



Application for Studios at Torpedo Factory Art Center

Artists may apply individually or as a group for a studio. Artists will select up to three studio preferences but are not guaranteed the spaces. Leases will begin on December 1, 2020, and end on March 31, 2022, with the possibility of renewal.

Note: Artists may apply and not include a studio number if they wish to join an active lease or sublease.

Available Studios:

- **Studio 5** (430 sq. ft.): Located on the first floor near Target Gallery with a view of the Potomac.
- **Studio 8** (287 sq. ft.): Located on the first floor near the center of the Grand Hall.
- **(NEW) Studio 23** (839 sq. ft.): Located on the first floor near the center of the Grand Hall with windows overlooking Union St.
- **Studio 203** (355 sq. ft.): Located on the second floor with a view over the first-floor studios and the Potomac.
- **Studio 229** (289 sq. ft.): Located at the top of the spiral staircase and overlooks the hallway.
- **Studio 303** (230 sq. ft.): A corner unit on the third floor that overlooks the north hallway.
- **Studio 305** (221 sq. ft.): Located on the third floor and overlooks the north hallway.
- **Studio 334** (743 sq. ft.): In the center of the third floor with windows overlooking Union Street.
- **Studio 335** (748 sq. ft.): In the center of the third floor with windows overlooking Union Street.
- **Studio 343** (219 sq. ft.): A corner unit on the third floor that overlooks the north hallway from three sides.
- **Studio 344** (224 sq. ft.): Located on the third floor and overlooks the north hallway.

Timeline:

- **September 30:** Phase I due
- **October 15:** First round announced
- **November 1:** Phase II due
- **November 15:** Announcements of outcome
- **December 1:** Leases start

About Torpedo Factory Art Center

Founded in 1974, Torpedo Factory Art Center is the home of the nation's largest collection of working-artists' open studios under one roof. An Alexandria landmark for 45 years, it is the highlight of the Potomac Riverfront, attracting approximately 500,000 visitors annually.

The community of about 150 working artists, includes a wide variety of media—painting, ceramics, photography, jewelry, stained glass, fiber, printmaking, sculpture and more—in 82 studios.



Torpedo Factory Art Center is an equal-opportunity organization with high-quality art as the highest standard for artist selection. Artists may work in any visual media that can be reasonably accommodated in a studio at the Art Center.

The mission of the Art Center is to foster connections among artists and the public that ignite the creative spirit. We provide dynamic, public interactions with the arts through our community of visual artists, exhibitions, and programs. We offer art up close, in person, and in progress to the public.

About Our Values and Priorities

Torpedo Factory Art Center is a space for artistic growth and inspiration. Growing as an artist, producing new and fresh art, and interacting with the public are the top priorities of having a studio.

While marketing one's art and self is an important part of being a professional artist, art sales are not the top priority of being an artist at the Art Center. All art, however, should be of the highest originality with space to evolve and diversify over time.

We believe in the power of artists working cooperatively as a community—for economic viability, support, feedback, and the nurturing of new ideas. We believe in artistic excellence, innovation, and all forms of creative engagement. We strive to support artists at all stages of their careers from diverse communities, artistic genres, and traditions.

We value:

- High-quality artwork as shown via a portfolio review.
- An artist's ability to interact with the public and talk about their art.
- Artists having clear career goals to grow professionally, be it via exhibitions, teaching, being represented, residencies, or sales.
- Creating a kinship among creatives who work together to inspire one another and foster goodwill among the community.
- Inclusiveness of voices across media as an outcome of representation across ethnicities, gender, economics, sexuality, age, ability, education, and career level.

Application Process

The application is in two phases. Phase I takes place first and only after passing Phase I will artists be invited to submit to Phase II.

Costs: \$40 per application

Eligibility: Visual artists over age 21. Those who have received a default notice or notice that they may not lease/sublease in the future from the City of Alexandria via the U.S. Postal Service are ineligible to apply.

Applying as a group or individually: Artists may apply as a group or individually for a studio. A studio is granted to the application. The Art Center does not pair artists together. Groups of up to



four artists may apply together. If accepted, additional artists may be eligible to sublease in the studio. **An artist may apply only once, not in multiple applications.**

Space activation: A goal for the studios is to activate the spaces, particularly first floor studios. Applicants should consider how they will actively engage with the public.

Lease and Operating Rules and Procedures: Accepted artists shall follow rules of the Lease and Operating Rules and Procedures found [here](#). Additionally, artists would be required to obtain a business license and renters insurance. Staff can help advise on this process.

COVID-19: Due to the pandemic, in-person interviews will not take place. Instead, artists who make it to Phase II will submit a short video of themselves talking about their artwork. The pandemic is a fluid situation and the Art Center is following all state and local guidelines to safeguard artists, staff, and visitors.

Placement: Applicants will note their first, second, and third choice of studios. Staff will work with jurors to select the best location for accepted artists. It will largely be based on score, with the higher score getting their preferred locations. If a space becomes available due to one artist moving, staff can place an accepted applicant into a new space not listed above. Applicants have right of refusal, but it may forfeit their ability to secure a studio in the Art Center during this round of applications.

Phase I

A panel of art professionals will review, and score submitted portfolios through a blind online jury process. This online entry must include:

- 8 images (or video) of artwork produced in the past two years for each artist applying as part of the application. A maximum of four artists may apply for one studio. Therefore, there may be 8 – 32 images pending on how many artists apply.
- An image list explaining media, size, and date. If more than one artist applied, it should be denoted that it is a second, third, or fourth artist. **Names should not be included on any Phase I material or face forfeit of the application.**

Phase I Selection criteria

- Quality of Art
 - Artwork shows an understanding and desire to contribute to the dialog of contemporary art as well as clearly reflecting and expressing their conceptual ideas in their artwork. (scale of 1 – 10, higher score is better)
 - Artworks reflect a strong understanding of presentation and technical skill. (scale of 1 – 10, higher score is better)
 - Artist displays a clear ability to produce a comprehensive body of work. (scale of 1 – 10, higher score is better)

Phase II



If accepted in Phase I, artists will be invited to take part in Phase II. All artists will be notified of outcome. Phase II is not blind.

Phase II shall consist of the following being entered into the application:

- a. Short written statements:
 - i. An Artist statement (less than 200 words) for each artist on the application.
 - ii. A process statement (how you make your art, less than 200 words) for each artist on the application.
 - iii. Engagement statement: How will you (as a group and/or as an individual) engage with the public and utilize the space (less than 300 words) on statement for the group or individual applying
- b. Resume or CV for each artist applying to show career progression
- c. Active social media and website links for each artist applying
- d. A **four**-minute video of themselves showing a work of art and explaining the process for making it. For group applications, each artist should submit a 2-minute video. (Note: videos should be timed. Those longer than allotted time will be negatively reflected in the score).

Phase II Selection criteria

- Diversity of Art
 - Medium and/or subject is new, or not frequently seen, at Torpedo Factory Art Center. (scale of 1 – 10, higher score is better)
- Public Interaction
 - Artist clearly expresses their creative process and conceptual ideas. (scale of 1 – 10, higher score is better)
 - Artist will use studio to engage the public and create artwork that will be engaging to the public. (scale of 1 – 10, higher score is better)
- Career Progression
 - Artist demonstrates a progression in their artistic career and has an active online media presence. (scale of 1 – 10, higher score is better)
- Working in a Community
 - Artist has demonstrated a strong interest in being at Torpedo Factory Art Center and expresses a positive working attitude, professionalism, an interest in working within a community of artists, and a desire to engage with the public. (scale of 1 – 10, higher score is better)

Note: All information provided is subject to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

For reasonable translation or disability accommodations, contact torpedofactory@galexandriava.gov or 703.746.4570, Virginia Relay 711.