

Request for Proposals (RFP)

FIELDS ARTIST FELLOWSHIP

Due date for applications: January 14th, 2019 11:59pm ([online](#))

Online Application opens: November 16, 2018

Interviews with finalists to be scheduled between March and April, 2019

Final decisions announced in May, 2019

Overview

The Oregon Community Foundation (OCF) and Oregon Humanities (OH) are instituting a significant new fellowship program for emerging to mid-career Oregon-based artists. Beginning in 2019, OCF and OH will work together to award four Fields Artist Fellows \$100,000 each over a two-year period, along with robust convening and learning opportunities.

The hope is that this opportunity will enable Fields Artist Fellows to 1) take their art to a higher level and 2) pursue artistic work that responds in meaningful ways to the Opportunity Gap in Oregon.

Over this initial two-year term, Oregon Community Foundation and Oregon Humanities anticipate that the four Fields Artist Fellows will represent different regions of the state and advance their artistic practice while addressing the Opportunity Gap within these regions.

About Fred W. Fields

The Fields Artist Fellowship is supported by The Fred W. Fields Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation. The fund was established in 2012 with a \$170 million gift from the estate of Fred W. Fields to support education and the arts.

Born in Alexandria, Indiana, Fred Fields studied engineering at Indiana University and Purdue University. In 1947, Fields went to work for Coe Manufacturing Company, who designed and constructed machinery that milled veneer, plywood and other products. Fields purchased Coe in 1976 and headed the company until 2000, when he sold it. Fields met and married Suzanne Schoenfeldt in 1958. He and Sue believed that art stretches the imagination and drives new ideas.

“Fred’s humble roots shaped his life. He was never extravagant, though he had the means to be. He instead wanted to use his wealth to support causes that he and his wife, Sue, felt strongly about. His bequest will continue this legacy of generosity and we will be a better state for it,” said Fields estate trustee Bill Tagmyer.

What we mean by the Opportunity Gap

Oregon is experiencing widening socioeconomic disparities, and now, more than at any time in the past several generations, the circumstances into which a child is born largely determine the life he or she achieves. Despite widespread belief in the American dream, for many children this dream appears out of reach. Characteristics of neighborhoods and communities, family structure and circumstances, and educational experiences all play a role in providing—or limiting—children’s opportunities. Oregon’s low-income children, children of color and rural children do not have the same set of opportunities enjoyed by higher-income and white children, and this opportunity gap has far-reaching implications for personal achievement and well-being as well as for community vitality. There is much work to be done, and at the same time, there is no shortage of examples of Oregonians across the state who are working tirelessly to find solutions. These solutions will be most effective with meaningful participation and leadership from all of Oregon’s diverse communities. Through these efforts—small and large, local and regional—we can ensure that all of Oregon’s children receive a fair chance at forging their American dream.

More information about the Opportunity Gap as OCF and OH understand it can be found here:

https://www.oregoncf.org/Templates/media/files/research/top_report_2017.pdf

<https://www.oregoncf.org/go-kids>

Why OCF and OH are working together on the Fields Artist Fellowship program

The Oregon Community Foundation is dedicated to improving life in Oregon and sees arts and culture as a valuable and necessary tool for that mission. Oregon Humanities is committed to bringing Oregonians together across difference and to building the capacity of Oregonians to share and hear perspectives other than their own. OCF and OH believe that the Fields Artist Fellowship program will collaboratively advance both missions in a meaningful way.

Eligibility

To be considered for a Fields Artist Fellowship, applicants should have:

- Five or more years of professional practice in an artistic discipline or combination of disciplines (all disciplines will be considered);
- Three years of residence in Oregon and the intent to reside in Oregon for the majority of the fellowship term (May 1, 2019 – April 30, 2021);
- Demonstrable evidence of artistic practice that can engage with community organizations and/or address community concerns

Application Materials & Review Process

Narrative Questions (Required):

1. Who are you? Please tell us about your background as an artist or creative and describe previous notable projects and experience. (500 words)
2. How would a Fred Fields Fellowship meaningfully affect your capacity to develop your art? What possibilities do you think the opportunity would open for you? (500 words)
3. How do you foresee your artistic practice responding to and exploring the Opportunity Gap in Oregon over the next 2 years? Are there particular communities or organizations that you intend to partner with or approaches to the Opportunity Gap that you intend to pursue? (750 words)
4. Can you describe your history with and connection to your area of residence in Oregon? Please tell us about the connection to the community you live in and intend to work in. (500 words)

Attachments:

1. A portfolio of previous work that demonstrates depth and resonance of artistic work and engagement with community. (Required: 1-10 sample images, video, audio, pdf, or embedded media)
2. Letter of support for the quality of applicants' work, ability to affect the Opportunity Gap, or experience engaging community. (Optional)
3. Resume or CV (Optional)

Proposals must be submitted by January 14, 2019 at 11:59 p.m. PST via our [online portal](#)

Selection Criteria

The Selection Committee will consider:

- The depth and resonance of applicants' artistic practice
- The potential for applicants' work to explore and affect the Opportunity Gap in Oregon
- The degree to which applicants will benefit from and contribute to the learning opportunities and community that the fellowship provides
- The combination of all four invited Fellows' communities, regions and artistic disciplines

Fellowship Commitment and Benefits

Applicants should meet all criteria listed above and be committed to participate for the full two-year term. Each fellow should be available to participate in no more than three yearly gatherings, including the first gathering on May 2-3, 2019.

Each fellow would receive a total amount of \$100,000, paid in installments over the two-year term. These funds may be used to cover any expenses, including but not limited to: salary, housing, transportation, health care, child care, professional development, collaborator fees, space rental and equipment/supplies.