

Phoenix Office of Arts and Culture – 2026 Artists to Work Evaluation Criteria

Criterion		Application Question	Not Competitive - Poor	Fair - Good	Excellent - Outstanding	Points
Artistic Excellence (up to 30 points)	Artist Statement communicates the applicant’s artistic formation and evolution.	Artist Statement <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Identity- Background	Through the artist statement, the applicant highlights certain points or experiences, but overall, the statement lacks clarity and/or organization. (1 – 3 points)	Through the artist statement, for the most part, the applicant clearly and specifically describes their development and formation as an artist. (4 – 7 points)	Through the artist’s statement, the applicant reveals a deep understanding of their development as an artist; they are adept at sharing their artistic formation and their evolution over the years, however linear or non-linear. (8 – 10 points)	Maximum 10 points
	Work Samples reveal the quality of the applicant’s contribution to the field.	Work Samples	Work samples show no alignment with the artistic discipline. The work samples do not demonstrate the necessary skills, knowledge, and ability to successfully accomplish the proposed project. (1 – 6 points)	Not all of the work samples are aligned with the stated artistic discipline and artist statement. The work samples demonstrate adequate skills, knowledge, and ability to accomplish the proposed project. Artists describe their own work in the work samples, as well as that of any collaborators, by properly crediting them and describing their contributions. (7 – 14 points)	Work samples demonstrate strong alignment with artistic discipline and artist statement. The work samples demonstrate skills, knowledge, and ability to accomplish the proposed project. Work samples evoke strong interest and curiosity and are an exciting contribution to the field. Artists clearly describe their own work in the work samples, as well as that of any collaborators, by properly crediting them and accurately describing their contributions. (15 – 20 points)	Maximum 20 points.

Phoenix Office of Arts and Culture – 2026 Artists to Work Evaluation Criteria

Criterion		Application Question	Not Competitive - Poor	Fair - Good	Excellent - Outstanding	Points
Artistic Merit (up to 30 points)	Proposal successfully shows the artist’s ability to complete the project, based on alignment with applicant’s artistic practice and trajectory, clarity of explored themes or ideas, and awareness of components needed to complete the project.	<i>Project Proposal</i> 1. One-line project proposal synopsis (50 words) AND 2. Project Proposal Description	Project synopsis <i>and</i> proposal description are vague and/or not reflective of the applicant’s artistic practice. Proposal does not communicate scope, themes, and/or components of the project. (1 – 3 points)	Project synopsis and proposal description may be clear, but the project does not reflect the applicant’s artistic practice and trajectory. Proposal generally communicates the scope and nature of the project but does not include details concerning the themes or ideas the project hopes to engage or investigate or/nor does not include necessary components needed to carry out project. (4 – 7 points)	Project synopsis and description are specific and clear. The project proposal reflects the applicant’s artistic practice and trajectory. Proposal clearly communicates the scope and nature of the project, including details concerning the themes and ideas the project hopes to engage or investigate and any components the project needs to be carried out. (8 – 10 points)	Maximum 10 points
	Project plan thoughtfully and clearly includes all the steps and components necessary to deliver the proposed project.	<i>Project Plan</i>	The applicant does not provide a clear timeline of planning activities. There are no dates or milestones specified. The planning activities might not align with the project proposal. Necessary collaborators are not given acknowledgment. (1 – 3 points)	The applicant provides a generalized timeline that gets the point across but needs more detail. Planning activities oversimplify what it takes to successfully deliver the proposed project. Collaborators may be mentioned, but there is no specification whether they are confirmed*. *The fact that a collaborator is not confirmed, does not deduct points. (4 – 6 points)	The applicant provides a detailed and clear outline that includes all the steps and components needed to complete the project. The outline includes timeline and milestones and dates, collaborators (if any), and indicates if they are confirmed. Reviewers should be able to envision all the key steps it takes to deliver the proposed project. *The fact that a collaborator is not confirmed, does not deduct points. (7 – 10 points)	Maximum 10 points.

Phoenix Office of Arts and Culture – 2026 Artists to Work Evaluation Criteria

Criterion		Application Question	Not Competitive - Poor	Fair - Good	Excellent - Outstanding	Points
Artistic Merit continued (up to 30 points)	<i>Impact reveals applicant’s thoughtfulness, critical engagement with their own work, and is aligned with the applicant’s trajectory and goals.</i>	Impact	The applicant does not demonstrate thoughtfulness regarding the potential impact of their proposed project. The response is vague. (1 point)	The applicant demonstrates some degree of thoughtfulness and specificity regarding the potential impact of their proposed project. The artist’s expressed hope shows some alignment with their expressed artistic goals. (2 – 3 points)	The applicant demonstrates thoughtfulness and critical engagement regarding the potential impact of their proposed project. The applicant’s expressed hope is specific, logical, and makes sense with their overall trajectory and goals. (4 – 5 points)	Maximum 5 points.
	<i>Budget reflects the activities and is clear and organized.</i>	Project Budget	The applicant will include a budget that is not balanced (\$0 surplus/deficit) and does not reflect the project activities. (1 point)	The applicant provides a balanced budget (\$0 surplus/deficit). The budget items need more detail and do not match the project outline/timeline. For example, a budget line item might say "artists fees = \$500", but it does not specify how many artists will be paid or how long the artists will be working. (2 – 3 points)	The applicant provides a balanced and detailed budget. The budget will include line items that match the project activities, timeline, and narrative. The budget will include details about how much is being spent on each item or how much each artist is paid per amount of time or activity. (4 – 5 points)	Maximum 5 points.