



# Sheila Hugh Mackay Foundation Emerging Artisan Award 2026

A recognition of accomplishment by emerging  
New Brunswick artisans in memory of Nel Oudemans

The SHMF Emerging Artisan Award recognizes accomplishments in craft and design by emerging New Brunswick artisans. This juried award is intended to support the creative growth of artists in the early stages of their careers. In conjunction with the \$4,000 award, the recipient is eligible for additional funding to support an approved educational opportunity within one year of the award. Arrangements must be approved by the Executive Director of the Sheila Hugh Mackay Foundation.

This award was established in 2002 as an enduring mark of respect for Nel Oudemans, a Fredericton-based weaver, educator, and nationally recognised leader in Canada's applied arts field. The SHMF has maintained this award to forward Oudemans' commitment to the encouragement of youth and the transmission of knowledge in craft and design.

## Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for the Emerging Artisan award the artist:

- Must be Canadian citizens who have resided in New Brunswick for at least five (5) consecutive calendar years immediately prior to submission.
- Must have graduated from a recognized post-secondary institution, or have completed specialized training or mentorship. Students who are about to graduate are not eligible.
- Applicants must have more than five years of artistic practice outside of a post-secondary institution, and produced an independent body of work.
- Must have continued to develop their skills in their field, either by continued study or professional practice, in New Brunswick or elsewhere.
- Artists producing one-of-a-kind pieces and those engaged in production-based work are eligible.

## 2026 Submission Deadline

The 2026 Application Deadline for the Emerging Artisan Award is June 10, 2026.

Completed applications, with all support material, must be postmarked on or before the deadline date. Late or incomplete applications, or those submitted by fax or email, will not be accepted. Applications may be made in either English or French.

## The Jury Process

Applications will be evaluated by committee composed of experienced arts professionals, recognized as such by their peers.

## Required Components of Submission

The Sheila Hugh Mackay Foundation requests both print and visual elements in this nomination/application process. The Print Components provide detailed information for the jury's information, and the Visual Components supply examples of the applicants work on USB key. Please follow the detailed instructions below for each element of the Print and Visual Components.

*Emerging Artisan Award Application Guide  
continued on page 2*

## Print Components of Submission

Submit four (4) copies of all these six mandatory print components of the application. Include only that material described here on the application form. Additional material will not be reviewed by the jury.

Fasten each set of the six print components with a paper clip (must not be bound, mounted nor stapled). Use the order listed below.

Each of the print component of the application should be on a separate piece of paper. Each should be printed in black ink, single sided, and be clearly labelled.

- **Completed cover page**  
Please complete this form, on page 4 of this guide, using black ink. The artist is required to provide their signature in the space provided. Contact information for the artist and the referees should be current and complete.
- **A short artist's statement**  
Describe your artistic practice and goals in a short statement of not more than 250 words.
- **A short biography, of no more than 250 words.**
- **A curriculum vitae, of no more than four pages**
- **Two letters of reference**  
On the cover page of this application, identify the individuals (referees) who will be submitting letters of reference for your application. These letters should be mailed by the referees to: Sheila Hugh Mackay Foundation, Box 416, Saint John, NB, E2L 4L9
- **A numbered list identifying each of the images provided on the Visual Components USB key.**  
The list should correspond to the order in which the images on the disc are presented. This list should also include the following identifying information:
  - **Title of Work:** name each digital image with a number, your initials, the year completed, and title of the work. Ensure that the numbers for the first nine images begin with a zero (eg: 01InitialsYearTitle.jpg)
  - **Date Completed**
  - **Materials & Size**

## Visual Components of Submission

With emphasis on recent work, artists must submit a disc of up to twenty (20) images of at least ten (10) different works. Images should show a range of work, and should be presented in chronological order, with most recent work last.

Please read carefully the guidelines below for detailed information on the presentation of images.

- **Images of work must follow these guidelines:**
  - Images are to be submitted on USB key in a PC compatible format
  - JPEG file format only
  - At a resolution of 72 dpi
  - Save images directly on USB without creating folders
  - Label the USB key with the artist's name and the year of submission (2026)
  - If video is required, use files that can be accessed by Quick Time, Windows Media Player or Flash. Ensure that files are PC compatible.
  - If video is the only documentation being submitted it may be no longer than 10 minutes
  - If video is combined with still images, video must not exceed 5 minutes and still images may number no more than 10.
- **Digital Portrait**
  - One of the goals of the Sheila Hugh Mackay Foundation is to increase the visibility of New Brunswick artists. To assist us in a timely promotion of the announcement of the Emerging Artisan Award winner, we request a frontal head shot of the artist suitable for distribution to the press.

## **Before you submit: Reminders**

Remember to submit four (4) complete sets of all the six mandatory Print Components of the application.

Fasten each set of the six Print Components with a paper clip. Use the order listed in the detailed descriptions.

Each of the print components of the application should be on a separate piece of paper. Each should be printed in black ink and clearly labelled. Please print single-sided.

Submit one (1) USB key with all digital images. Clearly label USB key with artist's name and date (2026).

## **Send your completed Application package to:**

The Sheila Hugh Mackay Foundation  
P.O. Box 416,  
Saint John, New Brunswick, E2L 4L9

(Receipt of applications will be acknowledged by email.)

**If you have questions about the Application Guidelines, please contact the Foundation's Executive Director, Kathryn McCarroll:**

Phone: 506.693.5647

Email: [shmf@sheilahughmackay.ca](mailto:shmf@sheilahughmackay.ca)

**The Sheila Hugh Mackay Foundation, Inc. reserves the right to refuse applications that are incomplete or that do not follow the guidelines presented here.**

**Implicit in any submission of documentation is permission to publish all or parts thereof, including the nominee's name, for purposes of promoting and announcing the Award.**



# Emerging Artisan Award 2026 Application Cover Page

Applicant's full name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Prov \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone \_\_\_\_\_ PM Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

## Referee 1

Full name \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Prov \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone \_\_\_\_\_

PM Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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

Email \_\_\_\_\_

## Referee 2

Full name \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Prov \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone \_\_\_\_\_

PM Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Implicit in the submission of this application is permission to publish all or parts thereof, for the purposes of announcing or promoting the award.

Applicant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Submission \_\_\_\_\_