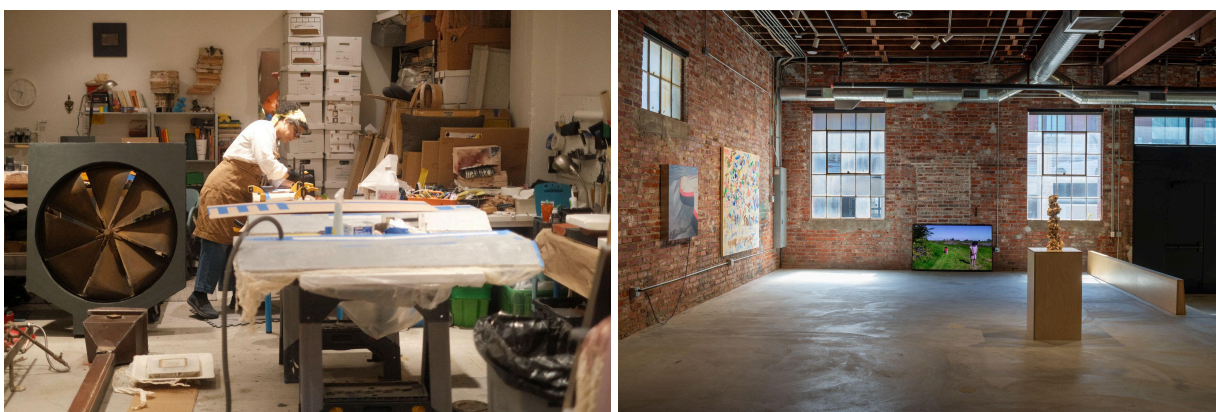


## TULSA ARTIST FELLOWSHIP ANNOUNCES OPEN CALL FOR 2027–2029 AWARD TERM

Applications open from April 7 through May 7

A national panel will select up to ten awardees to receive a comprehensive package of funding, studio space, and resources in Tulsa, Oklahoma



Left: Rehab El Sadek at work in her Tulsa Artist Fellowship studio, 2025.  
Right: Installation view of *Spatial Poems*, Tulsa Artist Fellowship Flagship, Tulsa, OK, June 6–August 9, 2025.  
Courtesy of Tulsa Artist Fellowship.

**Tulsa, OK | April 7, 2026 – Tulsa Artist Fellowship (TAF)**, the place-based, durational award dedicated to supporting visionary arts practitioners in Tulsa, Oklahoma, announces the **opening of applications for the 2027–2029 award term**, beginning **Tuesday, April 7, through May 7, 2026**.

Artists and arts workers across disciplines with at least five years' experience are invited to apply via [tulsaartistfellowship.org](https://tulsaartistfellowship.org). A cohort of up to ten awardees, to be announced live on November 6 in Tulsa, Oklahoma, will each be supported through a comprehensive package, including up to \$150,000 in financial support over three years, along with housing, studio space, and professional resources.

*“Tulsa Artist Fellowship is committed to creating the conditions for artists to take meaningful risks in their work while remaining deeply connected to community,”* said **Carolyn Sickles**, Executive & Artistic Director. *“By supporting artists over time and within place, we aim to foster practices that are both rigorous and responsive—work that resonates in Tulsa and contributes to broader cultural conversations.”*

Each year, Tulsa Artist Fellowship convenes a national panel of arts professionals from across the United States to review applications. Panelists include leading figures in the field, practicing artists, arts workers, past awardees, and key stakeholders. Working independently, they assess

submissions and identify a shortlist of candidates for interview. In parallel, outreach-focused contributors support the open call by drawing on their networks to identify eligible applicants. Together, this process deepens the Fellowship's engagement with the broad and diverse communities shaping contemporary artistic practice.

Current awardees are developing projects that engage deeply with themes of public memory, place, and identity. Multidisciplinary artist and 2024–2026 awardee **Le'Andra LeSeur**, through the multifaceted exhibition *Monument Eternal*, explored the violence of erasure, the weight of silence, and their profound effects on collective identity and well-being by transforming sites of historical racial terror, such as Stone Mountain and Okemah, Oklahoma, into landscapes of healing and reflection. Through video, sculpture, and performance, LeSeur confronts and transcends these spaces, reclaiming memory and resisting the silence surrounding systemic injustice.

Established in 2015 by the George Kaiser Family Foundation (GKFF), Tulsa Artist Fellowship is a civic initiative that supports contemporary artists and arts workers while contributing to Tulsa's cultural landscape. Awardees commit to developing ambitious, community-engaged projects during the three-year term, positioning the Fellowship as a national model for place-based artistic investment and impact.

For more information, please visit <https://www.tulsaartistfellowship.org>.

## NOTES TO EDITORS

### **Apply for Tulsa Artist Fellowship 2027–2029 Award Term:**

<https://tulsaartistfellowship.org/award>

### **Application Period:** April 7—May 7, 2026

The 2027–2029 application will open on Tuesday, April 7, 2026, and close on Thursday, May 7, 2026, at 6 PM CT. Applications started by the deadline will have an additional three-day grace period to finalize and submit materials.

### **Award Structure**

Each Fellow is supported through a comprehensive three-year award package designed to strengthen artistic development, stability, and well-being.

### **Financial Support**

- \$150,000 stipend for project development and artistic practice (over three years)
- \$36,000 housing stipend (over three years)
- \$1,500 studio move-in stipend
- \$3,600 studio assistant stipend (over three years)
- \$3,600 health and wellness stipend (over three years)

### **Community & Connection**

- Cohort gatherings and shared meals
- Open studio events and public programs
- Opportunities to engage with leading arts professionals

### **Studio Workspace**

- Access to a fully subsidized private studio (337–583 sq ft)

- Access to shared facilities, including a ceramics studio with kilns, woodshop, metal shop, media lab, archival printer, roof terrace, performance rehearsal space, podcast studio, and meeting rooms with AV capabilities
- Estimated resource value: \$36,000 over three years

### **Wellness & Care**

- YMCA membership for Fellows and their households
- Caregiver reimbursements aligned with key Fellowship activities

### **Qualifications**

- National and local artists and arts workers of any medium and/or discipline with at least five years of arts field experience
- Awardees must commit to residing and working in Tulsa, Oklahoma, during the three-year term
- Applicants must propose a forward-thinking, community-engaged project that contributes to Tulsa's arts ecosystem
- Applicants must be at least 25 years old and a U.S. citizen, permanent legal resident, or O-1 Visa holder
- Previous Tulsa Artist Fellowship awardees are ineligible
- Employees of GKFF, Tulsa Community Foundation (TCF), and GKFF Operating LLC are ineligible

Program details may evolve to best support participating artists and the Fellowship's mission.

### **About Tulsa Artist Fellowship**

Tulsa Artist Fellowship advances community-rooted artistic futures by supporting artists and arts workers in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Established in 2015 as a place-based initiative of the George Kaiser Family Foundation (GKFF), the Fellowship fosters practices deeply attuned to place. It champions community-engaged artists whose work expands creative practice, sparks dialogue, and strengthens cultural belonging.

**Facebook:** [Tulsa Artist Fellowship](#) | **Instagram:** [@tulsaartistfellowship](#)

### **About George Kaiser Family Foundation**

George Kaiser Family Foundation (GKFF) is a charitable organization dedicated to expanding opportunity for children and families in Tulsa through investments in early childhood education, community health, social services, and civic enhancement. GKFF believes that Tulsa is a land of opportunity. A generous and welcoming community, this city is not bound by traditional conventions. GKFF is dedicated to making Tulsa the best city for children to be born, grow, and succeed.

### **Media Contacts**

Georgina Zhao | FITZ & CO | [gzhao@fitzandco.com](mailto:gzhao@fitzandco.com) | +1 212 444 4046  
 Hannah Sammut | FITZ & CO | [hsammut@fitzandco.com](mailto:hsammut@fitzandco.com) | +1 929-219-0405