ArtsCONNECT | Projects in Development listing

Last updated: January 22, 2024
Projects in Development listing closes: February 15, 2024
Application deadline: March 7, 2023
Project Period: July 1, 2024- June 30, 2025

ACCESSIBILITY

To request accommodation during any phase of your application process, reach out to Program Director, Performing Arts and Accessibility Coordinator Sarah Lewitus at slewitus@midatlanticarts.org or call 410-539-6656 X 110.

ArtsCONNECT PROGRAM LINKS

- Review the ArtsCONNECT guidelines at this link
- Submit your ArtsCONNECT application at this link

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Dance

Ananya Dance Theatre - Oswego, NY

Dance

Web presence: https://www.ananyadancetheatre.org/

Proposed fee range: Greater than $10,000 USD

Brief description: Ananya Dance Theatre is the leading creator of contemporary dance in the global arts and social justice movement. Invoking the dreams of BIPOC Women, Womxn, and Femmes, we radically reframe the ground on which we dance, inspiring our audiences through visual and emotional engagement.

Presenter information:

Lowell Hutcheson

Oswego, NY

lowell.hutcheson@oswego.edu | 315-312-4581

Other presenter(s) interested in participating in this consortium: Maryland Hall, Maryland; Vassar College, New York

Michelle N. Gibson - Dallas, Texas

Dance

Web presence: https://www.facebook.com/Mz.GTheArtist; https://www.instagram.com/mgibson4life/; https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=btnme08ByEw

Proposed fee range: Greater than $10,000 USD

Brief description: Michelle N. Gibson is a consummate storyteller, employing body and mind to build a bridge between the arts and academia. On stage and in the classroom, Gibson’s dance, choreography,
and associated scholarship evoke the social, political, economic and spiritual understandings central to building bonds within and across cultures. Employing pedagogical practices deeply rooted in both her New Orleans upbringing and the Black church, Gibson provides cultural narratives and historical context for Diaspora and African American dance forms, music, and communal gatherings. Her embodiment of jazz music, traditional funeral processions, Congo Square gatherings, the Black church, and Second Line parades celebrating community, deeply informs her understanding and instruction of African American vernacular dance forms. In every aspect of her daily practice, Gibson shares her expertise, her passion, her healing practices and her culturally driven spirit with her students, her colleagues, her audiences…and, with you. Choreographer, cultural ambassador, healer, professor, mother, and performing artist, Gibson, also affectionately known as Mz. G, received her B.F.A. in Dance from Tulane University and her M.F.A. from Hollins University/American Dance Festival at Duke University. Gibson’s teaching and choreographic practice comprises all genres of the African Diaspora, Contemporary Afro Modern, Afro Funk, Jazz, and her own New Orleans Second Line Aesthetic. Her current projects involve sharing her aesthetic and New Orleans culture through a series of workshops she’s coined The New Orleans Original BuckShop LLC. Gibson has created a number of original works, including Takin’ it To The Roots, a work supported by the National Performance Network/Visual Artists Network’s Creation Fund, Displaced Yet Rebirth performed by Dallas Black Dance Theatre, Origins of Life on Earth with the Ashé Cultural Arts Center, and Voices of Congo Square, a work focused on the rich culture and history of the Black New Orleans Mardi Gras Indians. Michelle N. Gibson’s teaching career is as diverse as her dance practice. In addition to being a 14-year faculty member with the American Dance Festival, Gibson also served on the dance faculty at Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts in Dallas for four years. Her teaching extends beyond the formal classroom to include movement-therapy workshops with seniors in facilities throughout the Dallas Metroplex using a curriculum she created while serving as a resident artist at the Ashé Cultural Arts Center in her hometown of New Orleans.

Other links:

Presenter information:
Monique Walker
Waldorf, MD
admin@umfundalai.net | 301-518-2959

Other presenter(s) interested in participating in this consortium: Phoenix International, LLC, Maryland

Circus
**INDOORS by Professor Aardvark - Rochester, NY**  
*Circus*

**Web presence:** [https://www.profaard.com/productions/indoors](https://www.profaard.com/productions/indoors)

**Proposed fee range:** Less than or equal to $10,000 USD

**Brief description:** INDOORS is a highly energetic and entertaining show, performed in and around a beautifully designed and ingeniously constructed set of four rotating and oscillating doors. INDOORS is a three-person, four-door farce. Think quick entrances, quick exits, slapstick, highly exaggerated characters, clowns, comedy, live music and a rip-roaring good time.

**Presenter information:**

Ashley Jones  
Rochester, NY  
[ashleygj1203@gmail.com](mailto:ashleygj1203@gmail.com) | 5859533910

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**Circa - Brisbane, Australia**  
*Circus*


**Proposed fee range:** Greater than $10,000 USD

**Brief description:** Circa is at the forefront of the new wave of contemporary Australian circus – pioneering how extreme physicality can create powerful and moving performances. It continues to push the boundaries of the art form, blurring the lines between movement, dance, theatre and circus.

**Other links:**


**Presenter information:**

Karen Cromer  
Elmira, NY  
[karenc@clemenscenter.org](mailto:karenc@clemenscenter.org) | 607-735-2780

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**Folk & Traditional**

**Zedashe Ensemble - Sighnaghi, Georgia (country)**  
*Folk & Traditional*
Web presence: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rIrSh8TNSt0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rIrSh8TNSt0)

Proposed fee range: Unknown at this time

**Brief description:** The artist is Zedashe, a music and dance ensemble from the country of Georgia. They perform traditional Georgian music and dance of the highest caliber.

**Other links:**
[https://www.zedashe.com/gallery](https://www.zedashe.com/gallery)

**Presenter information:**
Emily Miller
Elkins, WV
[emily@augustaartsandculture.org](mailto:emily@augustaartsandculture.org) | 917 882 9106

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**Kily Vializ & Boricua y de Mayagüez - Mayagüez, Puerto Rico**

*Folk & Traditional*

Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/kilyvializmusic?mibextid=qWsEUC](https://www.facebook.com/kilyvializmusic?mibextid=qWsEUC)
Spotify: [https://open.spotify.com/artist/3MguHeaouUvwu63uMrjHVI?si=13nMLMY-RauK3zCNe0YtKA](https://open.spotify.com/artist/3MguHeaouUvwu63uMrjHVI?si=13nMLMY-RauK3zCNe0YtKA)
YouTube: [https://youtu.be/g7tHYDzyzOY?si=XP5ENHrqrp6ti0-h](https://youtu.be/g7tHYDzyzOY?si=XP5ENHrqrp6ti0-h)

Proposed fee range: Less than or equal to $10,000 USD

**Brief description:** Kily Vializ is a Puerto Rican artist that specializes in the performance of Afro-Puerto Rican musical genres known as Plena and Bomba. Along with his performance ensemble "Boricua y de Mayagüez", Kily offers refreshing and vibrant traditional music from Puerto Rico. His proposal includes original songs that emphasize the specific style of Bomba and Plena practiced in his hometown of Mayaguez on the west coast of Puerto Rico. Kily Vializ is known for his engaging interactions with audiences and his performance ensemble (Boricua y de Mayaguez) is characterized by its impeccable execution of Bomba and Plena instruments.

**Other links:**

**Presenter information:**
Wenhong Luo
Sandy Spring, Maryland
[wluo@sandyspringmuseum.org](mailto:wluo@sandyspringmuseum.org) | (301)-774-0022, ext.110
Other presenter(s) interested in participating in this consortium: Semilla Cultural, Virginia ; Los Pleneros de la 21, New York

**Multidisciplinary**

**Ethel & A Moving Sound: The Wheel of Life - New York, NY & Taipei, Taiwan**

*Multidisciplinary*

**Web presence:** [https://scottprairie.bandcamp.com/album/the-wheel-of-life](https://scottprairie.bandcamp.com/album/the-wheel-of-life)

**Proposed fee range:** Greater than $10,000 USD

**Brief description:** In April 2023, ETHEL and A Moving Sound® from Taiwan came together in New York City and created a unique and touching album entitled "The Wheel of Life". Both groups are known for boldly pushing past the boundaries of their respective contemporary classical and world music genres. Drawing from a vast library of A Moving Sound originals, ETHEL has crafted sometimes subtle, sometimes wildly extroverted arrangements that stir the soul. The music is mystical, magical, and transformative. Virtuosic performances summon the rich power of the ETHEL string experience, supporting soaring vocals from Mia Hsieh, who performs in a striking array of ancient dialects and made-up, fantastical languages, as inspired by her training with Meredith Monk. The concert is an animated dialogue between voices, strings, dance and ethnic percussion, conveying the breaking apart and reassembling which is the human journey. The experience flows from the intensity of dark nights of the soul with "Mazu, Goddess of the Sea" and "Rite of Passage," to the introspection of "Water of Life" and the heartache of Hsieh’s vulnerability in “Crying Song.” This serendipitous collaboration, a superband connecting East to West, offers a transcendent experience crossing cultures and genres, a truly inspired theatrical music experience.

**Other links:**

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1pzZoRJNLKFBfCc_Wj0fVhVENCbGRXk9j](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1pzZoRJNLKFBfCc_Wj0fVhVENCbGRXk9j)

Available Spring, 2025

**Presenter information:**

Gary Viebranz

Erie, PA

[gav3@psu.edu](mailto:gav3@psu.edu) | 814-898-6289

LEIMAY - Brooklyn, NY

*Multidisciplinary*
Web presence: http://beta.leimay.org/

Proposed fee range: Greater than $10,000 USD

Brief description: LEIMAY (multidisciplinary artists/choreographers Ximena Garnica and Shige Moriya) has been developing A MEAL through HERE Artist Residency Program since 2018. A new interdisciplinary performance that is a ritual, laboratory, and dinner, A MEAL is a poem for the senses and a catalyst to expose the emotions that arise when we reflect on our relationship with food.

Other links:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gvEt0_Dr-3dOmZHFDJuU9TVBZqZjHXXO/view?usp=sharing

Presenter information:
Kristin Marting
New York, NY
grants@here.org | 212.647.0202 x 320

Music

Puppetry
Epidermis Circus - Victoria, BC, Canada
Puppetry

Web presence: https://www.snafudance.com/epidermis-circus.html

Proposed fee range: Less than or equal to $10,000 USD

Brief description: https://1drv.ms/b/s!AmAQ94vkaMh31W-PfKGM54yRfuk8?e=uxNt72

Other links:
https://1drv.ms/b/s!AmAQ94vkaMh31XDZpDbigJWnyiEt?e=HDrfZ
https://1drv.ms/b/s!AmAQ94vkaMh31XleTi3yZcgk1y9o?e=DYJjut
https://1drv.ms/b/s!AmAQ94vkaMh31XHsP33T8eEHf_Qt?e=07glaf

Presenter information:
Ashley Jones
Rochester, NY
ashley@profaard.com | 5859533910