Program Details: Bay Area Fellowship

The Bay Area Fellowship Program (BAF) represents a radical departure from Headlands' traditional modes of working with artists. The BAF engages each artist as a collaborator in designing and producing their own Fellowship, bringing them into the Headlands community as thought partners while developing an experience tailored to their specific needs. Applicants should come with a desire to work closely with their Fellowship cohort and Headlands staff to intentionally design the vision, scope, and allocation of resources for their own Fellowship. The program is designed to evolve over time, as Headlands continues to learn how best to work with and support future Fellows.

Fellowships are intended to last two years and will be planned in close collaboration with participants on annual timelines. The program is open to artists and writers working in any discipline. In addition to providing access as needed to Headlands resources such as studios, meeting spaces, and staff expertise, support includes an annual stipend of $20,000, a health insurance allowance, production budget, and access to resources such as professional development, and travel.

Find application links at Headlands.org/programs

Program Goals

• To support and engage Bay Area artists at key moments in their careers.
• To build meaningful relationships between the Bay Area arts community and Headlands’ national and international artists and Fellows.
• To partner with artists to reimagine how arts organizations and artists relate to and work with one another.
• To connect Fellows to each other through cohort building processes.

Award and Support

Annually per Fellow:
• $20,000 stipend.
• Tax burden on stipend and health coverage reimbursement (estimated at roughly $14,000).
• $8,000 to support Fellowship activities designated by the Fellow.
• Additional available resources, such as studio space, convening space, staff time and expertise, and/or other resources as available on a per-project basis.

Application And Fellowship Period

Dates:
• August 5, 2022: Applications due.
• September 2022: Finalists interviewed
• October 2022: Cohort begins

The first year of the Fellowship is from October 2022 - September 2023, with expectation to renew for a second year (Oct. 2023-Sept. 2024) by mutual agreement between Headlands and the Bay Area Fellows.
The Bay Area Fellowship application process will take place as follows:

- Headlands will solicit applications through an open call process. Those applications will be evaluated by outside evaluators and Headlands programming staff. A limited number of applicants will advance to a finalist round.
- Finalists will be offered a $1,500 stipend to present and discuss their work in an interview format.
- Evaluators will select four Bay Area Fellows from the pool of finalists to begin Fellowships in the fall of 2022.

Summary of Expectations

- The Bay Area Fellowship is awarded for a duration of one year to begin, with renewal for an additional year by mutual agreement. Fellowships will occur in phases with initial visioning and design, mid-point check-ins, and annual review.
- The BAF is a resource-based award, but not a residency program. Applicants should be residents of the Bay Area (see definition below) with access to their own housing and studio space, though they may use Headlands studios for brief periods if and when available.
- During their time, Fellows are expected to collaborate on developing two to three public engagements with Headlands staff, either at Headlands, in their home communities, or around the Bay Area. At least one engagement should be a finished presentation, exhibition, or body of work, while the other(s) may be more informal or in-progress.
- Ideal candidates will have an interest in participating in the Headlands artist community through public programs such as our Open Houses and/or our internal programs for artists such as dinners, critiques, studio visits, and retreats.

Eligibility

Bay Area Fellows must be able prove current and continuous residence in the Bay Area, beginning no later than July 1, 2020. The Bay Area is defined as the following nine counties: Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano, and Sonoma. Applicants will be asked for proof of residence if invited to the full application stage.

Bay Area Fellows can work in any artistic discipline, including arts professionals and all writing disciplines.

We welcome artists at all stages of their careers, but preference will be given to mid-career and established artists.

Please note that Headlands Center for the Arts is located in a National Park without significant public transportation. Successful Fellows must own a vehicle or otherwise be able to secure their own transportation to and from the Headlands campus on demand.

Selection Criteria

- Strength of artistic work, pushing the boundaries of the discipline.
- At a pivotal moment in their practice.
- Capacity and desire to envision and collaborate with Headlands on the development of an impactful Fellowship year.