



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 “enrich lives through art” by supporting the entire 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 17 studios where the general public is invited to witness the creative process. A studio is also dedicated to “emerging artists” in our “artist-in-residence” program. A year-round schedule of educational programming in the visual arts is offered for adults and children. Two galleries are open to the public, featuring local art and craft for exhibition and sale. The Farmington Valley Arts Center hosts monthly open studios and a variety of events throughout the year.

The Artists' Studio Program

Overview: The FVAC 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. 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 to the mission of the Farmington Valley Arts Center are the criteria for acceptance into the Artists' Studio Program. Emerging and mid-career artists and artisans of promising talent are encouraged to apply. As part of the process, applicants are required to complete the necessary forms, and present their work to a jury of FVAC representatives.

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 studio program.
- FVAC provides professional working space in which to make/create art. All studio artists must 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 17 studios leased by artists with similar interests and concerns.
- FVAC provides two galleries and year-round arts education programs, workshops and events for all ages.
- Studio Artists have created The Studio Artists' Association (SAA) for supporting their 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.
- Programs and events are posted on the website and communicated via eblasts and social media platforms.
- FVAC's website provides studio artists' contact information, bio and links to personal websites.

➤ **Business Support**

- Office equipment such as a copier are available for artists' use.

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

The Artists' Studio Program is a core component of FVAC. Artists share their talent through their unique and original artwork, and provide the public with an opportunity to meet and see them in the creative process. FVAC Artists work in a variety of disciplines that range from traditional functional crafts to more conceptual uses of materials and ideas. The artist works toward both the advancement of personal career goals and in support of 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 promote FVAC's mission.
- Participating in events such as "open studios" 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, as offered.
- Teaching students in their studios or teaching classes/workshops as FVAC instructors, if desired.
- Contributing to a positive, cooperative, mutually beneficial, and respectful atmosphere of the FVAC community.

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 and 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 ongoing basis. Application information and guidelines can be obtained by visiting www.artsfvac.org or emailing info@artsfvac.org
Farmington Valley Arts Center, 25 Arts Center Lane, Avon, CT 06001 (860)-678-1867

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Artists' Studios Application Package

Materials Included:

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

Required Materials from Applicant:

- Artists' Studios Application Form:
 - Section A – Artistic Commitment and Excellence
 - Section B – Professional Potential & Commitment
 - Section C – Statement of Purpose
- A maximum of ten and a minimum of five digital images. Include at least five images of work completed within the last two years.
- Reference letters, minimum of two and maximum of four (current or past employers, teachers, clients, etc.). References should be persons who are familiar with your work and can affirm your artistic commitment.
- Current résumé
- Website information, if available. **Note:** Artwork displayed on website does not eliminate the requirement to submit images of artwork as described above.

The Application Process – General Description

Phase I:

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

Phase II:

- Confidential credit check or other financial Information may be requested by FVAC.
- Commercial Lease is reviewed and signed by Artist and Farmington Valley Arts Center. FVAC Artists' Studios Program offers a one-year, renewable lease. All accepted applicants must be prepared to enter into a one-year contract.

NOTE: FVAC reserves the right to change the application and jury process at any time.

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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

Please answer the following questions regarding your art or craft. If additional space is needed, attach a separate sheet.

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

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 materials do you use to create your art or craft?

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 a separate sheet.

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?

- 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? _____

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: _____

Section C: Statement of Purpose

On a separate page, please discuss the following points:

- 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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The Artists' Studio Program Evaluation – General Information

Jury Panel Members:

The jury is usually made up of artists who work in (or familiar with) the applicant's medium, an FVAC Board member, and the Jury Chair. The FVAC Board President or appropriate staff member will facilitate the jury process but will not vote.

Rating System

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

Preliminary Screening

FVAC Board President or Executive Director and the Jury Chair will 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.

Jury Process

Jurors receive the applicant's materials for review prior to the jury date. During the interview, applicant will present work and jurors will ask questions of the applicant, focusing on the applicant's creative journey and plans for future work as part of the FVAC community. As described above, 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 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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