Introduction

Fellowships in the visual and performing arts are as varied as the artists they support. They include support for continued study, funding for creative projects, opportunities for international cultural exchange, and programs for professional development. Some “academic” fellowship programs like Fulbright also make awards to students in the visual and performing arts. Other awards are specific to one or more fields in the arts. Because the terminal degree in many arts fields is a Master’s rather than a doctoral degree, and many fields are practice- rather than research-oriented, awards in the performing arts tend to be open to students at the master’s as well as the doctoral level.

The list below is not comprehensive, but presents a sampling of awards grouped in the following broad categories: (1) Awards open to multiple fields and genres in the visual and performing arts; (2) awards in the visual arts; (3) awards in the performing arts and music; and (4) awards in arts management, education, and administration.

Open to Multiple Fields / Genres

AIIS Senior Performing and Creative Arts Fellowships
http://www.indiastudies.org/catalog.cfm?dest=dir&linkon=Section&linkid=78
Available to accomplished practitioners of the performing arts of India and creative artists who demonstrate that study in India would enhance their skills, develop their capabilities to teach or perform in the U.S., enhance American involvement with India’s artistic traditions, and strengthen their links with peers in India. Awards will normally be for periods of up to four months, although proposals for periods of up to nine months can be considered. Deadline: On or about July 1 annually – check web site.

Asian Cultural Council
http://www.asianculturalcouncil.org/?page_id=20
Open to individuals from the US (citizens and permanent residents) or Asia in the visual and performing arts for research, cultural exchange, observation tours, or specialized training. (US applicants to visit Asia, Asian applicants to visit US.) Letters of inquiry accepted September 1 – October 31 annually.

Fine Arts Work Center Fellowships (Visual Arts, Creative Writing – Provincetown, MA)
http://www.fawc.org/fellowships/index.php
The Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, MA, provides seven-month residential fellowships to twenty artists and writers in the early stages of their careers each year. Support includes a living/work space and a modest monthly stipend. Residencies run from October 1 through May 1. In writing, fiction and poetry are eligible. In the visual arts, 2D, 3D, and time based work is eligible. No citizenship restrictions. Deadlines are December 1 for writers and February 1 for visual artists annually.

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Fulbright U.S. Student Program
http://us.fulbrightonline.org/home.html
The Fulbright U.S. student program supports candidates in the visual and performing arts for a year of overseas research, independent project, or professional training in the visual and performing arts. Applicants select a destination country and design a year-long program of training or an independent project to be carried out in that country. Candidates must submit documentation of their artwork along with their application. This program is limited to U.S. citizens. Deadline: Mid-September annually (for the subsequent academic year.) Note that some countries designate specific Fulbright awards for candidates in the arts. Consult the Fulbright program profiles for individual countries when researching this award.

Gaius Charles Bolin Post-MFA Fellowships (All Fields - Williams College, Williamstown, MA)
http://dean-faculty.williams.edu/graduate-fellowships/gaius-charles-bolin-dissertation-and-post-mfa-fellowships/
Two-year residency at Williams College in Williamstown, MA open to most fields in the arts. For post-MFA students the residency is spent building the artist's professional portfolio while teaching one course per year. This award targets applicants from under-represented groups, including ethnic minorities, first generation college graduates, women in predominantly male fields, and scholars with disabilities. Annual stipend is $35,000 plus other support. This Bolin program also awards Ph.D. dissertation completion fellowships. Up to three scholars and/or artists are appointed each year.

Harriet Hale Woolley Scholarship (Visual Arts / Music – Paris)
Awarded annually to up to four graduate and post-graduate American students in the visual arts (painting, graphic design, print-making, sculpture, or photography) and music (composition, instrumental, or vocal performance) who plan to pursue their studies in Paris. Candidates propose a project related to their course of study and requiring a one-year residency in Paris, to include coursework at a recognized French art school or music conservatory. Award includes an €8,500 stipend and a living/working space, plus other benefits. Applicants must be U.S. citizens between 21-29 years of age, and must have proficiency in French (or demonstrate a commitment to attaining proficiency by the start of the fellowship.)

Kate Neal Kinley Memorial Fellowship
faa.illinois.edu/files/KateNealKinley2009.pdf
Three fellowships annually ($9,000 - $20,000 depending on field) to defray the cost of advanced study (master’s or doctorate) of the fine arts, theatre, and urban/regional planning in the United States or abroad. No citizenship requirements. Deadline: Early December.

National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)
http://www.nea.gov/grants/apply/index.html
The NEA makes awards to individuals in the following programs: Literature Fellowships, NEA Jazz Masters Fellowships, NEA Opera Honors, and NEA National Heritage Fellowships in the Folk and Traditional Arts. Awards to organizations are made in a wide variety of other arts fields. Deadlines vary according to program. See web site for details.

Visual Arts

College Art Association Professional Development Fellowships in the Visual Arts
http://www.collegeart.org/fellowships/
Approximately 5 awards of $5,000 each for student artists in MFA programs. Applicant must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident. Deadline: Late September.

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Dedalus Foundation MFA Fellowships
http://dedalusfoundation.org/index.php/site/grants-master/
The Dedalus Foundation awards two annual fellowships to students in painting or sculpture who are entering their final year in an MFA degree program at a college, university, or art school in the United States. Each fellowship carries a stipend of $20,000. Please note that you must be nominated by your program director or department chair for this fellowship in order to initiate the application process.

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts – Visual Arts Fellowship Program
http://www.vmfa.museum/fellowships/
Awards of $6,000 to graduate student artists who are U.S. citizens and legal residents of Virginia in the follow fields: crafts, drawing, film/video, mixed media, painting, photography, printmaking, sculpture, and art history. Deadline: Early November annually.

Performing Arts (Dance, Music, Theater)

CBC Spouses Heineken USA Performing Arts Scholarship
http://www.cbcfinc.org/cbcs-pa
Up to $3,000 awarded by the Congressional Black Caucus for African American students (undergraduate or graduate) in the performing arts (including theater, motion pictures, drama, comedy, music, dance, opera, marching bands and other musical ensembles.) Applicants must have a minimum 2.5 GPA and evidence of leadership / community service, and should be working toward a career in the performing arts. Deadline: Late April / early May.

Fulbright-mtvU (Music, Ethnomusicology, Dance)
https://us.fulbrightonline.org/types_mtvu.html
Co-sponsored by Fulbright and MTV, this award supports independent overseas projects that focus on international contemporary or popular music as a cultural force for expression. Candidates may apply to any country in which an active Fulbright program exits (most countries - see web site). Along with the study of music in a specific cultural context, proposals will be considered in other music-related fields including music and social activism, music in learning, music and the community, and musical performance. Recent college graduates preferred, but graduate students also considered, particularly if they have local language skills and show promise to engage on the local level. Deadline: On or about March 1, annually.

Arts Management, Education, and Administration

Allen Lee Hughes Fellowship at Arena Stage
http://www.arenastage.org/education/education-programs/internships-fellowships/
For individuals interested in artistic and technical production, arts administration and community engagement. Fellowship provides a modest stipend and is intended to increase participation of people of color in the arts. Deadline for season fellowship is April 15. A summer internship program is also available, deadline March 15.

American Dance Festival Arts Administration Internship Program
http://www.americandancefestival.org/internships/artsAdmin.html
Each summer during its annual season, the sponsor offers internships in all areas of arts administration. Internships, which are based at the Duke University campus in Durham, NC, are intended to give hands-on experience to those interested in a career in arts management. Interns work as integral parts of the ADF staff and play an important role in carrying out the ADF’s mission to serve dance, dancers, choreographers and artists in related fields. Dates run early June to late July, and pay a stipend of up to $1,100.

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