

2025 SPARK AWARD FOR OREGON ARTISTS: INFO SESSION TRANSCRIPTION

Recorded in May 2025

WEBVTT

1

00:00:02.740 --> 00:00:09.580

Yaelle Amir: Hello, everyone! Welcome to the 2025 spark award info session.

2

00:00:10.242 --> 00:00:19.509

Yaelle Amir: The transcription of the session is available on our website@millerfound.org/spark and closed captioning is available on Youtube.

3

00:00:26.370 --> 00:00:42.860

Jennifer Allen: Hi, everyone! I'm Jennifer Allen. I'm director of responsive grant making here at the Miller Foundation. I use she/her pronouns. I'm a white woman with medium length, brownish blonde hair. I'm wearing a white dress and blue sweater, and I'm sitting in an office with a blurred background.

4

00:00:43.930 --> 00:00:58.560

Yaelle Amir: And I am Yaelle Amir. I use she/her pronouns. I'm a program associate at the Miller Foundation. I am a white presenting female of Middle Eastern origin. I have long brown hair with short bangs. I'm wearing a

5

00:00:58.670 --> 00:01:05.629

Yaelle Amir: brown tank top, and I'm sitting in a blurred office with a photograph visible in the background.

6

00:01:06.480 --> 00:01:08.809

Yaelle Amir: You can reach us at any time

7

00:01:08.970 --> 00:01:19.099

Yaelle Amir: at artists@millerfound.org with any questions you might have about the spark award program. But we will get started with our info session.

8

00:01:22.090 --> 00:01:39.880

2025 SPARK AWARD FOR OREGON ARTISTS: INFO SESSION TRANSCRIPTION

Recorded in May 2025

Yaelle Amir: So today we're pleased to be talking about the 2025 cycle of the Spark Award. The Miller Foundation created this program to provide direct support to individual working artists in Oregon. This is the second year within a 3 year Pilot program, during which the foundation expects to

9

00:01:40.100 --> 00:02:06.379

Yaelle Amir: support 60 individual Oregon mid-career artists in total, which comes out to 20 per year across artistic disciplines. Last year, in 2024 we supported 20 individual performing artists this year. In 2025, we plan to support 20 literary and media artists, and next year, in 2026. We plan to grant 20 awards to visual artists living and working in Oregon.

10

00:02:06.860 --> 00:02:18.569

Yaelle Amir: This program will award each selected artist a flexible grant of \$25,000 to support their overall creative development rather than the making of a specific project.

11

00:02:18.940 --> 00:02:29.280

Yaelle Amir: We see this program as an important investment in both artists and the communities throughout our State who will continue to benefit through engaging with these artists work into the future.

12

00:02:30.060 --> 00:02:47.379

Yaelle Amir: In this info session we're going to go over who this grant is intended for, how the applications will be evaluated, what materials applicants will need in order to apply tips on how to make the application stronger and different ways that we're here to help you through this process.

13

00:02:50.300 --> 00:02:58.519

Jennifer Allen: So the way we structured the spark award takes into account a whole variety of needs that working artists might have in pursuing their creative and career development

14

00:02:58.620 --> 00:03:24.559

Jennifer Allen: from the creation of an art object or performance to covering living expenses that allow them to follow through with professional arts opportunities. Because of this. This award is intended to provide a flexible source of funding to support an artist's overall

2025 SPARK AWARD FOR OREGON ARTISTS: INFO SESSION TRANSCRIPTION

Recorded in May 2025

creative development rather than a specific project. It's intended to be catalytic. The funds may be used to support any activities that will remove barriers to creative development and to sustain an artist's practice into the future.

15

00:03:25.010 --> 00:03:33.240

Jennifer Allen: It's our intent that it will provide artists with time to explore, reflect, connect, or create work at a particularly important moment in their artistic development.

16

00:03:33.570 --> 00:03:50.600

Jennifer Allen: Some artists use the funds for living expenses, housing, utilities, food, transportation, childcare or health care, for example, others might choose to cover the cost of studio space, travel, materials and equipment or development of their skills as a teaching artist or even professional services.

17

00:03:50.950 --> 00:03:59.919

Jennifer Allen: There are only 2 types of expenses that the spark award funds can't support. That 1st is tuition toward a college degree program, creative or non-creative.

18

00:04:00.050 --> 00:04:15.589

Jennifer Allen: and the second is compensation for work. An artist is doing as an employee of an arts nonprofit organization. This is so that organizations who receive funding from the Miller Foundation to support their staff and operations aren't also receiving duplicate support through the spark award.

19

00:04:21.240 --> 00:04:45.250

Yaelle Amir: We're now going to go over some key dates of the spark program this year. So as of April 23rd 2025 guidelines to the spark award are available on our website, millerfound.org/spark, as of May 14th. The application is open in our grants. Portal for literary and media artists you're welcome to apply.

20

00:04:45.480 --> 00:05:06.469

Yaelle Amir: We'll be offering a few support programs this year. To help applicants through the application in 5 different dates in June. We're going to be offering the one on one spark support which are individual

2025 SPARK AWARD FOR OREGON ARTISTS: INFO SESSION TRANSCRIPTION

Recorded in May 2025

meetings. And on June 25th in the afternoon we're going to host, a virtual open support session.

21

00:05:06.650 --> 00:05:19.430

Yaelle Amir: We'll talk more specifically about these programs later. In this presentation. Most important, the application deadline is on July second by 5 Pm. Oregon time.

22

00:05:19.650 --> 00:05:24.589

Yaelle Amir: So please make note of this date, since we cannot accept late applications.

23

00:05:25.000 --> 00:05:35.049

Yaelle Amir: the review period of the applications is going to take place between July and November, and award announcements will be made by mid November 2025,

24

00:05:35.410 --> 00:05:56.220

Yaelle Amir: for those awarded. The Spark award about a year after the awards are announced. They're going to be asked to provide a narrative report, and this will be there in written form, or through an interview with Jennifer or I, describing how the Spark award funding has supported their creative development and or advanced their artistic career to date.

25

00:05:56.420 --> 00:06:08.109

Yaelle Amir: We don't require the creation or presentation of new artistic work as a result of these funds. And next, we're going to talk more about the disciplinary focus and eligibility.

26

00:06:10.140 --> 00:06:24.409

Jennifer Allen: So each year of the pilot program supports working artists in a particular set of disciplines. In 2024, as we mentioned, we supported 20 performing artists in the disciplines of dance, music, theater, and interdisciplinary performance practices.

27

00:06:24.490 --> 00:06:44.319

Jennifer Allen: This year. We will support 20 individual mid-career artists working in literary and media arts as defined in this slide. So

2025 SPARK AWARD FOR OREGON ARTISTS: INFO SESSION TRANSCRIPTION

Recorded in May 2025

you'll see a list of disciplines here, including interdisciplinary for each category, literary and media. Just a note 2026 is the year when we will fund artists working in the visual arts.

28

00:06:51.882 --> 00:06:55.319

Yaelle Amir: So we have also.

29

00:06:55.430 --> 00:07:23.440

Yaelle Amir: interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary artists are welcome to apply, and they can apply in the year where they think that they would be most competitive, based on the primary discipline that's represented in their practice. Keep in mind that your application will be assigned to expert panelists based on the primary discipline category that you select. So in the application process, applicants will be asked to select their primary discipline and up to 2 subdiscipline categories.

30

00:07:23.550 --> 00:07:39.080

Yaelle Amir: and provide a short discipline description that summarizes their practice. If you have any questions on whether your work is eligible or which year you should apply. Please reach out to us at the email that appears on the screen. artists@millerfound.org.

31

00:07:41.710 --> 00:08:07.169

Yaelle Amir: So who does this program aim to support this program is intended to sustain Oregon working artists who are entering or are at a mid-career stage. Applicants should be 30 years or older and able to demonstrate at least 7 years, not including schooling, of a sustained art practice in their chosen disciplines with likely future contributions to the field.

32

00:08:07.170 --> 00:08:13.560

Yaelle Amir: meaning some of the work you've done to date has received some recognition, and some of your best work is still ahead of you.

33

00:08:13.970 --> 00:08:29.560

Yaelle Amir: We define a working artist as someone with an individual artistic practice that is current and ongoing, who regularly and actively shares their work with public audiences. You don't need to have a college degree, art or otherwise. In order to apply for this program.

2025 SPARK AWARD FOR OREGON ARTISTS: INFO SESSION TRANSCRIPTION

Recorded in May 2025

34

00:08:29.730 --> 00:08:43.290

Yaelle Amir: this funding is intended to be catalytic, to support artists during a crucial phase of their creative development and help address a range of barriers that might get in the way of sustaining and advancing their practice beyond its current stage.

35

00:08:43.929 --> 00:09:00.680

Yaelle Amir: This program is not focused on supporting artists who are in an emerging or an advanced stage of their careers. The foundation is defining advance as a well established artist who has experienced significant regional and national recognition and achievements over an extended period.

36

00:09:01.560 --> 00:09:21.819

Yaelle Amir: This program accepts applications from individual artists rather than artistic teams. While we recognize that a lot of creative practices are collaborative. If you work within a team, you will be asked to be able to represent your ongoing individual and original work in your spark application, narrative and work samples.

37

00:09:22.030 --> 00:09:31.140

Yaelle Amir: And again, if you have any questions about your eligibility, please contact us in advance of starting your application at artists@millerfound.org.

38

00:09:33.870 --> 00:09:40.760

Jennifer Allen: All right. So who should apply for the spark award to be eligible for the spark? Award applicants should meet the following criteria.

39

00:09:41.000 --> 00:09:48.610

Jennifer Allen: you should be 30 years or older, as of December 31, st 2025. We aren't able to make exceptions to this.

40

00:09:48.910 --> 00:10:01.260

Jennifer Allen: You should be a resident in the State of Oregon, and have been so continuously for the last 5 years. So since 2020, or earlier, and

at the time of application, and you should anticipate staying in residence in Oregon for the next year.

41

00:10:01.380 --> 00:10:12.240

Jennifer Allen: This includes enrolled members of tribal communities situated in the State, and a resident of Oregon is defined here as a person who would be required to file a resident Oregon income tax return.

42

00:10:13.150 --> 00:10:20.660

Jennifer Allen: You should also be able to demonstrate 7 years or more of active artistic practice in your primary discipline, not including schooling.

43

00:10:21.050 --> 00:10:34.869

Jennifer Allen: The Miller Foundation defines an active artistic practice as presenting your work to the public on a regular basis. This could be through readings, distribution, public screenings, exhibitions, residencies, talks, or other events.

44

00:10:35.750 --> 00:10:47.289

Jennifer Allen: You should be at a mid-career stage of your professional practice, defined here as an artist able to demonstrate a sustained artistic practice of 7 years in your discipline with likely future contributions to the field.

45

00:10:48.010 --> 00:10:55.679

Jennifer Allen: Again, to reiterate this program is not focused on supporting artists who are in an emerging stage, nor those who are in an advanced stage of their career.

46

00:10:56.360 --> 00:11:08.069

Jennifer Allen: An ongoing practice involves creating new original work rather than interpreting, translating, arranging, reviving, remounting, or copying the work of others, or previously existing material.

47

00:11:08.930 --> 00:11:19.349

2025 SPARK AWARD FOR OREGON ARTISTS: INFO SESSION TRANSCRIPTION

Recorded in May 2025

Jennifer Allen: You should not be a former recipient of a spark award or 1st year cohort. And you shouldn't be a family member of an employee or board member of the Miller Foundation or its namesakes.

48

00:11:24.110 --> 00:11:34.119

Yaelle Amir: Since this is a competitive opportunity, we set the minimum benchmarks for how the Sparc Award program defines mid-career in each of this year's eligible disciplines.

49

00:11:34.230 --> 00:11:59.040

Yaelle Amir: Mid-career literary artists are defined in this program as writers who have published multiple completed works over the last 7 years or more in publications with a competitive selection and editorial process. This includes one or more of the following, in this list, below, a novel or novella, or at least 5 different short stories, excerpts from novels or memories.

50

00:11:59.040 --> 00:12:05.040

Yaelle Amir: or creative essays, or any combination thereof, in 2 or more publications.

51

00:12:05.040 --> 00:12:09.140

Yaelle Amir: or a volume of short fiction, or a collection of short stories.

52

00:12:09.180 --> 00:12:19.280

Yaelle Amir: or a volume of creative nonfiction, or a volume of poetry, or 20 or more different poems or pages of poetry. In 2 or more publications

53

00:12:19.990 --> 00:12:25.440

Yaelle Amir: for online publications. A page of poetry is considered to be 20 lines or less

54

00:12:25.630 --> 00:12:39.029

Yaelle Amir: self-published authors, or those who do not go through a critical publishing review process are welcome to apply, and would need

2025 SPARK AWARD FOR OREGON ARTISTS: INFO SESSION TRANSCRIPTION

Recorded in May 2025

to demonstrate significant, sustained reader engagement with their work. Throughout the application.

55

00:12:40.940 --> 00:13:01.520

Yaelle Amir: Eligible literary artists are creating new original works of fiction, creative nonfiction, poetry, and or graphic novels. If you are applying as a graphic novelist, you must also be the author of the novel and interdisciplinary artists whose work include literary arts as the primary form of expression.

56

00:13:01.570 --> 00:13:23.490

Yaelle Amir: On this slide you will see some examples of ineligible forms of literary arts, and that includes art, criticism, journalism, authors of scholarly academic work, editors, publishers, technical writers, AI generated work, work that's interpreting, translating, arranging, or copying the work of others, or previously existing material

57

00:13:23.490 --> 00:13:34.109

Yaelle Amir: playwrights, since they were eligible in the 2024 performing Arts, cycle and screenwriters, though they are eligible to apply this year. But it's under the media category.

58

00:13:34.490 --> 00:13:43.799

Yaelle Amir: If your practice doesn't fall within the genres that are listed above, please contact us at artists@millerfound.org to determine your eligibility

59

00:13:45.750 --> 00:14:06.410

Yaelle Amir: for media applicants. This grant program defines mid-career artists as those who have presented multiple completed media projects over the last 7 years or more through screening and or distribution on platforms or by establishments with a competitive selection process. This includes one or more of the following

60

00:14:07.020 --> 00:14:23.939

Yaelle Amir: one feature length film that's over 40 min or 3 short films that are under 40 min, or one series of episodic video TV series, Web series, digital series, etc. Or one series of episodic narrative audio.

2025 SPARK AWARD FOR OREGON ARTISTS: INFO SESSION TRANSCRIPTION

Recorded in May 2025

61

00:14:24.140 --> 00:14:35.970

Yaelle Amir: Media artists who self present their work outside of platforms with a competitive selection process, must be able to demonstrate significant, sustained viewer or listener engagement with their work. Throughout the application.

62

00:14:37.570 --> 00:15:06.300

Yaelle Amir: Eligible media arts are creating new original works of animation, experimental narrative, and documentary video or audio and interdisciplinary artists, whose work includes media arts as the primary form of expression. Some examples of ineligible forms of media include work that's designed for promotional or commercial purposes, producers, actors, cinematographers, etc. Who are not also writers or directors of the work

63

00:15:06.430 --> 00:15:14.010

Yaelle Amir: work that is, interpreting, translating, arranging, reviving, remounting, or copying the work of others or previously existing materials.

64

00:15:14.140 --> 00:15:25.429

Yaelle Amir: technology arts, including Xr games, digital art data and web art. Those artists will be eligible to apply in the 2026 award cycle

65

00:15:25.500 --> 00:15:44.210

Yaelle Amir: media artists who make work primarily for an installation context, they will also be eligible to apply in 2026 and journalistic content. And again, if your practice doesn't fall within the genres that are listed here. Please contact us at artists@millerfound.org to determine your eligibility.

66

00:15:45.690 --> 00:15:57.370

Yaelle Amir: Finally, if you're an artist who works across disciplines, but your output is rooted in media and or literary arts as the primary form of expression. You are welcome to apply as an interdisciplinary artist.

67

00:15:57.370 --> 00:16:18.660

Yaelle Amir: a mid-career interdisciplinary media literary artist is defined in the spark program as an artist who has presented multiple completed bodies of work in a combination of the literary and media genres and forms that we just mentioned over the last 7 years or more via publications, platforms, or establishments with a competitive selection process.

68

00:16:18.800 --> 00:16:42.590

Yaelle Amir: The completed bodies of works must include one or more of the literary or media forms mentioned a minute ago. For example, an artist who has completed and presented one feature length, film, or 3 short films, etc. And or one novel, novella, or volume of poetry, and able to demonstrate additional publicly shared works in either discipline.

69

00:16:45.760 --> 00:16:58.669

Jennifer Allen: Alright. Let's talk about evaluation criteria following an initial screening for eligibility. Applications are reviewed by a panel of regional and national artists and arts, professionals. In the applicant selected discipline categories.

70

00:16:58.810 --> 00:17:20.060

Jennifer Allen: When evaluating the applications, panelists will consider these 4 criteria. First, originality. Artists work demonstrates a distinctive vision and voice communicates unique perspectives. That's what will be evaluated and the documents that are most important in assessing this are the artist statement and the work samples you upload or link to

71

00:17:20.339 --> 00:17:32.909

Jennifer Allen: second is skill. The artist demonstrates strong technical skills and craft in the execution of their work, and shows an ongoing commitment to working in this form, and the panelists will largely use your work samples

72

00:17:33.340 --> 00:17:34.840

Jennifer Allen: to evaluate this

73

00:17:35.100 --> 00:17:46.000

2025 SPARK AWARD FOR OREGON ARTISTS: INFO SESSION TRANSCRIPTION

Recorded in May 2025

Jennifer Allen: 3rd audience. Application demonstrates sustained audience engagement with applicants. Artistic work. This will again be work samples as well as the resume or CV that you upload

74

00:17:46.640 --> 00:17:48.940

Jennifer Allen: and last timing and potential

75

00:17:49.070 --> 00:18:12.399

Jennifer Allen: application provides compelling evidence that funding will have a significant impact on the artist's creative development at this point in their career and will support their artistic potential. This could be by removing barriers to sustaining and advancing the artist practice, or serving as a catalyst to a new stage of artistic development. And for this the panelists will reference your responses to narrative questions as well as your resume or Cv.

76

00:18:16.330 --> 00:18:34.650

Yaelle Amir: So after reading through our guidelines and website, you've determined this opportunity might be for you. That's great. The next step is to start an account in our artist grants Portal. That's linked on our website. If you just go to our homepage@millerfound.org in the upper right corner you will find a link to the Grants portal

77

00:18:34.850 --> 00:18:47.420

Yaelle Amir: as you work your way through the various steps of the application, helpful tips will pop up, depending on the answers that you provide. Please read those tips carefully to make sure that you're answering the question accurately.

78

00:18:47.550 --> 00:18:58.849

Yaelle Amir: The portal will auto save your work as you go, and the 1st step in your application process is to verify your eligibility by answering the following 8 questions.

79

00:18:59.290 --> 00:19:05.510

Yaelle Amir: one. Are you 30 years of age or older by December 31, st 2025,

80

2025 SPARK AWARD FOR OREGON ARTISTS: INFO SESSION TRANSCRIPTION

Recorded in May 2025

00:19:05.840 --> 00:19:13.529

Yaelle Amir: 2. Are you an artist currently creating original literary or media art that align with this year's eligible genres?

81

00:19:14.000 --> 00:19:22.589

Yaelle Amir: 3. Have you been a resident of Oregon continuously for the last 5 or more years? And do you anticipate remaining a resident for the next year

82

00:19:22.990 --> 00:19:23.870

Yaelle Amir: at least?

83

00:19:24.450 --> 00:19:41.399

Yaelle Amir: Or are you currently enrolled in a creative degree program, or will you be within the next year? And this includes an associate degree, low residency, undergraduate or graduate degree. If you answer this yes to this question, you are not going to be eligible to apply for the spark award

84

00:19:42.030 --> 00:19:51.080

Yaelle Amir: question. Number 5 is, have you previously received the spark award from the Miller Foundation? If you answer yes to this question, you are also not eligible to apply.

85

00:19:52.770 --> 00:20:05.470

Yaelle Amir: Question 6 will ask you to verify that your resume and Cv. And work samples demonstrate that you're a mid career artist, as defined by the criteria that we just went through a few minutes ago and appears again here on this slide.

86

00:20:05.470 --> 00:20:27.690

Yaelle Amir: And this is questions A, BC and D, I'll read through the questions, but I won't go through the specific criteria again. A is, have you been a practicing artist for 7 or more years, not including schooling, consistently creating and publicly distributing work in your chosen artistic disciplines.

87

00:20:27.960 --> 00:20:32.160

Yaelle Amir: and have a practice that involves creating new original work.

88

00:20:32.470 --> 00:20:51.380

Yaelle Amir: and have been actively presenting and or distributing your projects to audiences on a regular basis and depending on. If you're applying as a literary media or interdisciplinary artist, you need to verify that you meet the benchmarks that assess your career stage.

89

00:20:51.860 --> 00:20:54.800

Yaelle Amir: and these are the ones that we just went through.

90

00:20:57.140 --> 00:21:10.730

Yaelle Amir: These show the media and interdisciplinary. And we forgot to mention this in the beginning. But all this information appears in the guidelines that are available on our website. You can read through this information. There.

91

00:21:13.850 --> 00:21:21.589

Jennifer Allen: So the next question is a question that probably won't apply to the majority of applicants, but is important to get clear on

92

00:21:21.710 --> 00:21:37.830

Jennifer Allen: question number 7 on the eligibility. Quiz is, Are you an artist who's currently an employee of an Oregon nonprofit that has an arts-based mission excluding short-term contract work and employees of higher Ed, which Miller Foundation does not fund higher education institutions.

93

00:21:38.020 --> 00:21:41.179

Jennifer Allen: If you answer yes to this question, you'll be asked to follow up.

94

00:21:41.290 --> 00:21:48.480

Jennifer Allen: and this is, it is the majority of your individual artistic practice, independent of the work of the organization that employs you.

2025 SPARK AWARD FOR OREGON ARTISTS: INFO SESSION TRANSCRIPTION

Recorded in May 2025

95

00:21:48.670 --> 00:22:00.549

Jennifer Allen: We asked this question because, as we said earlier. It's important that the spark award supports artists who have an individual artistic practice that's separate from any work they would do for their employer.

96

00:22:00.690 --> 00:22:13.280

Jennifer Allen: The purpose of that is so to not sort of essentially double dip that Miller Foundation funds organizations. We wouldn't want to fund that same work by the same artist twice by providing an individual spark award who was doing that work.

97

00:22:13.620 --> 00:22:27.889

Jennifer Allen: And then the final question of the eligibility quiz is, Are you a family member of an employee or board member of the Miller Foundation or the Foundation's Namesakes, and we define family member as a spouse, domestic partner, parent, child, or sibling.

98

00:22:28.640 --> 00:22:38.399

Jennifer Allen: Once you've completed the quiz, and it's determined that you are eligible to apply for the spark. Award. A continue button will appear and take you to the next page, where you can begin filling out the application.

99

00:22:40.940 --> 00:22:49.050

Yaelle Amir: So before we move into reviewing the different parts of the application, we wanted to mention a few General Grant writing recommendations.

100

00:22:49.440 --> 00:23:11.769

Yaelle Amir: and so we have put great care into creating a program that is as accessible and simple to navigate as we could. So please read the guidelines carefully to understand if this opportunity is the appropriate one for you, we wouldn't want to have you spend a lot of time on the application, and then in the end determine that it wasn't a right fit.

101

00:23:11.930 --> 00:23:27.480

Yaelle Amir: If the written format is a barrier to applying for this award, we do recommend using dictation software that's available on most devices and platforms in our guidelines. Document, there are options linked to some recommended software.

102

00:23:27.910 --> 00:23:38.389

Yaelle Amir: Please don't wait until the last minute to start your application. Rush answers will come across as rushed, meaning that they'll be unclear and appear less considered.

103

00:23:38.580 --> 00:23:56.679

Yaelle Amir: Try to write clear and concise answers that address all relevant aspects of the question. Consider avoiding things like art, speak exaggerations, flowery statements, generalized language, focus instead on expressing yourself in a direct and simple manner.

104

00:23:57.260 --> 00:24:08.049

Yaelle Amir: Next, don't assume the reviewers of the application are familiar with you or your work provide as much context and basic information as possible where appropriate

105

00:24:08.720 --> 00:24:19.629

Yaelle Amir: and ask someone to read through your application draft to make sure that you've gotten your ideas across clearly and effectively. Try to avoid typos, spelling mistakes or grammatical errors

106

00:24:20.230 --> 00:24:44.509

Yaelle Amir: and check that your website and hosted links are active and in working order before submitting the application. If your website is outdated and you haven't been able to get to putting up updates. That's okay. But consider, maybe not sharing that link on your application. It isn't required. We don't need it. If it's not serving your application and representing the breadth of your practice.

107

00:24:45.680 --> 00:25:04.510

Yaelle Amir: make sure to visit our website. We have more tips and resources on how to best respond to the application questions. You can find this list along with other tips on our news and blog section that's linked via the foundation menu that appears in the top right corner of our homepage@millerfound.org.

2025 SPARK AWARD FOR OREGON ARTISTS: INFO SESSION TRANSCRIPTION

Recorded in May 2025

108

00:25:07.440 --> 00:25:25.680

Jennifer Allen: So once applicants have filled out basic details about themselves, they'll be asked to select their primary discipline category and one subdiscipline category. They'll have an option to select an additional subcategory. The categories you'll choose from are media, literary or interdisciplinary, literary or media?

109

00:25:26.030 --> 00:25:39.870

Jennifer Allen: Keep in mind that your application will be assigned to expert review panels based on the primary discipline and sub-discipline categories you select, choose carefully and consider what expertise you ideally would like reviewers to have when reading your application.

110

00:25:40.490 --> 00:25:47.320

Jennifer Allen: you'll then be asked to provide a short discipline description of your artistic practice. So 100 characters, or less very brief.

111

00:25:47.610 --> 00:25:54.189

Jennifer Allen: This gives us more information about the specific focus of your practice and helps us assign your application to the right panel.

112

00:25:54.820 --> 00:26:05.119

Jennifer Allen: begin the description with 'I am a...' and then include your genre and main role or creative activity as succinctly as possible. This helps us with panel placement.

113

00:26:05.740 --> 00:26:22.779

Jennifer Allen: There are several examples that we put in the guidelines. And in the dedicated blog post on our website that can help you complete the section accurately. So make sure to take advantage of those resources you can just navigate to the news blog section from the foundation menu on our website to locate it.

114

00:26:25.330 --> 00:26:31.710

Jennifer Allen: Once you've completed this basic information, you'll move on to the application questions and upload additional materials.

115

00:26:31.990 --> 00:26:43.960

Jennifer Allen: The 1st question that we ask is a bio. So tell us a bit about yourself where you grew up. What led you to become an artist, or any other information that might not be included in other parts of your application, such as your resume.

116

00:26:44.310 --> 00:26:49.629

Jennifer Allen: The artist's bio is a short text where you provide biographical information about yourself. As an artist.

117

00:26:50.420 --> 00:27:05.759

Jennifer Allen: you can include where you went to school. If that's relevant any accomplishments and other biographical information that's relevant to your artistic career. There are a number of tips and examples in our blog post at our website in the News Blog section.

118

00:27:07.790 --> 00:27:32.769

Yaelle Amir: Generally Bios are a factual paragraph or 2 about you as an artist, while artist statements are about the ideas, concepts, and techniques of your practice. So next, you're going to be asked in the application to provide an artist statement. And what we ask is that you tell us your journey as an artist, your original artistic practice, and how it has developed over time. You can include information about your influences, process

119

00:27:32.770 --> 00:27:39.979

Yaelle Amir: values, emphasis, main interests, and others. And then what are your current investigations or curiosities?

120

00:27:41.380 --> 00:27:50.100

Yaelle Amir: The artist statement is distinctly different than the artist's biography. It really focuses on the how's and whys of your creative practice.

121

00:27:50.100 --> 00:28:15.059

Yaelle Amir: If you're starting your artist statement from scratch, you can ask a friend to interview you, asking you questions about your

practice, or use another method that might work for you some questions that you might consider as you're crafting. Your artist statement is, what disciplines do you work in, what themes and concepts. Are you interested in exploring in your practice? What's your process for creating new work? Who or what has influenced you?

122

00:28:15.060 --> 00:28:28.809

Yaelle Amir: Like the genre tradition, the method. How has your practice evolved over time? What's important to you in making your work, what you're responding to with your work and what you're currently curious about and where you might be headed with your work.

123

00:28:31.410 --> 00:28:32.390

Yaelle Amir: See?

124

00:28:34.130 --> 00:28:40.309

Yaelle Amir: Once you've answered the narrative questions you're going to be asked to provide oops. Sorry did I skip over?

125

00:28:44.140 --> 00:28:45.100

Yaelle Amir: There we go.

126

00:28:49.880 --> 00:29:08.329

Jennifer Allen: All right. So the next question that we'll ask is about the impact the award might have on your creative development. How would this funding, provide momentum for your creative development at this particular stage and moment in your artistic career. How might it help address barriers, or enhance your ability to sustain and advance your practice in the future.

127

00:29:08.700 --> 00:29:32.230

Jennifer Allen: Just a reminder. This funding is intended to support you as an artist. It can be used to support any activities that sustain your artistic practice, including, as we mentioned, earlier, living costs, such as rent, healthcare, childcare or trainings, materials, equipment, research costs any of those things, and it doesn't have to be dedicated to just one thing, it can be spread across a number of those different categories.

2025 SPARK AWARD FOR OREGON ARTISTS: INFO SESSION TRANSCRIPTION

Recorded in May 2025

128

00:29:32.790 --> 00:29:50.970

Jennifer Allen: It also doesn't. This funding also does not need to be used in support of a specific project, though it's important for your answer to address this question and describe how it can serve as a catalyst to advancing your creative development and artistic career. It doesn't have to reference a specific work that you are focused on.

129

00:29:51.890 --> 00:30:09.470

Jennifer Allen: The last question is about audience. The spark award aims to support artists who directly engage audiences. So tell us about the specific audiences you reached with your work. Examples could include screenings, readings, online distribution or otherwise and other programs.

130

00:30:09.700 --> 00:30:17.500

Jennifer Allen: This is differentiated from self presented or passive distribution, where you might have had minimal reader, viewer or listener engagement.

131

00:30:20.750 --> 00:30:45.729

Yaelle Amir: So now, once you've answered the narrative questions, you're going to be asked to provide additional materials. The 1st thing is a resume or Cv. We ask for that in a Pdf. Format only 5 pages maximum and as much simple formatting as you can do. The resume is used here actually as a tool that should help tell the story of the evolution of your artistic

132

00:30:45.730 --> 00:30:58.480

Yaelle Amir: to date, it'll carefully be reviewed to fully assess your eligibility, your career stage and your commitment to your discipline audiences, and what might the potential of your future career be

133

00:30:58.480 --> 00:31:15.479

Yaelle Amir: as such? This is a document that really should provide a comprehensive overview of any background and professional experience that's related to your current original artistic practice. Reviewers will be especially looking for the production and presentation of original work.

134

2025 SPARK AWARD FOR OREGON ARTISTS: INFO SESSION TRANSCRIPTION

Recorded in May 2025

00:31:17.460 --> 00:31:42.219

Yaelle Amir: Here are some general recommendations for putting together your resume or Cv. We have more information on what, in addition to this, of what to include in the specific discipline and how to organize the document on a dedicated blog post on our website. But I will give you a little summary here, depending on your discipline. The Cv. Or resume could include an overview of past

135

00:31:42.220 --> 00:32:07.180

Yaelle Amir: and upcoming public talks, productions, screenings, readings, presentations, grants, award residencies, or other relevant activities. Please state the year in which the activity occurred very clearly. This is not the same as a resume that you submit for a job opportunity. This should be tailored to the specific opportunity.

136

00:32:07.180 --> 00:32:17.620

Yaelle Amir: In this case an application for a mid-career art award. So please include relevant information that expands the reviewers. Understanding of your professional art career

137

00:32:17.880 --> 00:32:30.179

Yaelle Amir: don't include general employment, history, or other information unless it is relevant to your artistic practice. Please don't list trainings, awards, and accomplishments that happened before you turned 18.

138

00:32:30.810 --> 00:32:40.909

Yaelle Amir: The formatting should be simple and not overly designed. So it's easy to read, and the information should be accurate, current and free of technical and factual errors.

139

00:32:45.390 --> 00:33:01.440

Yaelle Amir: The work samples you submit, which is the last thing we ask for in this application are the most important part of your application. We are asking as part of the spark award that you submit 3 samples from 3 different bodies of work.

140

00:33:03.387 --> 00:33:19.679

2025 SPARK AWARD FOR OREGON ARTISTS: INFO SESSION TRANSCRIPTION

Recorded in May 2025

Yaelle Amir: In the literary category 3 samples are the equivalent of 30 pages of prose or 15 pages of poetry. In the media category 3 samples are the equivalent of 15 min total of video or audio, or 30 pages of script

141

00:33:19.680 --> 00:33:36.899

Yaelle Amir: for screenwriters. And if you're submitting a combination of media and text, 3 samples equals either 20 pages total, and up to 5 min of video and audio or 10 pages, and up to 10 min of video and audio

142

00:33:37.560 --> 00:33:55.730

Yaelle Amir: each sample must represent a different body of work. The applicant must be the original artist for the samples, and 2 of the samples must be publicly shared or distributed works from the last made in the last decade, and the 3rd should be a recent or in progress work from the last 3 years.

143

00:33:58.510 --> 00:34:08.510

Yaelle Amir: Please include a description for each sample. The title year role cue points and brief one to 2 sentence context for the reviewers.

144

00:34:11.870 --> 00:34:16.039

Yaelle Amir: Let's see, making sure we have all the relevant information.

145

00:34:17.500 --> 00:34:29.980

Yaelle Amir: and then the application and guidelines detail the exact file specifications. We do have. A little brief summary on this slide. We prefer links, and

146

00:34:29.980 --> 00:34:51.310

Yaelle Amir: I cannot stress enough how important it is to provide passwords and to make the files accessible to anyone with a link. Unfortunately, we will not be able to verify that your links are accessible, and you should make them accessible through November 2025, when the review period is over. So the applicant is responsible for that.

147

00:34:55.380 --> 00:35:08.020

Jennifer Allen: But we do have some more information to share about the work samples. As Yael said, they are the most important part of your

application. So we really try to be as explicit as we can, so that you could submit the best and strongest application possible.

148

00:35:08.150 --> 00:35:15.190

Jennifer Allen: So to that end your samples should represent what you consider to be the best and most compelling original work you've made to date.

149

00:35:15.400 --> 00:35:30.380

Jennifer Allen: Make sure you choose samples that demonstrate your original work. So that should mean avoiding examples in which you're interpreting, translating, or performing the work of others. Make sure that the samples you provide. You have the rights to them.

150

00:35:30.710 --> 00:35:56.550

Jennifer Allen: and when choosing the cue points or excerpts from your work, consider what is the most engaging point or moment of the piece, bring the reviewers into the most compelling moment within the 1st seconds of viewing or reading. This isn't necessarily the start or end of a piece when excerpting a longer work. It's important that you provide contextual information in the work, sample description field. So reviewers understand what they're looking at or reading

151

00:35:56.780 --> 00:36:04.639

Jennifer Allen: unless you specify cue points or page numbers. Panelists will review the 1st 5 min of each video or audio sample in the 1st 10 pages of text.

152

00:36:05.880 --> 00:36:24.410

Jennifer Allen: Also make sure to submit high quality documentation. Make sure the audio is clear. The picture is stable and in focus, etc. Reviewers will most commonly be viewing your samples on personal computers, you might have a friend. Check your samples for the password issue that Yale mentioned as well.

153

00:36:24.840 --> 00:36:30.919

Jennifer Allen: so make sure to test them. You can do it yourself. But, as I said, having someone else test is a better way to do it.

2025 SPARK AWARD FOR OREGON ARTISTS: INFO SESSION TRANSCRIPTION

Recorded in May 2025

154

00:36:31.740 --> 00:36:39.240

Jennifer Allen: Y'all mentioned already that you should share passwords if you shared a Google folder or a Dropbox and make sure they're accessible.

155

00:36:39.914 --> 00:36:51.920

Jennifer Allen: Again, make sure you make use of that work sample description. So people understand what they're seeing. Don't paste links to more information in this space, though it's just to describe the work sample that you're providing

156

00:36:52.490 --> 00:37:04.260

Jennifer Allen: the work samples you provide should confirm and strengthen the story you're relaying about you as an artist in the application. They should relate directly to what you've discussed in your bio artist statement, narrative questions. And Cv.

157

00:37:04.570 --> 00:37:16.849

Jennifer Allen: if you're a multidisciplinary artist, we recommend, you only provide work samples within the eligible discipline categories you're applying for this year. There are more tips about this. And of course, other things on the blog on our website.

158

00:37:20.210 --> 00:37:39.019

Yaelle Amir: So once you've submitted all the required materials, you're all done, you click, submit, and download a copy of your application for your records. If you want, we unfortunately can't reopen the application once it's submitted, and we can't accept late applications. So work on that draft for as long as you need, and then click, submit.

159

00:37:39.150 --> 00:37:41.579

Yaelle Amir: By 5 pm. On July second.

160

00:37:42.060 --> 00:37:51.940

Yaelle Amir: we're really happy to be able to offer applicants different ways of support, to make sure that the application is as accessible as possible.

2025 SPARK AWARD FOR OREGON ARTISTS: INFO SESSION TRANSCRIPTION

Recorded in May 2025

161

00:37:51.940 --> 00:38:16.310

Yaelle Amir: The Miller Foundation is committed to making the application accessible. So please get in touch with us at artists@millerfound.org. If you need any translation, interpretation, or other assistance. In order to complete this application, please don't wait until the last moment to get in touch. We are a small team, and we would like to be helpful. But we need a little bit of lead time to be able to do that.

162

00:38:16.380 --> 00:38:19.999

Yaelle Amir: As we mentioned several times throughout this presentation

163

00:38:20.280 --> 00:38:25.848

Yaelle Amir: there is a page of frequently asked questions on our website where you can get

164

00:38:26.240 --> 00:38:43.609

Yaelle Amir: answers to a lot of questions that a lot of you have had around the application. There is several blog posts and tips and resources on getting your application materials ready, also linked on our website again through the foundation menu

165

00:38:43.610 --> 00:39:00.590

Yaelle Amir: option on our homepage. Then I mentioned this in the beginning, but on 5 different days in June we will be offering one-on-one spark support sessions at our 15 min meetings with prospective applicants via zoom or on the phone.

166

00:39:00.970 --> 00:39:25.240

Yaelle Amir: Please register in advance for those on our website. We can't do individual draft reviews during these, but we're happy to answer any specific questions that you might have. And please don't register for these sessions until you have reviewed the application and all the guidelines, and make sure that you understand that this award is for you.

167

00:39:25.240 --> 00:39:38.159

Yaelle Amir: If you have specifically eligibility questions. We recommend that you not sign up for these one-on-one spark support sessions, but instead, email us, and if appropriate, we will schedule a call to discuss your questions.

168

00:39:38.250 --> 00:39:44.129

Yaelle Amir: but the one on one spark support are intended to help with the actual application itself.

169

00:39:44.570 --> 00:40:11.079

Yaelle Amir: Then, on June 25th we're going to be hosting an open support session, which is a virtual 2 h work session. Jennifer and I will be available to support applicants throughout these 2 h by answering questions about the application, and we'll facilitate a shared virtual workspace. If you need that kind of space to get started or finish up your application and work together in community.

170

00:40:11.080 --> 00:40:17.390

Yaelle Amir: You can register for this through our website, but it is an open zoom session.

171

00:40:17.570 --> 00:40:19.970

Yaelle Amir: and the link will be available there.

172

00:40:25.500 --> 00:40:39.930

Jennifer Allen: So, as Yael has mentioned, and I have throughout the session, we are happy to answer your questions. Talk with you about the program definitely. It's great. If you have read the guidelines in advance, it's really important, so that we can make the most of any time we spend responding to you

173

00:40:39.990 --> 00:41:07.630

Jennifer Allen: for more information. You can always visit our website. You can also see, find information there about the cohort of spark Awardees from 2024 in the performing arts. Just a reminder. Please do not wait until the deadline day to get in touch. We won't be able to respond to requests other than technical issues. If you're having trouble submitting, but appreciate your time and listening today and are happy that you are interested in applying for the spark award.

174

00:41:09.760 --> 00:41:30.700

2025 SPARK AWARD FOR OREGON ARTISTS: INFO SESSION TRANSCRIPTION

Recorded in May 2025

Yaelle Amir: So if you have determined, after this long info session, that you are eligible, it's time to get started with your application. So head over to our artist grants portal to open an account. The link can be found right here on the top right corner of the Miller website, and the spark application is available via our grants portal. Only do not email us

175

00:41:30.700 --> 00:41:44.190

Yaelle Amir: a document of your application. You must submit it through the grants portal, and the application period is starting Wednesday, May 14th and the deadline again is July second by 5 Pm.

176

00:41:49.650 --> 00:42:03.299

Yaelle Amir: We're super excited to launch the second cycle of the spark award for Oregon artists this year for media and literary artists. We really look forward to hearing from you, and thank you so much for listening into the info session today.

177

00:42:03.790 --> 00:42:04.840

Jennifer Allen: Thanks. Everyone.