

The Right of Return Fellowship and Frieze Impact Prize 2025 Application Guide

Center for Art and Advocacy
22 Bancroft Place., Brooklyn NY, 11233
Jesse Krimes, Founder/ Executive Director
Carly Fischer, Deputy Director
outreach@thecenter.art

Table of Contents

GENERAL OVERVIEW	3
Right of Return Fellowship	4
Frieze Impact Prize	5
ELIGIBILITY	6
For All Applicants to the 2025 Right of Return Fellowship	6
For Applicants Who Want to be Considered for the 2025 Frieze Impact Prize.....	6
TIMELINE	7
SELECTION PROCESS	8
Criteria for Right of Return Fellowship Selection	8
Criteria for Frieze Impact Prize Selection	8
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS	9
FAQ: APPLICATION FORM	9
FAQ: SAMPLES	10
FAQ: ELIGIBILITY.....	12
FAQ: PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS.....	13
FAQ: SELECTION PROCESS.....	13
GENERAL INFORMATION	14

GENERAL OVERVIEW

The **Center for Art & Advocacy** will accept applications from creatives working in visual art, film, music, creative writing, performance, design, and multidisciplinary practices for the **2025 Right of Return Fellowship** from September 1, 2024, through October 11, 2024. For the second year in a row, Right of Return is partnering with **Frieze** and **Endeavor Impact** to present the **Frieze Los Angeles 2025 Impact Prize**, which will recognize a visual artist who contributes their talents towards issues of social justice and mass incarceration.

The Right of Return Fellowship is open to directly impacted creatives from every discipline. For the 7th annual cohort, six new 2025 Right of Return Fellows will be selected from our open-call applicant pool by a panel of external reviewers to receive a grant of \$20,000 as well as mentorship and community building.

The 2025 Frieze Impact Prize will be awarded to a visual artist or experimental filmmaker who is either a Right of Return alumnus or one of the six new fellows. One artist will be selected to receive the Prize, which will award them \$25,000 and the opportunity to showcase their work at Frieze Los Angeles, which takes place February 20 - 23, 2025, at Santa Monica Airport.

Only one application must be completed to be considered for both the Right of Return Fellowship and the Frieze Impact Prize.

Right of Return Fellowship

A fellowship for directly impacted artists.

“Artists are the gatekeepers of truth. We are civilization’s radical voice.”- Paul Robeson

The Center for Art & Advocacy’s Right of Return Fellowship invites directly impacted artists to ***propose art projects aimed at transforming our criminal legal and immigration systems, to reduce their scale and reach.***

Artists have always played a critical role in social movements as culture-makers and catalysts for change. Right of Return Fellows exist and work at the forefront of social movements and have the unique power to translate complex and nuanced ideas into powerful experiences. The goal of the Right of Return Fellowship is to support the creation of new bodies of work that uplift the voices of people directly impacted by the criminal justice system, reflect the humanity of criminalized and incarcerated people, and build public will for ambitious and visionary change.

ARTIST RETREAT

If selected, Right of Return Fellows will be asked to commit to participating in a group retreat in spring 2025 and be invited to a multi-cohort retreat in following years. The Right of Return retreats are meant to foster community, develop political advocacy skills, and support practice sustainability. If COVID-19 or other circumstances makes in-person convenings impossible, abbreviated versions of the retreat will be held online.

THERAPY INITIATIVE

During the course of this fellowship, all fellows are encouraged to engage in at least 6 hours of a trauma healing modality of their choice. The Center will be responsible for coordinating the logistics and ensuring services are financially covered. Fellows are welcome to try multiple modalities including but not limited to: talk therapy, EMDR, somatic coaching, group therapy, art therapy, and more.

FELLOWSHIP GRANT

The Right of Return Grant is \$20,000 total: \$10,000 artist award, \$10,000 for project materials and production. Selected fellows will be asked to provide a proposed overall budget for the project and a project summary upon completion. A project budget is not required for the application.

Frieze Impact Prize

The Center is the third partner for the Frieze Impact Prize since it was established in 2020. The award draws inspiration from Mark Bradford's *Life Size* (2019), a work created on the occasion of the inaugural Frieze Los Angeles in 2019, which exposed the inequitable aspects of the criminal justice system.

For the second year, the Center for Art & Advocacy is partnering with Frieze and Endeavor Impact to present the fourth annual Frieze Los Angeles Impact Prize. The 2025 Impact Prize will be awarded to a visual artist who has benefited from the Right of Return Fellowship and recognizes their contribution to the campaign to end mass incarceration. Furthering the mission of both The Center and Frieze, this partnership intends to leverage art as a powerful tool to expose the inequities within our criminal legal system.

FRIEZE LOS ANGELES 2025 IMPACT PRIZE

The Impact Prize comprises a \$25,000 award, as well as shipping and installation costs for the exhibition of artwork at Frieze Los Angeles 2025. The art fair will take place February 20 - 23, 2025.

AWARD NOTIFICATION

The Frieze Impact Prize winner will be notified via email before mid-December. Applicants may be contacted during the review process by a Frieze representative if additional information about their work is necessary for consideration.

PREVIOUS AWARDEES

You can read more about 2024 Right of Return Fellow, Gary Tyler's successful experience as the 2024 Frieze Impact Prize winner [HERE](#).

ELIGIBILITY

For All Applicants to the 2025 Right of Return Fellowship

Through the Right of Return Fellowship, The Center for Art & Advocacy seeks to support directly impacted artists with a demonstrated capacity to advance social change and a clear vision for utilizing their creative practice to end mass incarceration.

More specifically:

- Directly impacted artists of all creative disciplines, age 18 or older at the time of the application. ***We do not fund organizations or non-profits, only individual artists.***
- We define the word “**artist**” in broad terms to include creatives who work in visual art, film, music, creative writing, performance, and multidisciplinary practices.
- In the context of this Fellowship, “**directly impacted**” includes those who have themselves been incarcerated and people who were detained in migrant detention centers but who have now attained U.S. citizenship by the time of this application’s open.
- Artists must collaborate with an advocacy organization during the development and/or execution of their proposed project (collaborating organizations do not need to be secured at the time of application and The Center for Art & Advocacy can help connect fellows to advocates).
- Artists may be at any stage of their career, with or without formal training.
- Projects and applicants must be U.S. based. This includes all 50 states, Washington DC, and Puerto Rico.
- The Center for Art & Advocacy seeks a diverse cohort of fellows with regard to race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, and experience.

For Applicants Who Want to be Considered for the 2025 Frieze Impact Prize

- **Only artists working in the visual arts or experimental film will be considered for the Frieze Impact Prize.**
- Creatives working in disciplines other than the visual arts and experimental film--including non-experimental film, music, creative writing, performance, design, and multidisciplinary practices, *are* eligible for the Right of Return Fellowship, but *will not be* considered the Frieze Impact Prize.

TIMELINE

Application Open Date	September 1, 2024, 8:00 A.M. EST
Application Close Date	October 11, 2024, 11:59 P.M. EST
Fellows Notified	Mid-December 2024
Frieze Impact Prize Awardee Notified	<i>*May be notified in advance of December 2024.</i>
Cohort 7 Fellowship Year	January 2025—December 2025
Frieze Los Angeles	February 20, 2025—February 23, 2025
Cohort 7 Fellowship Retreat	May 2025

Note:

Right of Return Fellows are expected to create a new project or body of work within a 12-month period ending *Dec 1, 2025*.

The Frieze Impact Prize is for an applicant's existing work, or works that are in progress but can be completed before *February 1st, 2025*.

SELECTION PROCESS

Applicants will be reviewed by a panel of external curators, artists and other experts in the field. The reviewers will represent diverse geographies, artistic practices, backgrounds, and fields of expertise.

Submitted proposals will be considered in their entirety. The final selections for both the Right of Return Fellowship and the Frieze Impact Prize will be determined by Frieze Los Angeles in conjunction with the Center and the external review committee. For the purposes of confidentiality we will not offer specific feedback discussed during the selection process though we will share details on the panelists on our website.

Criteria for Right of Return Fellowship Selection

Finalists will be considered based on the following criteria:

- Merit of artist's past work and strength of proposed project.
- Likelihood that the proposed project will meaningfully contribute to criminal legal reform efforts and reach its intended audience.
- Clarity of vision for a truly collaborative effort with partner organization or advocate(s) (artists will not be penalized for not having secured a collaborator at the time of application).
- Likelihood that the proposed work will be completed within the timeframe and budget allotted.
- Diversity of perspective and experience.

Criteria for Frieze Impact Prize Selection

For Visual Artists' and Experimental Filmmakers' consideration only: The two main differences between the Right of Return Fellowship and the Frieze Impact Prize's application process and selection are: A Right of Return Fellowship is primarily awarded based on the merit of an applicant's past work and the strength of their proposed future project idea. The Frieze Impact Prize is awarded based on the merit of an applicant's existing work, or works that are in progress.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

FAQ: APPLICATION FORM

How long is this application?

The application has a 4-question eligibility form applicants are required to fill out and several multi-question sections including **Applicant Information, Professional Narrative, Project Outline, Short Essay Questions, and Artist Samples.**

***TIP #1:** We encourage you to prepare your responses offline, then copy and paste them into the form when you are ready to upload all of your materials. This will avoid losing any work. Once you have completed the form, please click the 'submit' button on the final tab.*

What information should my application include?

You will also be asked to briefly respond to a few questions about your work and its relationship to criminal justice reform. Please give careful thought to your responses as they will help the panel better understand the work you have submitted for consideration.

If you have not completed all the sections marked with a red star, you will not be able to submit your application. This includes your name, date of birth, email address, primary phone number, as well as images (or, a link, in the case of video) of the work you have made which you would like the selection committee to consider.

What supporting material should I include?

Only submit the materials outlined above and on the online application form. This will include samples of your work and a Resume/CV.

Is there an application fee?

There is no application fee.

Can I send an application by email or post?

Applications **MUST** be submitted online. The **ONLY** exception is for artists who are currently incarcerated and are not permitted to access the technology required to do so. To coordinate, please email outreach@thecenter.art at least 1-week before the application closes on Sunday, October 4, 2024.

Can an applicant submit more than one application?

No. Each applicant can submit a maximum of one application per year.

Can I re-submit my application after the first submission?

Once you submit your application you will not be able to make corrections or re-submit in any way. Be sure to check your work offline before you upload your content and press 'Submit'.

FAQ: SAMPLES

Are there any restrictions on the kind of work I can submit for consideration?

No. All artwork, regardless of form or content, will be considered for the Right of Return Fellowship, however, **only “visual artwork” and “experimental film” will be considered for the 2025 Frieze Impact Prize.** Please refer to our application guide for more information.

Does the work I submit have to be made previously, or can I include a proposal for new work?

For the Right of Return Fellowship, submitting a project proposal for new work is required, but we strongly encourage samples of works in progress or existing works, especially for “visual artists” and “experimental film” applicants.

What images should I submit and how?

As you select which works of art you want to put forward for this prize, consider what it evokes or communicates about the inequities of mass incarceration.

Visual Artists

- Upload images of the work you would like the jury to consider here. Submit **at least five (5)** and up to **fifteen (15) individual images, as .jpeg or .png files** and are no larger than 960 pixels wide and 720 pixels high, at a resolution of 72 dpi. Each file size should not exceed 10MB.
- Samples should demonstrate your pieces' scale, detail, angles, or other elements.
- Please specify the title, medium, date, and dimensions of each of the works.
- Please specify where your work is currently located.
- If the works you would like the jury to consider are in video form, please provide a viewing link here.
- Documentation of both past and recent bodies of work is strongly encouraged for consideration for the Frieze Impact Prize.

Film

- Submit **three (3) video or audio samples** of your work, no longer than **five (5) minutes each for a maximum of fifteen (15) minutes total** for all samples.
- Submissions should be uploaded as either video **.avi, .m4v, .mov, .mp4, .mpg, .wmv** or video links (YouTube, Vimeo, etc.).

- Documentation of both past and recent bodies of work is strongly encouraged in experimental film and for consideration for the Frieze Impact Prize.

Creative Writing

- Creative writers must submit **three (3) prose samples maximum of their work**, submitted as three (3) separate .PDF documents or **five (5) to ten (10) pages of poetry** submitted as one document uploaded as a single .PDF, .doc, or .docx document.
- You can submit up to **two (2) prose samples and one (1) poetry sample** for writers working in multiple genres.
- If you include work that features images or video, **please upload the images and links as a single page .pdf.**
- Each prose sample should be **no more than 3,000 words**. If included as an excerpt, please note that under the submission's title.
- Use only standard fonts (e.g., Arial, Times New Roman, Helvetica, Georgia, etc.). The font size should be 12 points. Line spacing and margin size for all documents are your choice.
- Published *and* unpublished work will be accepted.
- There is no requirement to be published by the time of the application.

Music, Spoken Word, Podcast, Performance

- Musicians and spoken-word poets must submit **three (3) video or audio samples** of their work, no longer than **five (5) minutes each for a maximum of fifteen (15) minutes total** for all samples.
- Submissions should be uploaded as either .wav or .mp3 for audio; .mov, .mp4, .webm for video
- For unsecured (not password-protected) video links (YouTube, Vimeo, etc.), or audio streaming links (Bandcamp, Soundcloud, Spotify, Apple Music, etc.), please submit links below.

Multidisciplinary

Applicants who would like to provide samples may submit one of the following combinations:

- **Five (5) to ten (10) individual images maximum.** (See *Visual Art instructions.*)
- **One (1) writing sample.** (See *Creative Writing instructions.*)
- **One (1) video or music sample.** (See *Film or Music/Spoken Word/Podcast/Performance instructions.*)

Or

- **Two (2) writing samples.** (See *Creative Writing instructions.*)
- **One (1) video or music sample.** (See *Film or Music/Spoken Word/Podcast/Performance instructions.*)

Can additional material be included in the application?

This is a prize for a compelling body of work that helps change the narrative around mass incarceration. **Your work and your responses to the application questions are the most**

important parts of this application. If you would like to share your CV, please upload it under “Browse Files” at the bottom of the application. You may also include a link to your website, however these additional materials are **optional**.

FAQ: ELIGIBILITY

Who can apply to the Right of Return Fellowship?

The Right of Return Fellowship is open to any directly impacted U.S.-based artist working in visual art, film, music, creative writing, performance, design, and other multidisciplinary practices who is aged 18 years or older, regardless of citizenship status, felony convictions, or formal training in the arts.

Who qualifies for the Frieze Impact Prize?

The Frieze Impact Prize is only open to visual artists and experimental filmmakers who are either:

- Right of Return Fellowship Alumni. (Cohort 1-6)
- Selected as a new Right of Return Fellow from the current application round. (Cohort 7)

People who submit to the Right of Return Fellowship x Frieze Impact Prize 2025 Application are eligible for consideration.

How do you define “directly impacted” artist?

- In the context of this Fellowship, “**directly impacted**” includes those who have themselves been incarcerated and people who were detained in migrant detention centers.
- We define the word “**artist**” in broad terms to include creatives who work in visual art, film, music, creative writing, performance, and multidisciplinary practices.

Do you need to have formal training in art, such as a completed BFA or MFA degree, in order to apply?

No. Formal training in any aspect of art is not required. All applications will be evaluated based on the merit of the statements you submit and the work you select for consideration.

Are artists working collaboratively eligible to apply?

Yes. If the application is based on work that you and your collaborators produced together, that work can be considered. However, you will have to apply with a lead contact who should list their full name and details within the “Contact Details” section. Further information may be solicited about the other collaborators if the work moves forward in the review process.

FAQ: PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS

What does the winner receive?

Six (6) selected fellows will each receive the Right of Return Grant is \$20,000 total: \$10,000 artist award, \$10,000 for project materials and production.

The Impact Prize will award a \$25,000 award to an artist as well as shipping and installation costs for the exhibition of artwork at Frieze Los Angeles 2025.

Will the winner be able to attend Frieze Los Angeles?

Yes. The art fair will take place February 20 - 23, 2025.

What is to be expected of Right of Return Fellows?

If selected, Right of Return Fellows will be asked to commit to participating in a group retreat in spring 2025 and be invited to a multi-cohort retreat in following years. Selected fellows will also be asked to provide a proposed overall budget for the project and a project summary upon completion.

What is to be expected of the Frieze Impact Prize Awardee?

The winning artist is expected to be present both at Frieze Los Angeles and beforehand for meetings and collaboration on installation, press, and logistics. Semifinalists for the Prize will receive access to mentorship opportunities.

FAQ: SELECTION PROCESS

How does the selection process work?

Awardees of both the Right of Return Fellowship 2025 and the Right of Return Fellowship X Frieze Impact Prize 2025 will be selected by a panel of professionals engaged in art and activism, determined by The Center board members in conjunction with Frieze L.A. and the external review committee. The reviewers will represent diverse geographies, artistic practices, backgrounds, and fields of expertise.

If I feel really strongly that the selection committee should reconsider their decision. Is that possible?

All decisions are final. Sadly, we are unable to provide feedback to applicants or enter into correspondence with individuals regarding the final outcome of their application.

Is there a schedule for the application and selection process?

Application Open Date	September 1, 2024 8:00 A.M. EST
Application Close Date	October 4, 2024 11:59 P.M. EST
Fellows Notified	Mid-December 2024
Frieze Impact Prize Awardee Notified	TBD
Cohort 7 Fellowship Year	January 2025—December 2025
Frieze Los Angeles	February 20, 2025—February 23, 2025
Cohort 7 Fellowship Retreat	May 2025

What is the selection criteria? How will the prize be determined?

The goal of the Prize is to support an artist who is working to change the narrative around mass incarceration by inviting non-experts to view the U.S. justice system from a new perspective. Such work might include helping people recognize the inequities of the system, generating empathy for those impacted by the justice system, uplifting other insights about this issue, or all of the above.

The selection panel will focus on the body of work you submit for them to consider, and the information you provide about it in your application.

The criteria that the jury will use to evaluate the artwork for the Right of Return Fellowship and the Right of Return Fellowship X Frieze Impact Prize 2025 are as follows:

- **Artistic excellence** - evidenced by work that reflects thoughtful, clear objectives, and has been executed well in terms of both technical skill and desired social impact.
- **Quality of insight** - evidenced by work that deepens the understanding of non-experts on the issues related to mass incarceration or allows folks to see these issues in a new light.
- **Quality of empathy** - evidenced by work that deepens an understanding of the people impacted by mass incarceration.

GENERAL INFORMATION

When does Frieze Los Angeles 2024 take place?

February 20-23, 2024.

Who can I contact if I have further questions?

Please direct further questions to outreach@thecenter.art