

FAQs for EJP 2025 – 2026 Cycle

Q1: Do I need to be a professional artist to apply?

A1: No, we encourage anyone that has a creative practice or hobby to apply.

Q2: How long does the application take to complete from start to finish?

A2: This depends on each applicant and how many items are already prepared to fill out the application.

Ex. If you already have an artist statement prepared, then that portion will take you far less time. Regardless, please note that the application does take time and can be completed in multiple sessions (your work will be saved), if needed.

Q3: The application is looking for work talking about envisioning a just Pittsburgh, but the application is asking that people use archives (public, private, or communal) to create the artwork. How do I look at historical materials for creating work that is supposed to speak about the future?

A3: Archives and material histories are to serve as conduits and inspiration for what is possible for the future or what needs to be corrected. For example, Pittsburgh's rivers and air were polluted by steel mills. There are records of the environmentally unfriendly ways mills contributed for decades to pollution. Your artwork would envision how to clean up the water and air.

Q4: Where can I find these Archives and records, what does the application mean by archives that are institutional, personal, or communal?

A4: Definition of **Archives: a collection of historical documents or records providing information about a place, institution, or group of people.**

There are wonderful and accessible (free to the public) archives around the city of Pittsburgh, The Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, Heinz History Center, and the University of Pittsburgh gives free access to archives about Pittsburgh and its rich history.

The material items within a person's home can also be an archive: a grandmother's hand-made quilt, old photos of a relative or a neighborhood, or family heirlooms all speak to our histories and identities as well as the times of the item's creation.

We encourage you to use any of these resources and materials for your work of art.

Q5: How old can the artwork that I choose to submit?

A5: Artwork created January 2023 to present is eligible. Artwork created December 21st, 2022, and before is disqualified.

Q6: There are two questions on the application, one asking for the applicant's full name, the other asking for the name used as an artist – What is the difference?

A6: The applicant's full name is the name that you see on your driver's license or other ID cards. The name used as an artist is if you go by another name/ identity when presenting your art.

Ex. many musicians, such as the musician, Doechii uses her stage name, not her real name which is Jaylah Hickman. Jaylah Hickman would go in the full name answer, and Doechii would go in the name used as an artist answer.

Q7: What name would EJP use when announcing the artist?

A7: EJP will use the name under name used as an artist

Ex. Doechii will be used for EJP announcement, not Jaylah Hickman

Q8: Why do I need to fill out my pronouns?

A8: Acknowledging someone's pronouns is acknowledging someone's identity and full humanity. We ask that all people respect everyone's full humanity.

Q9: What if my file will not upload even after I made sure it was the size requested in the application?

A9: Please send the file to idea@carnegielibrary.org and please make sure EJP 2025 is in the subject line, and applicant's full name and name used as artist, along with what the category, is in the body of the email so we can match your file correctly.

Q10: Can I choose more than one category for the art?

A10: Yes, but you need to fill out another application in its entirety. One category per application will be allowed only.

Q11: Can people apply as an artist team?

A11: Yes, however, EJP only distributes one check. It is up to the artist team to split the funds.

Q12: What do you mean by the artwork has to be original to the artist?

A12: Artist's must have created the work (not someone else including not an AI generative software/app). Also, the work cannot be a copy or replica of another person's work.

Ex. Copying a painting created by another artist or using AI generated work will be disqualified.

Q13: When will the winners be announced?

A13: Winners will be announced in late December. **Please do not send emails asking when winners will be announced.**

Q14: Where will the winners of EJP work be shown?

A14: First place, honorable mention winners and winners of display award categories will be shown across multiple venues including August Wilson African American Community Center, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Museums. If your piece is chosen for display, you will be notified where it will be shown.