



## **2021 Van Lier Fellowship in Music Performance & Composition**

### **Application Guidelines**

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The Asian American Arts Alliance is pleased to administer, with support from the New York Community Trust, the 2021 Van Lier Fellowship. This year, the fellowship will be awarded to a music artist for the creation of new work in Music Performance and Composition.

A4's mission is to ensure greater representation, equity, and opportunities for Asian American artists and cultural organizations through resource sharing, promotion, and community building. In line with these efforts, it is the aim of the A4 Van Lier Fellowship to support an early-career individual Asian American artist living in New York City to develop new work to add to the creative discourse.

Created by the will of Sally Van Lier, the Trust carries out Edward and Sally Van Lier's legacy of arts appreciation by supporting arts groups and training programs to provide education, training, or other support to young artists.

A4 will grant an eight-month fellowship to one early-career Asian American music artist, age 30 or younger, whose work shows outstanding promise and who may benefit from further professional artistic development, and who is of limited financial means.

This year, the Van Lier Fellowship is awarded to an early-career Asian American music artist, age 30 or younger. The fellow will receive an unrestricted cash stipend of \$6,000 and an eight-month fellowship tailored to respond to the unique needs of their practice. The fellowship includes artistic mentorship with an established or mid-career music professional, leadership coaching, and a range of technical support.

*A4 will administer an open application process.*

### **Fellowship Description:**

In addition to the cash stipend of \$6,000, the fellow will participate in an eight-month program beginning in May 2021 and ending in December 2021. The fellowship is structured in three phases, each facilitating a different area of professional development.

### **Phase 1: Career Coaching**

May – July 2021

The selected fellow will receive three coaching sessions from an esteemed career coach. The coaching will cover core value strengthening and goal setting/vision planning. These sessions are meant to offer personal and professional development tools for the fellow to empower themselves as a leader of their vision, craft, and field.

### **Phase 2: Artistic Mentorship**

July – September 2021

The selected fellow will receive artistic mentorship from an established or mid-career music professional. The mentorship will include one-on-one meetings with the appointed mentor. The mentor will be chosen by A4 staff based on field recommendations and with input from the fellow, giving consideration to their interests and preferences.

### **Phase 3: A4 Public Program**

October – December 2021

The selected fellow will work with A4 staff to develop and present one community workshop or public presentation in December 2020 based on their experience with the fellowship or work generated through the process.

### **Deadline:**

**APPLICATION FORMS MUST BE SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY BY 11:59PM EDT ON SUNDAY, MARCH 21, 2021.**

### **Eligibility:**

The applicant **MUST**:

- Be of Asian heritage
- Be 30 years of age or younger at the time of the fellowship (born May 1, 1991 or later)
- Not be currently enrolled as a full-time or part-time student in a degree-granting program during the fellowship period (May – December 2021)
- Be a resident of New York City (Manhattan, Brooklyn, Bronx, Queens, or Staten Island)
- Be currently living in the US and primarily based in New York City during the fellowship period (May – December 2021)

NOTE: Current A4 staff, board members, and review panelists are not eligible. Immediate family of A4 staff, board members, and review panelists are not eligible.

### **Selection Criteria:**

- Artistic merit: Clarity, imaginativeness, and uniqueness based upon body of work and work samples submitted.
- Creation of new work: Description of the project to be developed or completed during the fellowship.
- Community impact: Articulation of interest or hopes to make a significant impact on the Asian American arts community based on narrative responses in the application.

- Potential for growth: Extent to which the fellowship will advance the applicant's goals and career.
- Financial need: Demonstrated need for financial support. Finalists may be asked to provide further financial documentation.

### **Application:**

All applications are submitted online via [Jotform](#).

#### *Music Performance:*

##### Online application

- A 750-word (maximum) statement identifying the applicant's approach to music performance, innovation within the genre of music, where the applicant is in their professional and artistic development, and how the fellowship will help them pursue their future ambitions and goals.
- A 250-word (maximum) statement articulating how the applicant hopes to make an impact on the Asian American artistic community through their work.
- A 500-word (maximum) statement describing the project to be created through the support of this fellowship.
- A 150-word (maximum) statement describing how the cash stipend awarded as part of this fellowship would financially support the project and the applicant's livelihood as an artist.
- Letter of recommendation (from an educator or music professional experienced with the artist's work)
- Resume and headshot
- Work samples (up to three contrasting work samples total):
  - 2 audio only samples (Soundcloud/Spotify links to MP3, WMA, WAV: maximum 3 minutes per work sample, please share a time stamp for where to start).
  - 1 video sample (link to Youtube/Vimeo); maximum 3 minutes; if the sample exceeds 3 minutes, please indicate start and end times of the selection.
  - A brief (less than 150 words total) description of each sample submitted and why it was chosen.

Samples should show breadth and ability of the performer. The strongest applicants will be able to demonstrate clarity, imagination, uniqueness, and innovative ability through the samples.

#### *Music Composition:*

##### Online Application

- A 750-word (maximum) statement identifying the applicant's approach to music composition, innovation within the genre of music, where the applicant is in their professional and artistic development, and how the fellowship will help them pursue their future ambitions and goals.
- A 250-word (maximum) statement articulating how the applicant hopes to make an impact on the Asian American artistic community through their work.
- A 500-word (maximum) statement describing the project to be created through the support of this fellowship.
- A 150-word (maximum) statement describing how the cash stipend awarded as part of this fellowship would financially support the project and the applicant's livelihood as an artist.

- Letter of recommendation (from an educator or music professional experienced with the artist’s work)
- Resume and headshot
- A chronological list of compositions (including instrumentation, length, and performance history if applicable, for each).
- Work samples (up to three contrasting work samples total):
  - Audio or Video of performances of three different works (link to Youtube/Vimeo or Soundcloud/Spotify for MP3/WAV/WMA Each sample should be no longer than three minutes long. Please indicate start and end timestamps for each selection). Audio/Video recordings must be of three different works. Recordings of all three works is recommended.
  - Written scores of all three works as PDF files.
  - A brief (less than 250 words each) description of each sample submitted and why it was chosen.

## **Review & Selection Process:**

February 1, 2021	Public announcement of open call
March 21, 2021	Submissions close by 11:59pm EDT
March - April 2021	Panel review period
May 3, 2021	Notification of award

Review panels are composed of respected professionals in the field. All are distinguished artists.

## **Frequently Asked Questions:**

### **Who were the Van Liers?**

Throughout their lives, Sally Van Lier and her husband Edward were avid visitors to the City’s museums, concerts, and plays, and introduced many young people to the arts. Sally was a theatrical performer in the New York Theater in the 1920s and appeared in the original production of *Showboat*. To learn more, visit [here](#).

### **How do you define “outstanding promise”?**

The ideal applicant is an early-career music artist who shows extraordinary clarity of thought and creativity in their artistry *and* may realize greater achievement with additional professional development support.

### **Do I have to be Asian American to apply?**

Yes. The fellowship is awarded to an artist of Asian descent. Ethnic origins include Central Asian, East Asian, Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, South Asian, Southeast Asian, West Asian, Middle Eastern, and Multi-regional.

### **Is the fellowship open to US citizens/permanent residents or people of all immigration statuses?**

Anyone who lives in New York City and has a SSN (Social Security Number) or ITIN (Individual Taxpayer Identification Number) is eligible to apply.

### **How is the 2021 Van Lier Fellow selected?**

The fellow will be selected through an open call and jury process. Submitted applications will be reviewed by a jury composed of music professionals. Current board and staff members of A4 will not participate in the review process.

**What if I have more questions?**

You are welcome to inquire further by contacting Lisa Gold, Executive Director, at [lgold@aaartsalliance.org](mailto:lgold@aaartsalliance.org)

Applicants are strongly encouraged to attend the [Information Session for 2021 Van Lier Fellowship Applicants](#) on Wednesday, February 24 from 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm.

A4 hopes that this workshop will not only provide applicants with the nuts and bolts of a strong Van Lier Fellowship application, but also offer enriching suggestions for other fellowship opportunities. Part info session and part workshop, this one hour session will include background and logistics of the awards process and pointers on preparing a strong application.

Space is limited, so we encourage early RSVPs. [You may RSVP via Eventbrite here.](#)