Proposals Due and Artist Talk Meeting (Virtual)

Thursday, March 12th, 2026, 7PM–9PM
MCBA/Jerome Residency Artist Presentations at MCBA

Week of May 25th, 2026, 6PM–8PM
Group Critique Session

Week of August 3rd, 2026 6PM–8PM
Group Critique Session w/ guest artist + *Final Project Proposals due*

Week of September 28th, 2026 6PM–8PM
Exhibition Planning Meeting

Friday, October 17, 2026
Exhibition info + Artist Statements due

October 17, 2024 – October 26, 2026
Exhibition installation in the MCBA's Main Gallery (schedule times with MCBA Staff)

November 13 – January 24, 2027
Exhibition open to the public

Friday, November 13, 2026 6PM–8PM
Exhibition Opening Reception (please arrive by 5:30PM)

Week of November 30th, 2026 6PM–8PM
Residency debrief and evaluation

Monday, January 25, 2027 – Wednesday, January 28, 2027
Deinstallation

III. Residency Support

The MCBA/Jerome Book Arts Residency, administered by Minnesota Center for Book Arts, is made possible by the generous support of the Jerome Foundation. MCBA and the Jerome Foundation encourage artists representing diverse backgrounds and experiences to apply.

About Minnesota Center for Book Arts (MCBA)

Minnesota Center for Book Arts is a nonprofit visual arts organization that supports creative expression through traditional and contemporary book arts, including papermaking, bookbinding, letterpress printing, screenprinting, and related artforms. Our mission is to ignite artistic practice, inspire learning, and foster diverse creative communities through the book arts.

We do this by creating access to specialized book arts tools, equipment, and knowledge; supporting interdisciplinary artistic development; expanding opportunities for people who have been historically underrepresented in the field; and presenting exhibitions and educational programs that create connections around the art of the book, promote innovation, and advance the future of the field.

About the Jerome Foundation

The Jerome Foundation, created by artist and philanthropist Jerome Hill (1905-1972), seeks to contribute to a dynamic and evolving culture by supporting the creation, development, and production of new works by early career/emerging artists. The Foundation makes grants to early career artists and culture bearers and those nonprofit arts organizations that serve them in the state of Minnesota and the five boroughs of New York City. The Foundation's highest priority is to support artists *early in their careers* who create work that is and/or has the potential to be:

Compelling - offering distinctive vision and authentic voice

Deeply considered, imaginative, and executed - working with attention to craft and with technical proficiency, providing artistic experiences that communicate unique perspectives and invite viewers to question, discover, and explore new ideas in new ways

Innovative and risk-taking - engaging, questioning, challenging or re-imagining conventional artistic forms. Innovation and risk-taking are Jerome Foundation values that reflect the foundation's interest in supporting artists from diverse backgrounds and experiences who are expanding ways of working, asking questions, and inspiring new ways of imagining.

III. Residency Overview

The MCBA/Jerome Book Arts Residency is open to Minnesota-based early career artists whose primary artistic impression is in book arts and who propose to work on a project at MCBA during their residency. The program is designed to advance early career book artists both critically and creatively in their practice.

During the residency, three artists (or collaborative groups) will receive:

- \$3,000 project stipend
- Educational stipend of \$350 to be used for workshops or custom tutorials
- 24/7 access to MCBA studios and technical assistance
- One-year MCBA membership (10% discount on all workshops, 10% discount at The Shop, and invitations to exhibition openings and special events)
- Participation in group critiques with MCBA staff and guest critics
- Recognition through a culminating exhibition in MCBA's Main Gallery
- Professional documentation of exhibition artwork

MCBA's Studios and Equipment:

MCBA is a 12,000 square foot space with two galleries, a Shop, library, state of the art equipment and specialized studios including:

Letterpress Printing studio with eight Vandercook Presses, iron hand presses, platen presses, an etching press, Showcard sign press, light table, polymer platemaker, solvents, rags, gloves. MCBA has a large type library with wood and metal type.

Bookbinding with board shears, guillotine paper cutter, foil presses, paper drill, book cradles, sewing frames, backing press, nipping presses, spiral binder, and hand tools.

Screen Printing area with a darkroom, power washer, light tables for exposing screens, squeegees, and screen printing tables.

Papermaking studios with hydraulic press, restraint dryer, one-pound Valley beater,

two-pound Reina beater, cook tops, felts, moulds, and deckles.

Equipment: MCBA also has equipment for traditional marbling, suminagashi, wood engraving, calligraphy, leather tooling, and alternative photography techniques.

IV. Eligibility Requirements

The intent of this program is to recognize and support **early career book artists** living and working in **Minnesota**.

Artists who are eligible for this residency:

- **Book Artists** who create work that falls within the book arts context, including but not limited to letterpress printing, screen printing, intaglio, bookbinding, box-making, papermaking, or paper decoration. Book art, broadly defined, includes work that embodies narrative, instruction, reference, mapping, guides, documentation, and more. As an interdisciplinary art form, book arts may include other mediums such as photography, other forms of printmaking, installation, sculpture, and film.
- **Early career artists** are in the early stages of their creative development with 2–10 years of generative experience, and have a focused direction and goals, even while still developing their artistic “voice”. They have yet to be substantially celebrated within their field, the media, funding circles, or the public at large. Early career artists are vocational (as opposed to avocational, academic, amateur or educational) artists. For more information about the Jerome Foundation’s definition of early career artist, visit:
<https://www.jeromefdn.org/defining-early-career-emerging-artists>
- Artists who have lived in **Minnesota** for at least one year prior to the Residency deadline (July 31, 2024).
- Artists who are **available to participate in all aspects of the program**.

Artist are not eligible for this residency if they are:

- A degree seeking full-time/part-time student
- A staff member of MCBA
- A prior recipient of any McKnight Fellowship

- A two-time prior recipient of the MCBA/Jerome Book Arts Fellowship
- A recipient of the MCBA/Jerome Book Arts Residency from 2023-2025

V. Application Guidelines/How to Apply

An independent jury with diverse backgrounds, perspectives, and geographies who are in the book arts field will select three artists (or collaborative teams) based on quality of image samples and proposed projects, the Jerome Foundation's values, and eligibility.

Applications are submitted through the online platform **Submittable**. There is a link to the application located on the Jerome Residency page of MCBA's website or [click here](#). To begin, you will create a new account. You can "Save As Draft" and return to the application site until you complete your submission and click "Submit" (once you submit you will no longer be able to make any changes to your submission). After you have created a new account you can fill out the application form and upload the following materials:

A project proposal: A realistic outline of your project idea and how you will utilize MCBA's studios and equipment during your residency. Strong project proposals make a clear connection between work samples and proposed projects. 500 word maximum. Please do not include your name on your project proposal.

Project budget: Outline how you intend to achieve your project with the project stipend. (for example: Artist Compensation: \$1000; Supplies: \$2000). Please do not include your name on your project budget.

Image samples: Upload images in the order you would like them to be viewed. You may include full and detail shots, but each file counts as one of the ten total images. Each juror reviews applications individually, one image at a time, on a personal computer monitor. Please do not include your name on any images (artist signature on the work is acceptable).

- Images must be in jpg or jpeg format, 300 DPI, 1200 pixels or greater on the largest side.
- Individual files should not exceed 5 MB.
- Label each artwork: Image_1_Titleofartwork (Example: Image_1_Waterfall.jpg, Image_2_Moon.jpg)

Video samples (optional): Submit up to two videos under 3 minutes in length. Video submissions should supplement, not replace or extend, the ten still images. Include a still jpg/jpeg image of your video as a placeholder for your video. Remove voiceover narration, artist appearance, or artist name in the video submission. File types accepted: mp4, mov, avi, mpg, 3gp, flv, webm, wmv, mkv, or m4v files. We highly recommend using video to document bookwork. For tips on how to document artist's books, see our Youtube video, Tips on How to Document Book Art: <https://youtu.be/vps4kn8TrLw>

PDF (optional): For artists' work that involves text, artist's books, book spreads, didactics, or texts that are unreadable in the images submitted, there is an option to upload an additional PDF. Any work referenced in the PDF must be indicated by at least one still image in the sequence of ten. *For example, if you upload a photo of the center spread of a chapbook, you may include the text from the chapbook in the PDF.*

Image Description List: Applicants must include an Image Description List that corresponds to the images/video/pdf included in the application. Include Title of Artwork, Medium, Date created, and Size. Please do not include your name on your Image Description List.

Artist resume: List your artistic accomplishments to date. Please do not include your name on your resume. If your name is the title of an exhibition, publication, or other, replace it with "Artist's Name". 2 pages maximum.

Artist statement: Describe your artistic practice in relation to your image samples. Please do not include your name on your artist statement. 500 word maximum.

Proof of MN Residency: Please include one of the following: Driver's license, MN ID card, tribal ID, lease with name on it, utility bill with name/address listed.

Applying as a Collaborative Team: If you are applying as a collaborative team, make sure each artist involved meets the eligibility requirements. The images you submit should be of work created by the collaborative, not by the artists individually. Please include one résumé for the collaborative, plus one résumé for each of its members, in a single multi-page document. Do not use your names, rather, distinguish between the résumés by using generic titles, such as, "Artists A and B," "Artist A," and "Artist B."

VI. Artist Resources

MCBA: Applicants are welcome to schedule one-on-one meetings (virtually or over the phone) with MCBA before submitting their applications online. Contact: aschneider@mnbookarts.org / 612.215.2528 to set up an appointment.

Springboard for the Arts: We highly recommend utilizing Springboard for the Arts as a resource for grant writing workshops and equipment check out for documenting artwork. Their A.V. Closet allows artists to borrow cameras, lighting equipment, and other AV equipment to help document their artwork. For more information, visit:

<https://springboardforthearts.org/professional-growth/avcloset/>

Film North: provides free scanner access for mnartists.org artists. They also rent film, photo and editing equipment to members. Call for an appointment. 550 Vandalia St #120, St Paul, MN 55114 (651) 644-1912 <http://myfilmnorth.org/>

Regional Arts Councils: may be able to offer you computer access, accessibility assistance, or direct you to someone who may be able to support you with resources for your application. Below is a list of Regional Arts Councils in Minnesota:

Northwest Minnesota Arts Council

Kittson, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake, and Roseau counties

109 S. Minnesota St., Warren, MN 56762-1428 218-745-6733

<http://www.northwestminnesotaartscouncil.org/>

Region 2 Arts Council

Beltrami, Clearwater, Hubbard, Lake of the Woods, and Mahnommen counties

303 Railroad St SW, Bemidji, MN 56601 218-751-5447 www.r2arts.org

Arrowhead Regional Arts Council

Aitkin, Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake, and Saint Louis counties

424 W Superior St Suite 104, Duluth, MN 55802 218-722-0952 www.aracouncil.org

Lake Region Arts Council

Becker, Clay, Douglas, Grant, Otter Tail, Pope, Stevens, Traverse, and Wilkin counties

133 South Mill Street, Fergus Falls, MN 56537 218-739-5780 www.lrac4.org

Five Wings Arts Council

Cass, Crow Wing, Morrison, Todd, and Wadena counties

122 3rd St NE, Staples, MN 56479 218-895-5660 www.fwac.org

Southwest Minnesota Arts Council

Big Stone, Chippewa, Cottonwood, Jackson, Kandiyohi, Lincoln, Lac qui Parle, Lyon, McLeod, Meeker, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, Redwood, Renville, Rock, Swift, and Yellow Medicine Counties

114 N 3rd St, Marshall, MN 56258 507-537-1471 <http://swmnarts.org/>

East Central Regional Arts Council

Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, and Pine counties
112 Main St S, Braham, MN 55006 320-396-2337 <http://www.ecrac.org/>

Central Minnesota Arts Board

Benton, Sherburne, Stearns, and Wright counties
220 4th Ave N, Foley, MN 56329 (320) 968-4290 www.centralmnartsboard.org

Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council

Blue Earth, Brown, Faribault, Le Sueur, Martin, Nicollet, Sibley, Waseca, and Watonwan counties
22nd Ave NE, Waseca, MN 56093 507-833-8721 www.plrac.org

Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council

Dodge, Fillmore, Freeborn, Goodhue, Houston, Olmsted, Mower, Rice, Steele, Wabasha, and Winona counties: 2778 D Commerce Drive NW Rochester, MN 55901 507-281-4848
www.semac.org

Metropolitan Regional Arts Council

Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington counties
2324 University Avenue West, Suite 114, St. Paul, MN 55114 651-645-0402 www.mrac.org

Photo documentation: Visual photo documentation will often be the only thing curators, writers, jurors, or grant panels will see of your work, and good documentation can make all of the difference in a grant competition. For bookwork, we highly recommend using video to show your books. For tips on how to document your artwork, visit the following websites:

Article: Getting Your Sh*t Together: <https://www.gyst-ink.com/documentation>

Article: How to Photograph your Artwork for a Portfolio or the Internet:
<https://emptyeasel.com/2007/01/19/how-to-photograph-your-artwork-for-a-portfolio-or-the-internet/>

Video Tutorial: Documenting your Artwork with a Digital Camera:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n7CiwlDwx4M&t=62s>

Video Tutorial: Tips on How to Document Book Art: <https://youtu.be/vps4kn8TrLw>

Video Tutorial: Documenting your Artwork with an iPhone:
<https://www.mollindo.com/blog/documenting-artwork-iphone>

Video Tutorial: How to Present Books Online with Alec Soth:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cXaYkyJW96Y>