



## 2024 Room in the House – Fellowship

### ABOUT KARAMU HOUSE

In 1915, Oberlin College graduates Russell and Rowena Jelliffe opened the Playhouse Settlement in a Cleveland area called The Roaring Third. The Jelliffes wanted to build an environment where people of different races, religions, and social and economic backgrounds could come together to seek and share common ventures through the arts. Karamu House was established as a gathering place for racially-diverse members of the surrounding community at that time. As the community became predominantly African American, Karamu responded with programs geared to their needs and interests.

Today, Karamu has been reborn as a beating heart for the entire community, regardless of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identification, or age, as it embarks on its second 100 years, retaining its historical identity as “a place of joyful gathering.” Core programs include a five-performance, socially-relevant and professional quality theatre season; arts education in drama/theatre, music and dance for all ages; and community programming, such as a lecture series, and spoken word and music performances, that invites participation and engagement, reflection, and a re-commitment to cultural values.

### ROOM IN THE HOUSE PROGRAM INFORMATION

With generous support from Cuyahoga County residents through a grant from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture, and in partnership with Assembly for the Arts, Karamu House will offer **10 artist fellowship awards in 2024 – five (5) visual arts; five (5) performing arts**. Fellowships will be awarded in June 2024. The goal of *Room in the House* is artistic growth and empowerment. To this end, Karamu is excited to provide a financial award to support artistic growth, and a platform for exposure –digital and in-person.

Application for the fellowship is open to artists who currently reside in Cuyahoga County with demonstrated commitment to their visual arts or performance-based practice. **Each selected *Room in the House* artist will receive a monetary stipend (\$5,000) and the opportunity to exhibit/perform – virtually and/or in-person based on Karamu availability. This is not a project-based grant. This an unrestricted grant award that can be used in any way that supports the artist’s work and practice.**

**TIMELINE**

Application Deadline	Award Distribution	Written Final Impact Report Due
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>May 3, 2024</b>                      *Applications due by 11:59 PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">June 2024</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">November 4, 2024</p>

**AWARD DETAILS**

Visual Artists:

- Five (5) visual artists will be selected. Each will receive an opportunity to showcase work in Karamu’s digital exhibition platform.
- Each visual artist will receive \$5,000 to support their artistic practice.
- Artists will have the opportunity to showcase work for in-person engagements, space and schedule permitting.
- Upon request, Karamu will work to identify partners to provide artist professional development workshops such as tax preparation, business and financial plan development, grant/proposal writing, marketing/media/PR.

Performing Artists:

- Five (5) performing artists will be selected. Each will receive an opportunity to showcase work in Karamu’s digital exhibition platform.
- Each performing artist will receive \$5,000 to support their artistic practice.
- Artists will have the opportunity to showcase work for in-person engagements, space and schedule permitting.
- Upon request, Karamu will work to identify partners to provide artist professional development workshops such as tax preparation, business and financial plan development, grant/proposal writing, marketing/media/PR.

**SELECTION PROCESS + CRITERIA**

A selection committee comprised of members of Karamu’s staff, board of directors, existing RITH fellows, and additional community stakeholders will assess all applications for the fellowship awards. The committee will review and score the applications and requested support materials. Only **completed** applications will be reviewed. The chosen artists will demonstrate artistic rigor, ability, commitment, and intent, as well as align to Karamu’s vision of honoring the Black experience through culturally and socially relevant work.

## HOW TO APPLY

Complete the information in the google form linked here:

<https://forms.gle/buwKxkDw4Jf5av2A>

**NOTE: Artists who have received a Room in the House award in the past cannot apply.**

## APPLICATION MATERIALS

All applicants must use the provided Google form link to apply. Submission of the following in narrative form (unless specified) constitutes a COMPLETE application:

1. Artistic Statement
2. Answers to the following questions:
  - a. Demographics: Name, Residential Address, Cell Phone Number, Email Address
  - b. Describe in narrative format how your artistic philosophy aligns to Karamu's vision of honoring the Black experience through culturally and socially relevant work. (see above *Selection Process + Criteria* section)?
  - c. Describe in narrative format how the grant award will support your creative practice.
3. Link to a portfolio showcasing at least (3) examples of your art or (3) web-quality work samples. Samples can be submitted in the following formats:
  - a. Writing: doc, docx, pdf
  - b. Images: jpg, jpeg, png
  - c. Audio: m4a, mp3, wav, wma
  - d. Video: m4v, mov, mp4, mpg, wmv
4. Any additional information or supplementary material the selection panel should have to support your application and the alignment of your artistic work to Karamu's vision?

## CRITERIA + PROCESS

Karamu will award artists who demonstrate commitment to their practice, growth in their practice, rigor, ability, intent, and alignment to Karamu's artistic vision. Applications will be assessed for:

- Completion and inclusion of all requested materials.
- Thorough and comprehensive responses to the questions about artistic vision and alignment to Karamu's artistic vision.
- Artist's ability to demonstrate commitment to their work via their shared work samples in the acceptable formats listed above.

## AWARD ANNOUNCEMENT

Winners will be notified by June 2024.

## INFORMATION SESSIONS

Karamu will offer four (4) online info sessions via zoom during the application period. Info sessions will provide an opportunity for interested artists to review the application process and ask questions about preparing the application and/ or the fellowship. All info sessions can be accessed with the following zoom registration link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwocuyuqTgvHNAmCANa1acGHLdNU7OwIN9C>

Dates:

- 3.21.24 @ 11 AM
- 3.28.24 @ 1 PM
- 4.11.24 @ 11 AM
- 4.18.24 @ 5 PM

## ELIGIBILITY

- The RITH Fellowship is open to individual artists and artist collectives that reside in Cuyahoga County.
- Applicants must be 18 years of age or older.
- Applicants cannot be staff or board members of Karamu House.
- Only one application per artist will be accepted. Artists applying as part of a collective will not be eligible to submit an individual application.

## QUESTIONS

Send all questions and concerns to: [submissions@karamuhouse.org](mailto:submissions@karamuhouse.org)

**Note: Completed applications must be received by 11:59 PM, May 3, 2024. Applications received after this time will NOT be considered.**