



2021-23 Bay Area Fellow Torrey Cummings' *Barbary Coast Keelhaul*. Photo by Minoosh Zomorodinia.

Program Details: Bay Area Fellowship

The Bay Area Fellowship Program represents a radical departure from Headlands' traditional modes of working with artists. The Bay Area Fellowship 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 three 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 to support additional needs such as professional development, travel, or other needs.

Find application links at [Headlands.org/programs](https://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).
 - Additional available resources, such as studio space, convening space, staff time and expertise, and/or other resources as available on a per-project basis.
- One optional 6-8 week residency during a Headlands Artists in Residence session including use of a private bedroom in a shared house, five chef-prepared meals per week, and other benefits.

Application And Fellowship Period

Dates:

- March 15, 2024: Applications due.
- May 2024: Finalist interviews
- June 2024: Applicants notified of acceptance
- January 2025: Cohort begins

The first year of the Fellowship is from January 2025–January 2026, with expectation to renew for a second year (January 2026–January 2027) and a third year (January 2027–January 2028) by mutual agreement between Headlands and the Bay Area Fellow.

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 Program staff. A limited number of applicants will advance to a finalist round.
- Finalists will be offered a \$1,000 stipend to present and discuss their work in an interview or studio visit format.
- Evaluators will select two Bay Area Fellows from the pool of finalists to begin Fellowships in January of 2025.

Summary of Expectations

- The Bay Area Fellowship is awarded for a duration of one year to begin, with renewal for two additional years by mutual agreement. Fellowships will occur in phases with initial visioning and design, mid-point check-ins, and annual review.
- The Bay Area Fellowship is a resource-based award, but not a residency program. Applicants should be residents of the Bay Area (see definition below) with access to reliable transportation, 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 one to two public engagements annually 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 March 15, 2023. 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 artists with a demonstrated track record of successful projects and the commitment necessary to collaborate with Headlands.

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 multi-year Fellowship.
- Artists not currently enrolled in an academic program.

What You Need to Apply

Please note that all applications and work samples must be submitted in or translated to English. Artist collaboratives should apply together by submitting a single application per group, specifying the number of individuals on the application form. A full application includes the following:

- Resume or curriculum vitae.
- Artist Statement / Bio.
- Questions for Reflection
 - **Audience and Community**
Describe in your own words the audience for your art, and your community as an artist. Do you see these as different? If so, how do these groups intersect? (maximum 250 words)
 - **Vision and Impact**
The Bay Area Fellowship 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. Explain how this collaborative format and the resources available through the Fellowship might be used to advance your practice. Address what you feel is pivotal in your work at this time. You can use general terms, or focus on a specific project, either proposed or in progress. (maximum 500 words)
- Documentation
Please select from the following list materials appropriate to your practice. The category headings are guidelines; please submit whatever type of materials best represent your work.



- **Visual** (painting, printmaking, photography, sculpture, installation, conceptual)
Applicants may submit up to 12 work samples, which can be a combination of images, video, or audio files (maximum of 30 minutes of video and audio). Submission of an image list with title, date, size, media, and, where applicable, conceptual intent, is optional.
- **Writing**
Submit up to 20 pages of poetry, 30 pages of prose or one to two full-length plays/scripts.
- **Time-Based Media** (audio, video, performance documentation)
Submit up to 20 minutes of material total. You may upload files (under the posted size limits), link to streaming files (e.g. vimeo, SoundCloud), or submit a list of links as a PDF. Remember to include passwords for protected material, and we suggest including cue points if the file exceeds the time limit (or better, create excerpts and/or a compilation reel).

FAQ

Do Bay Area Fellows get a studio at the Headlands for the duration of the three year fellowship?

Bay Area Fellows will have the option to participate in one 6–8 week residency during a Headlands Artists in Residence session, with options to participate in either the spring, summer, or fall. In addition to this, studio space may be available depending on availability during the Artist in Residence offseason, usually November–March.

What kinds of commitments and deliverables would be expected of me as a Fellow?

We understand that the needs of artists will vary throughout the year, and engagement with Headlands staff and community will reflect such. Overall Bay Area Fellows can expect monthly check-in meeting with staff, quarterly cohort socials, the opportunity to participate in Headlands Open Houses which are held three times a year (spring, summer, and fall), invitations to engage with members and donors, plus invitations to attend other Headlands events and programming for other artists in the community.

What kinds of resources and support will I have access to throughout the fellowship period?

Bay Area Fellows can expect a variety of resources and support that includes studio space throughout the year (dependent on availability), convening space, Headlands staff time and expertise such as project management, program production assistance, networking opportunities, and/or other resources as available on a per-project basis.

What if I move out of the Bay Area during the 3 year fellowship period either permanently or for temporary on-site residencies elsewhere?

Contracts are renewed annually and at that point Headlands staff would be happy to discuss any major life changes and re-determine eligibility for the upcoming year.

How is the stipend paid out and do I have to pay taxes on my stipend payments?

Bay Area Fellows receive their annual stipend and reimbursement for taxes and health care over the course of twelve monthly payments.

Does Headlands cover the cost of transportation to travel to onsite?

Unless agreed upon before, and on special occasions, artists are responsible for transportation to and from Headlands.