
Jini Stolk Creative Fellowship

Eligibility and the Nomination Process 2026

Submission deadline: October 2, 2026.

Submissions will be accepted electronically, between August 5, 2026 and October 2, 2026 at: aboyd@oafdn.ca

For more information, please contact:

Sarah Glakdi

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the Jini Stolk Creative Fellowship Fund
is administered by



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Overview

Arts managers are responsible for the administrative, financial, and overall health of organizations. They are passionate and committed to their work, but often have little opportunity to explore, think, develop their expertise and generate new ideas. The **Jini Stolk Creative Fellowship** offers arts managers a chance to grow and join a collaborative network.

Fellowships seek to:

- support an arts manager who wishes to explore a new idea and/or develop their expertise.
- encourage experimentation, such as building new frameworks, learning about complexities, and thinking about systems change.
- build a network and support model: recipients/alumni will be encouraged to share ideas, resources and support each other's work.
- build a knowledge base.
- enhance the arts sector.

VALUE

\$20,000 over two years (\$10,000 each year)

FREQUENCY

One new fellowship annually

Eligibility

The Jini Stolk Creative Fellowship is open to arts managers at any career level (with at least two years of experience in the arts sector) who:

- are Canadian citizens or Permanent Residents of Canada living in the Greater Toronto Hamilton Area (GTHA);
- work at an eligible Toronto-based arts organization* (postal code begins with an M); and
- work at a small or mid-sized arts organization (operating budget less than \$10 million).

*Eligible Toronto-based arts organizations must be:

- a registered charity under the *Income Tax Act*;

- an incorporated entity, with an elected board of directors holding annual general meetings;
- in continuous operation for at least two years providing professional artistic programming, or supporting the creation, production or dissemination of artistic works by professional artists, or supporting the professional practice of artists (through professional development, career support, promotion of public awareness etc.); and
- paying artists for their work.

Co-nominees are allowed but must both work for the same eligible Toronto-based arts organization, and submit one joint nomination package.

RESTRICTIONS

- Past recipients of the Jini Stolk Creative Fellowship are not eligible.
- No fellowships will be made posthumously.

Types of Eligible Activities

Nominated proposals for the Jini Stolk Creative Fellowship can include, but are not limited to:

- Research
- Travel
- Conference fees
- Professional development
- Internships

Areas of interest for exploration can include, but are not limited to:

- Governance
- The field of arts management
- Organizational sustainability / sustainable practices / healthy organizations.
- New or adapted models of working / systems change / moving organizations forward
- Navigating the complexities of your work
- Co-leadership working models (for example, between artistic directors and executive managers)
- Succession planning or phasing out an organization
- Policy making
- Advocacy

Note: A minimum of 25% of the annual fellowship total (\$2,500), must be used for expenses related to the submission request, and be itemized in a budget. The remaining 75% (up to \$7,500 annually) can be allocated for personal use.

Nominations

Nominations should consist of:

1. A one-page nomination letter from either the Chair or President of the Board of Directors, the Artistic Director, or Executive Director of the nominee's organization.
2. A 250-word letter of intent written by the arts manager (the nominee). The letter of intent will include:
 - why the individual wants The Jini Stolk Creative Fellowship,
 - its purpose,
 - and the impact they expect their work to have.
3. A budget that outlines the intended use of the funds.
4. A biography of the nominee *or* their CV.
5. Optional: additional support material that does not exceed one page *or* one website link.

Note:

- Nominations can be submitted by either the Nominee (arts manager) or the Nominator (Chair, President of the Board of Directors, Artistic Director or Executive Director).
- Nominees cannot self-nominate. In order to be eligible, an arts manager must be nominated by someone other than themselves in the organization holding one of the above noted senior leadership positions.

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT: OCTOBER 2, 2026

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Assessment of Nominations

All nominations will be assessed by a jury made up of artists and arts professionals with direct experience working with small to mid-sized arts organizations in Toronto. Nominations will be evaluated on how a nominee aims to make improvements to the arts sector as demonstrated by the:

- relevance and viability of the nominee's proposal; and
- potential for impact in the field of arts management.

Final Report

At the conclusion of the fellowship, successful recipients will be expected to share their learning. How this is done will be identified by the recipient. Examples include:

- Producing a report (made available for open sharing).
- Speaking at a conference.
- Organizing a sharing session with an organization or group of the recipients' choice.

Contact

For questions about the Jini Stolk Creative Fellowship contact: **Sarah Gladki**, jinistolkfellowship@gmail.com

About Jini Stolk

A true champion of the arts, Jini Stolk's impact on the arts community in Toronto was far-reaching, first as general manager of Open Studio, and later as associate director of the Association of Canadian Publishers. She also held executive positions with the Toronto Alliance for the Performing Arts, Toronto Dance Theatre, and the Creative Trust, where she raised and distributed more than six million dollars to support the sustainability of over 50 small and medium sized performing arts organizations. In retirement, under the auspices of Toronto Arts Foundation, she established Creative Champions Network, a networking and learning program for arts board members.

Jini served on many boards. She was the Chair of Artscape, an early tenant board member of the Centre for Social Innovation and a founding member and the first Chair of the Ontario Nonprofit Network, among others. At her death she was the Chair of the Toronto Outdoor Art Fair.

Jini believed that the best way to ensure the creation of artistic work was to nurture healthy structures and organizations. She dedicated her career to supporting this often un-heralded behind-the-scenes work of arts administrators. She had a love for learning

and excelled at establishing and maintaining networks. She thought critically about things and often challenged and reimagined current systems. Through her work she provided mentorship, opportunity, and access.

About the Ontario Arts Foundation

Established in 1991, the Ontario Arts Foundation (OAF) is passionately committed to building long-term support for the arts in Ontario. In 2025-26, the OAF paid out \$5.7 million in endowment income and \$630,000 in awards and grants. The Ontario Arts Foundation manages the Jini Stolk Creative Fellowship Fund.