



## The Artists' Studio Program – General Information

### The Farmington Valley Arts Center

The Farmington Valley Arts Center (FVAC), established in 1974, is a nonprofit creative community whose mission is to “connect creativity to daily life” through the arts by supporting the entire creative artistic process. The Farmington Valley Arts Center fulfills this mission by providing a multifaceted environment for artists and the general public. Professional artists pursue their art or craft in the 18 studios at FVAC where the general public is invited to witness the creative process. Studios are also available for “emerging artists” and an “artist-in-residence” program. A year-round schedule of educational programming in the visual arts is offered for adults and children. Also two galleries are open to the public, exhibiting high quality art and craft. The Farmington Valley Arts Center holds several open studios events, regular artist demonstrations and talks, and gallery exhibits and openings.

### The Artists' Studio Program

**Overview:** The Farmington Valley Arts Center’s Artists’ Studio Program exists to provide professional and emerging artists with working space in an artistic community. Studio artists work in a rental studio space that is open to the public at times of the Arts Center’s special events and programming and at the artist’s discretion. The program showcases a diversity of talents, and artists from a broad spectrum of disciplines may choose to work together and share ideas. The Artists’ Studio Program includes promotional events and optional professional gallery representation. In conjunction with the pursuit of their art, artists participate in and contribute to the Farmington Valley Arts Center’s mission.

**Eligibility:** Artistic talent and commitment to one’s art and the mission of the Farmington Valley Arts Center are the criteria for acceptance into the Artists’ Studio Program. Emerging and mid-career artists and crafters of promising talent are encouraged to apply. A group of artists donates their time to jury applications, which include work samples, references, the application form, and a résumé along with a list of exhibit participation, if applicable.

### The Artist and Farmington Valley Arts Center: FVAC’s Commitment to the Artist

#### ➤ Studio Space and Artistic Community

- FVAC provides a supportive artistic environment and the infrastructure for creating a successful artist studio program.
- FVAC provides professional working space in which to make/create art. All studio artists are to use the studio as work space as noted in this application.
- Studio space can only be used in the spirit of meeting FVAC’s mission. Space may not be used to display or sell the work of non-FVAC studio artists.
- FVAC provides 19 studios leased by artists with similar interests and concerns.
- FVAC provides two galleries and ongoing arts education programs, workshops and events for all ages.
- Studio Artists have created The Studio Artists’ Association (SAA) for supporting professional development. FVAC encourages studio artists to join the SAA.

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➤ **Marketing Support & Representation**

- FVAC organizes, hosts, and promotes special events (e.g., open studios events) that showcase the artists and provide public exposure.
- FVAC publicizes and advertises the studio artists and other programs and events, which includes regular FVAC catalogs, press releases, advertising, and other publicity regarding open studios and other events.
- FVAC's Website provides studio artists' contact information and links to their Websites
- FVAC provides optional representation in a professional gallery (Fisher and/or Visitors' Gallery) and, periodically, optional exhibition of work on or off-site.

➤ **Business Support**

- Office technologies such as a copier are made available to artists.

**The Artist and Farmington Valley Arts Center: *The Artist's Commitment to FVAC***

The Artists' Studio Program is a key component of FVAC. Artists share their talent through their unique art and provide the public with an opportunity to meet and see them at work. Artists working in diverse disciplines from traditional functional crafts to more conceptual uses of materials and ideas are all found at FVAC. The artist works toward both the advancement of career goals and supports FVAC's mission by:

- Continuously working toward artistic and professional development.
- Paying a rental fee for studio space.
- Making a studio space reasonably available to the public to help promote FVAC's mission.
- Participating in events such as "open studios" weekends to gain more public exposure and expand public appreciation of the arts.
- Participating in optional activities such as workshops, informal meetings and critiques with other artists, teaching in their studios, and teaching classes and workshops as FVAC instructors.
- Contributing to a positive, cooperative, mutually beneficial, and respectful atmosphere at FVAC.

**Rental Fees**

Studio rental rates are \$600 per month which includes water, heat and electricity. Artists sharing studio space have a small administrative fee attached to their monthly rate. Studios are approximately 525 square feet. Rental rates reflect a modest FVAC subsidy. FVAC offers a one-year renewable lease. All accepted applicants must be prepared to enter into a one-year contract. Artists accepted as "emerging artists" may be subject to an annual review.

**How to Apply**

Applications are reviewed on an on-going basis. Application and guidelines can be obtained by contacting: Farmington Valley Arts Center, 25 Arts Center Lane, Avon, CT 06001, [info@artsfvac.org](mailto:info@artsfvac.org), 860-678-1867. Please direct questions concerning the Artists' Studio Program to the FVAC Board President at 860-678-1867. An electronic version of this application is available upon request.

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## Artist Studios Application Package

### Materials Included:

- FVAC Artist Studios Program – General Information
- Artist Studios Application
- Reference Letter Form
- Jury Process Information

### Required Materials from Applicant:

- Artist Studios Application Form:
  - Section A – Artistic Commitment and Excellence
  - Section B – Professional Potential & Commitment
  - Section C – Statement of Purpose (typed)
- A maximum of twenty (20) and a minimum of ten (10) digital images. Include at least ten (10) images of work completed within the last two years.
- Annotated image list double-spaced with title of work, medium, dimensions, and date of completion.
- Reference letters, minimum of two (2) and maximum of four (4) (current or past employers, teachers, curators, etc.). References should be persons who are familiar with your work and can affirm your artistic commitment.
- Résumé (typed)
- Support Material: Exhibition lists, press clippings, review, and catalogues, as available.
- Provided website information, if available. Note: Art displayed on website does not eliminate the requirement to images and originals of artworks as required above.
- **Note:** *Keep a copy of application materials for your own records.*

### The Application Process – General Description\*\*

#### Phase I:

- Applicant's materials are prescreened by the FVAC Board President. If selected for the jury process, a panel of jurors reviews the completed application form, supplementary materials, and artworks. The applicant Artist will be invited to interview with jurors at the FVAC to discuss the application and review artwork.
- Jurors meet and discuss Artist's application
- Elected artists continue to *Phase II*.

#### Phase II:

- Confidential credit check may be conducted by FVAC.
- Financial Information submitted by Artist as requested by FVAC.
- Commercial Lease is reviewed and signed by Artist and Farmington Valley Arts Center.

**\*\* Note that the FVAC Artist Studios Program offers a one-year, renewable lease. All accepted applicants must be prepared to enter into a one-year contract. FVAC reserves the right to change the application and jury process at any time.**

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### FVAC Artists' Studio Program Application Checklist

Use the following checklist to make sure your application is complete.

- Artist Studio Application Form completed
- Section C – Statement of Purpose (typed)
- A maximum of twenty (20) and a minimum of ten (10) images on a **CD**. Include at least ten (10) images of work completed within the **last two years**. Note: Artists who would like to submit visual material other than a CD, or artists with special circumstances, contact the FVAC Board President at 860-678-1867.
- Annotated Image List double-spaced with title of work, medium, dimensions, and date of completion (in reference to CD).
- Reference Letters, minimum of two (2) and maximum of four (4) (current or past employers, teachers, curators, etc.). References should be persons who are familiar with your work and can affirm your artistic commitment.
- Résumé (typed).
- Support Material: Exhibition lists, press clippings, reviews, and catalogues, as available.
- Provide Website information, if available. Note: Art displayed on Website does not eliminate the requirement to images and originals of artworks as required above.

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**FVAC Artists' Studio Program Application**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Website (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

1. How did you hear about the Farmington Valley Arts Center? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

2. If accepted into the Farmington Valley Arts Center Artists' Studio program, when would you expect to take occupancy of a studio? \_\_\_\_\_

3. List any art or craft organizations you belong to and art or craft publications you subscribe to. Include museums, galleries, local or national professional organizations (i.e., The Watercolor Society of CT), etc.

Name	Type (Gallery, publication, etc.)	Length of Time

**The following ARE NOT elements required for application or acceptance.**

- |  |     |    |
|--|-----|----|
| 4. Are you registered with the State of Connecticut as an art or craft business? | Yes | No |
| 5. Do you currently carry insurance for your art or craft?                       | Yes | No |
| 6. Do you have a degree or certificate at any academic level in art?             | Yes | No |
| 7. Do you have any art or craft teaching experience?                             | Yes | No |
| 8. Have you ever submitted work for a juried art or craft show?                  | Yes | No |
| 9. Have you ever received or applied for an art grant?                           | Yes | No |

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**Section A: Artistic Excellence**

In the space provided, please answer the following questions regarding your art or craft. If additional space is need, attach up to two separate sheets to the application. Do not write on the back of this application.

**1. Briefly describe your work. What types of works have you produced (medium, genre, etc.)?**

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**2. Check all that apply to best describe your current fine art/craft status. I am:**

- An individual artist
- Currently otherwise employed
- A student
- Not currently creating art, but have in the past
- Other, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

**3. What raw materials do you use to create your art or craft?**

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**4. What equipment and/or tools do you use to make your art or craft?**

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**Section B: Professional Commitment**

In the space provided, answer the following questions regarding the business and marketing aspect of your work. If additional space is needed, attach up to two separate sheets to the application. Do not write on back of this application.

**1. Do you currently have other employment besides producing art/craft?**

- Yes
- No

**2. On average, how many days per week do you currently spend on your art? (8 hrs. of work = 1 day)**

- Less than one day/week
- One day/week
- Two days/week
- Three days/week
- Four days per week
- Five or more days/week

**3. Assuming you are accepted into the FVAC Artists' Studio Program, on average, how many days per week do you plan on working at FVAC on your art? (8 hrs of work = 1 day)**

- Less than one day/week
- One day/week
- Two days/week
- Three days/week
- Four days/week
- Five or more days/week

**4. Assuming you are accepted into the FVAC Artist's Studio Program, on average what work-week pattern could FVAC expect to see from you? (Check all that apply).**

- Nights (6 pm on)
- Day time
- Week Days (Monday-Friday)
- Weekends
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Is one of your goals to bring your work to the public domain (e.g., presentations, education, exhibitions, etc.)?**

- Yes
- No

If yes, how do you envision accomplishing this during the next five years? \_\_\_\_\_

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**6. Is one of your goals to market your art and sell your art?**

- Yes
- No

If yes, how do you envision accomplishing this during the next five years? \_\_\_\_\_

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**7. Is one of your goals to teach at FVAC either in your studio or through the FVAC art program?**

- Yes
- No

If yes, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Section C: Statement of Purpose**

Please discuss the following points, *typed on a separate page*:

- At this point in your career, why do you want to be involved in the Artists' Studio Program at the Farmington Valley Arts Center?
- How do you plan on using the studio?
- How would **you benefit** from having a studio at the Farmington Valley Arts Center?
- What benefits do you believe **you will bring** to the Farmington Valley Arts Center as a studio artist?

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**FVAC Artists’ Studio Program Reference Information**

Name of Artist Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ is applying to the Farmington Valley Arts Center’s Artists’ Studio Program. As part of the application process they must provide a minimum of two (2) and maximum of four (4) reference letters (current or past employers, teachers, curators, etc.). References should be persons who are familiar with the artist’s work and can affirm their artistic commitment.

Reference Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Use the space below to discuss the Artist Applicant’s artistic commitment and professional achievements or potential. Explain your relationship to or with the Artist Applicant (employer, colleague, student, teacher, etc.). Attach a separate sheet if more space is needed.

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**The Artists' Studio Program  
Evaluation – General Information**

*This information sheet summarizes the evaluation process for the Artists' Studio Program.\**

**Jury Panel Members:**

The jury is usually made up of Artistic Experts as follows:

- a. Two artists in the applicants' field(s), and
- b. Two or more curators, arts administrators, artists, or architects.

Artistic experts are the voting members of the panel. Note: At least half of the jury consists of artists/persons outside of FVAC. FVAC Studio Artists will be represented as part of the jury.

**Facilitator:**

The FVAC Board President or appropriate staff member will facilitate the jury process but not vote.

**General Description of Process:**

**Rating System**

*The Jury Panel uses this rating system in its consideration of each application.*

Artistic Excellence & Commitment:	60 points maximum
Professional Potential & Excellence:	20 points maximum
FVAC Program Compatibility:	20 points maximum

**Preliminary Screening**

FVAC Board President and a Studio Artist representative review applicant's submitted materials. If there is more than one artist applicant, then artworks of all candidates are reviewed. If chosen for the jury process, applicant(s) will be contacted and a jury assembled and scheduled.

**Jury Process**

Jurors receive the applicant's materials to review prior to the jury date. Finalist's artworks are viewed with full descriptions of applicant's work, and supplementary materials (application, resume, statement of purpose, references). Applicant will present and ask questions, and jurors will ask questions of the applicant. Panelists award applicants up to 100 points. Within the rating system, candidates must score a minimum number of points in each category to be considered for studio space. A score of 80 or higher—as configured above—qualifies the candidate for studio space. A score between 70 and 80 may allow an artist to be accepted with conditions. The panel will recommend areas where the artist can make improvements to match the program standards, and these recommendations will become part of the artists' goals for improvement over the next year.

*\* Note: FVAC reserves the right to change the jury process procedures at any time.*

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