

## **About the Education Fellowship at Dia Art Foundation**

Dia's engagement program for young adults offers exposure to and practice in being both the author and protagonist of one's own creative, intellectual, and professional trajectories. The education fellowship provides space, time, and resources for ambitious young people ages 18–25, who will thrive in a self-determinative learning environment while benefiting from and contributing to a sustained community of peer support.

Education fellows work closely with an artist mentor—a working artist or creative professional, who has excelled in their field through enterprising or nontraditional pathways. Fellows will explore a breadth of creative industries, organizations, and nonprofits where various identities, lived experiences, or trajectories of advancement in the creative sector can be accessed and considered.

The education fellowship program supports a small cohort of young people by providing access and exposure to a wide range of creative professionals and arts- and community-driven spaces; facilitating relationships and the cocreation of an inclusive learning community that is responsive and accountable to the intersecting interests, identities, and needs of peers; lending support in developing a creative praxis and/or seeking out resources for the realization of original ideas and projects; engaging critically with the world through research, dialogue, and reflection; and encouraging self-determination in one's own creative path or trajectory.

The ideal education fellow is a young adult with a serious interest in the arts, who would benefit from intensive individual support of their creative development through mentorship, time, and space allocated to pursuing their interests; a supportive peer community; and exposure to and dialogue with a range of professionals across the creative industries, working artists, and nonprofit arts organizations.

## **About Dia Art Foundation**

Dia Art Foundation is committed to advancing, realizing, and preserving the vision of artists. Dia fulfills its mission by commissioning single artist projects, organizing exhibitions, realizing site-specific installations, and collecting in-depth the work of a focused group of artists of the 1960s and 1970s.

For more about Dia's constellation of sites, exhibitions, and programs of engagement, visit our [website](#).

## **Fellowship Elements**

Access to and dialogue with a range of professionals across the creative industries, working artists, and nonprofit arts organizations including:

- Direct, sustained engagement with contemporary art and with the thinking, practice, and processes of contemporary artists
- Monthly seminars with an artist mentor
- Off-site trips to a range of arts- and community-driven spaces

- One-on-one support and mentorship with Dia staff

Building relationships and cocreating an inclusive learning community, including:

- Cocreation of a learning community that is responsive and accountable to the intersecting interests, identities, and needs of individuals in the cohort
- Identify strategies that emphasize criticality and peer support as a means of pushing new ideas forward
- Opportunities to engage with the public and present original work
- Act as a peer mentor or an artist's assistant in Dia's program for high school-aged youth
- Consider your role as a practitioner, as well as how your ideas and innovations contribute to a larger community dialogue

Consider and develop creative praxis

- Operate from a place of critical inquiry
- Support in determining your best learning environment and what resources will support you in your endeavors
- Guidance in continuing to progress beyond setbacks, false starts, and ambiguity
- Stretching to ask bigger and better questions
- Practice being intellectually curious and vulnerable when exploring new or untested ideas

Self-determination

- Opportunities to learn, practice, develop, and experiment with skills related to critical thinking, self-expression, consensus-building, and research through experiential processes within a unique, intimate, and supportive learning environment and community of practice
- Opportunities to design and implement original projects or programming related to self-determined investigations
- Work independently on self-defined research or creative project and present findings in a public forum at Dia Art Foundation
- Opportunities for agency within Dia's institutional framework and to actively contribute to the foundational architecture and focus of Dia's work with young people

### **Program Cycle**

The education fellowship at Dia is roughly aligned with the fall and spring semesters; it takes place from October to May. Seminars take place Tuesdays from 4 to 6 pm.

## **Access to Artists and Community Spaces**

Education fellows work with Dia staff and an artist mentor over the course of the fellowship, who collectively provide the most direct support in terms of the participants' intellectual and artistic engagement. Additionally, education fellows gain access to guest artists and the opportunity to visit a number of creative and community-based spaces across New York City. Guest artists facilitate workshops, participate in discussions, host youth in their studio and gallery spaces, lead critiques, and invite young people to participate in their own projects.

Past guest artists include:

Cecilia Bengolea, François Chaignaud, Damien Davis, Ana Lucia Fabrega, Savannah Knoop, Isabel Lewis, Guadalupe Maravilla, Daniel Joseph Martinez, Mary Mattingly, Azikiwe Mohammed, Virginia Lee Montgomery, Senga Nengudi, Camille Norment, Sal Randolph, Lele Saveri, Eileen Isagon Skyers, Thu Tran, Jöelle Tuerlinckx, Jaimie Warren, and Violet Xie.

Past site visits include:

8-Ball Community; American Museum of Natural History; bitforms gallery; Brooklyn Museum; Bruce High Quality Foundation University; dispersed holdings; Dream House/MELA Foundation; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum; Interstate Projects; Jewish Museum; Kickstarter; the Kitchen; Met Breuer; MoMA PS1; Museum of Modern Art; New Museum; Pace Gallery; Park Avenue Armory; Schomburg Center for Research and Black Culture; SculptureCenter; Studio Museum in Harlem; Swale; and Whitney Museum of American Art.

## **Program Fees and Stipends**

There is no cost to participate in Dia's education fellowship program; participants in good standing are eligible to receive a total stipend of \$2,000 to be disbursed in payments of \$1,000 in January and April.

Education fellows are invited to attend special events and performances free of charge, gain a Dia membership, and receive Dia publications. Financial assistance for public transportation provided upon request.

## **Application Deadline and Eligibility Requirements**

All application materials are due by **Sunday, October 20, 2019**; there is no application fee. Candidates being considered for education fellowships will be invited to an in-person interview in late October.

Candidates must commit to participating in the full program cycle from October 2019 to May 2020 in order to remain in good standing.

For more information, contact our education team at [chelseaprogram@diaart.org](mailto:chelseaprogram@diaart.org).

## **Selection Criteria**

The Dia Education Fellowship program invites applications from young people ages 18–25, who are self-determinative in their work and eager to be supported with the time, space, and resources to develop original projects. Candidates who are interested in pursuing a creative career in the arts and who have limited access to research or internship positions at museums due to financial barriers; who have life experiences or academic trajectories that may not align with selection criteria emphasizing advanced study or specialized fields of research; and whose identities have not been traditionally represented in museum leadership will be prioritized in the selection process. Young people are encouraged to apply regardless of enrollment status.

The selection process is open and competitive; application materials are assessed on the thoughtfulness and quality of work submitted as well as demonstrated potential to thrive in a peer community where individuals are invited to design their own framework for learning.

### **Please include the following as part of your digital application materials:**

Contact information and date of birth.

A letter of interest (two pages or less) that addresses:

- Questions or ideas related to your individual practice/research that you would like to explore through this fellowship opportunity
- How these questions and interests are related to and could be advanced through access to Dia, its staff, and the thinking, practices, and processes of contemporary artists
- What excites you as a thinker and a learner, and what you hope to gain and contribute within a peer cohort
- Your ideal learning environment and/or what kind of support best gives you the time and space to develop your ideas and creative projects

Additionally, applicants are invited to submit documentation of up to three recent projects that demonstrate their learning style and potential to thrive in Dia's Education Fellowship program. Please consider your materials carefully; application supporting materials will be assessed on the quality and depth of thinking and initiative rather than on quantity.

Support materials should be indicative of the type of work and ideas you hope to pursue at Dia, and may include but are not limited to: documentation of a self-initiated process that has centered your learning or aesthetic development over time; an artist statement; creative expressions of ideas and/or links to online galleries or portfolios; creative writing samples; research excerpts; evidence of projects you have been part of or projects that have incorporated the ideas and creative contributions of others; reflective writing around a project or long-term goal; contributions to your community or to advancing a set of

values; and letter(s) of recommendation from a peer, fellow artist or creative, teacher, employer, colleague, or other relevant source that can speak to how you would excel in and benefit from this program.

For consideration, submit all materials by e-mail as a single attachment to [chelseaprogram@diaart.org](mailto:chelseaprogram@diaart.org) with "Education Fellowship" as the subject heading.

No phone calls or e-mails to addresses other than the one specified.