



Marie Hélène Allain Fellowship 2026 Application Guidelines

The Marie Hélène Allain Fellowship is a biennial award of \$10,000 available to New Brunswick mid-career artists and craftspeople. It is given on the recommendation of an independent jury who select artists who have distinguished themselves in the last ten years of professional practice and who propose a significant body of new work to be undertaken in a fellowship year.

Named in honor of Acadian artist Marie Hélène Allain, this fellowship is intended to support creative exploration and innovation. After being selected as a Strathbutler artist, Allain was appointed as a director of the foundation by Sheila Mackay and was a leader in its development. Allain, whose career exemplifies creative exploration, pursuit of excellence and life-long learning, was a champion for professional artists throughout her three terms of leadership.

The creation of the Marie Hélène Allain Fellowship is a response to the articulated needs of mid-career artists. It is designed to support and promote mid-career artists whose works show potential. The Marie Hélène Allain Fellowship is a once in a career recognition of the pursuit of excellence, providing funds to assist the artist in the realization or presentation of a new body of work.

At the core of this funding is the belief that artists need creative freedom to explore new ideas through such opportunities as travel, mentorship, networking and dedicated time to artistic exploration.

All submissions will be evaluated by an independent jury of arts professionals, recognized as such by their peers. Applications may be made in English or French.

2026 Submission Deadline

Completed submissions for 2026 Marie Hélène Allain Fellowship (including all supporting material) must be postmarked on or before the deadline of

June 10, 2026. Late or incomplete applications or nominations will not be accepted. The Foundation can not accept applications or nominations by fax or email.

Eligibility Criteria

Artists must be Canadian citizens or have permanent resident status and must have resided in New Brunswick for at least five (5) consecutive calendar years immediately prior to submission.

Artists must have more than 10 years of artistic practice

Artists must meet the definition of a professional artist, which is an artist who:

- has specialized training in the field (not necessarily in academic institutions)
- produced an independent body of work
- made at least three (3) public presentations of work in a professional context in the past ten (10) years
- As senior artists, Strathbutler recipients are not eligible for this mid-career award.

Artists must provide information, preliminary drawings, photographs or maquettes of a proposed or in-progress creative exploration.

Artists must submit mid-term and final reports of the Fellowship year including applicable receipts.

Required Components of Submission

The Sheila Hugh Mackay Foundation requests both print and visual elements in this application. 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.

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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 and supporter are required to provide a signature in the spaces provided. Contact information for the artist and the supporter should be current and complete.
- **A curriculum vitae of no more than 3 pages**
- **An abstract of the proposed project**
This abstract should state the theme and/or planned structure that will bring proposed new work to realization. It may be written and it may include digital images of preliminary sketches or drawings of the proposed work.
- **A letter of support for the artist**
- **Bibliography**
This could include published articles, interviews, films or books documenting the critical notice and acclaim for an artist's work or contemporary practice.
- **A numbered list identifying each image provided on the Visual Components USB.**
The list should correspond to the order in which the images on the USB 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

Artists must submit a USB with up to twenty (20) images. These may include existing works but should also include images relating to the proposed new work. 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 a USB key in a PC compatible format
 - JPEG file format only
 - Save images directly on the USB key without creating folders
 - Mark 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 or Windows Media Player. Ensure that files are PC compatible.
 - If video alone is submitted, it must not exceed 5 minutes.
 - If video is combined with still images, video must not exceed 3 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 Marie Hélène Allain Fellowship winner, a frontal head shot of the artist suitable for distribution to the press is required.

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 component 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

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

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.



Marie Hélène Allain Fellowship 2026 Application Cover Page

Artist's Information

Applicant's full name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ Prov _____ Postal Code _____

Day Phone _____ PM Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email _____

Project Title _____

Signature _____

Supporter's Information

Supporter's full name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ Prov _____ Postal Code _____

Day Phone _____ PM Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email _____

Signature _____

It is a condition for the consideration of the applicant by The Sheila Hugh Mackay Foundation that the applicant agrees that the Sheila Hugh Mackay Foundation has the right to publicize, publish all or any parts of the submission including the applicant's name, portrait and any other materials submitted with the application, for the purposes of the Sheila Hugh Mackay Foundation as it may determine and such non-exclusive license form is enclosed for his signature.

Applicant's Signature _____

Date of Submission _____