



EMERGING ARTIST COHORT 2022

Apply online at go.craftcouncil.org/ApplyEAC

SUMMARY

The American Craft Council's Emerging Artists Cohort is a three-month intensive program, followed by continued monthly support, that cultivates the next step for independent craft artists to advance their professional careers. The program will support 10 innovative artists new to their careers who expand craft boundaries and challenge us to new perspectives.

Through facilitated workshops, presentations, and conversations, participating artists will gain a deeper understanding of the professional skills and opportunities that will help them diversify income streams and thrive in their chosen careers. Participating artists will connect with established industry leaders from a variety of craft sectors including gallerists, curators, marketplace artists, exhibiting artists, social practice artists, designers, and more. After the three-month program is complete, all participating artists will receive a \$10,000 accelerator grant to help propel them to the next level of their profession. Once the 2022 intensive is complete, the 2022 cohort (EAC 2) will join artists from the 2021 cohort (EAC 1) for monthly check-in calls, quarterly workshops, and pathway calls.

Who should apply?

Recognizing there are many pathways to professional practice, ACC encourages a wide range of emerging artists exploring different livelihoods to apply and participate in this program. Livelihoods and practices might include retail, museum exhibitions, production work, cross-industry collaborations, and community-based practices. ACC prioritizes a diverse and equitable cohort, with an emphasis on communities that have traditionally lacked access to resources and support.

Additional requirements to participate include:

- 18+ years of age, residing in the United States, ability to accept US bank-drawn checks.
- Identify as an artist, maker, designer, craftsperson, and/or small-batch manufacturer who aspires to create a full-time creative practice or business.
- Willingness to complete the program in its entirety, including completing pre- and post-program surveys and final accelerator grant reports.
- The 12-week intensive requires attendance at weekly two-hour calls, weekly homework of no more than four hours, and a presentation of established goals and objectives.
- After the intensive, monthly two-hour check-in calls and quarterly workshops and pathway calls are optional to attend.

What kind of work or practice is a good fit for the cohort program?

- **We are interested in artists who produce handmade craft that reflects excellence and the unique vision of its maker or community and demonstrates interest in material and process.** ACC will not consider commercially manufactured work or painting and photographs.
- Traditional printmaking practices such as letterpress, intaglio, lithography, screen printing, relief printing, etc. are welcome.
- Small-studio production work made under the direct supervision of the applicant. Direct supervision requires that the artist oversees production work as it occurs and provides constant direction, feedback, and assistance.
- All work must be produced in the United States.

Emerging Artists Definition

Based on the guidelines of the [Jerome Foundation](#) (St. Paul, Minnesota), ACC embraces a broad definition that supports artists early in their careers, regardless of age, who create new work, and:

- Offer a distinct vision, authentic voice, and have a focused direction and goals
- Take risks and embrace challenges
- Show evidence of professional achievement but haven't yet established a solid reputation as an artist/maker/business within their field, the media, funding circles, or the public at large



PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

The Emerging Artist Cohort program focuses on supporting artists to develop the necessary skills to create and sustain a professional practice in craft. The curriculum will include workshops, conversations, coaching sessions, panel discussions, and peer-to-peer community support. ACC takes a holistic approach to creative thinking and entrepreneurship development.

What do cohort participants receive?

- A 12-week intensive program that provides support in the form of workshops, panel discussions, conversations, coaching sessions, and peer-to-peer support.
- Career-building educational resources and expert guidance and mentorship from industry leaders designed to drive career development.
- One of ten Business Accelerator Grants of unrestricted cash grants of \$10,000 each to be used toward a project that is developed and planned during the intensive.
- Community support platform via Slack.
- A one-year ACC membership that includes a subscription to *American Craft* magazine.
- Access to the ACC Library & Archives' digital resources.

APPLICATION PROCESS

ACC values clarity and transparency in our selection and invitation process. Ten artists/businesses will be selected to participate in the cohort from an application pool juried by Osa Atoe, Brian Fleetwood, Angelik Vizcarrondo-Laboy, and ACC staff.

Several factors will be taken into consideration for the selection process, including work samples, application answers, innovation, diversity of mediums, and backgrounds. Quality of work images will also factor into selection. ACC will make it a priority to create a diverse and equitable cohort.

There will be two phases of the application process, a general application submission followed by a virtual interview for invited applicants.

There is a \$10 administration fee for all applications. If you are experiencing financial hardship, please contact Gwynne Rukenbrod Smith, Director of Community and Creative Work, at grsmith@craftcouncil.org.

TIMELINE

Applications Open: May 4, 2022

Applications Close: May 31, 2022

Round 1 Jury Results: June 15, 2022

Round 2 Interviews: June 16–24, 2022

Final Jury Result Notifications: June 27, 2022

Program Dates: July 11–September 30, 2022