



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Table of Contents: Click on a link to go directly to the question's answer

GENERAL QUESTIONS

- [Why is there one application round in 2025?](#)
- [What does USArtists International fund?](#)
- [Who are your grantees?](#)
- [Where do your grantees perform with USArtists International support?](#)
- [Who funds USArtists International?](#)
- [How many grants does USArtists International award each year?](#)

ELIGIBILITY QUESTIONS

- [Am I/we eligible for USArtists International?](#)
- [We/I don't have 501\(c\)\(3\) nonprofit status. Can I still apply?](#)
- [Do we need to have an invitation to perform at a festival or performing arts market abroad in order to apply for USArtists International?](#)
- [Is my festival engagement eligible for USArtists International?](#)
- [My engagement abroad is not part of a significant international festival or performing arts market. Can I apply for USArtists International funding?](#)
- [We have been invited to perform at a festival but it is not within the eligible project window for the next round. Can we still apply?](#)
- [When are the deadlines for USArtists International?](#)
- [Do you fund residencies or other activities abroad?](#)

APPLICATION REVIEW AND GRANTEE SELECTION

- [How do you select grantees?](#)
- [Who are your panelists?](#)
- [Do you think the panel will evaluate our application more favorably if...?](#)
- [We have multiple eligible festival engagements. Which should we include in our application?](#)
- [We only have one eligible engagement. Will it be held against us that we don't have more?](#)
- [We applied and didn't receive a USArtists International grant. If we apply again, will it be held against us?](#)
- [We received a USArtists International grant in the past. If we apply again, will it be held against us or work in our favor?](#)
- [We have been invited back to a festival for which we received USArtists International support in the past. If we apply again, will it be held against us or work in our favor?](#)
- [Can we see the application?](#)

Why is there one application round in 2025?

For the past two years the spring USAI grant round has grown exponentially. We have decided to direct our resources to this round to provide a deeper funding pool.

What does USArtists International (“USAI”) fund?

USAI provides engagement support grants of up to \$11,000 to artists and ensembles in music, dance, and theater invited to perform abroad at significant international festivals and performing arts markets, and at eligible non-festival engagements that meet guideline requirements. Grants can cover travel expenses and artist fees for eligible engagements. See the [program guidelines](#) on our website to learn about program eligibility and eligible grant expenses.

Who are your grantees?

You can review USArtists International grantees through the [Mid Atlantic Arts grantee database](#). Grantees are announced after each round by [press release](#). The most recent round of grantees can also be found on the [USAI section of our website](#). USAI is open to performing artists and ensembles nationwide. Grants have been awarded to U.S. artists located in 41 states, territories, and the District of Columbia. USAI grantees represent the excellence of the performing arts nationwide, including emerging and established artists, working in a variety of disciplines and subgenres of the performing arts.

Where do your grantees perform with USArtists International support?

We are proud to support artist engagements worldwide and have helped fund performances at festivals and performing arts markets in 95 countries on six continents since 2006. We compile the names of festivals and performing arts markets included in applications in the [Mid Atlantic Arts International Festival Database](#).

Who funds USArtists International?

USArtists International is a program of Mid Atlantic Arts in partnership with the [National Endowment for the Arts](#), with additional support from the [Trust for Mutual Understanding](#).

How many grants does USArtists International award each year?

Grant awards fluctuate annually based on program funding and applicant pools. In the 2024-25 program year, USArtists International expects to be able to award around 30-36 grants.

Am I/we eligible for USArtists International?

Full eligibility details are available in the [program guidelines](#) on our website. Grants are awarded to artists or ensembles with 501(c)(3) nonprofit status or those who apply using a non-profit fiscal sponsor.

We/I don't have 501(c)(3) nonprofit status. Can I still apply?

Yes, but you must apply using a non-profit fiscal sponsor. USArtists International guidelines require applicants without 501(c)(3) nonprofit status to apply using a US-based, 501(c)(3) nonprofit fiscal sponsor. Nonprofit organizations serving as fiscal sponsors must provide this service as part of their regular operations and this service must be available to any artist that meets the respective organizations' published criteria for fiscal sponsorship. To learn more about how fiscal sponsorship works, and securing a fiscal sponsor, visit [Grantspace: Fiscal Sponsorship](#), [National Network of Fiscal Sponsors](#), and [Fiscal Sponsor Directory](#). Do not let fiscal sponsorship scare you off from applying. Please email us if you have any questions.

Do we need to have an invitation to perform at a festival or performing arts market abroad in order to apply for USArtists International?

Yes. To apply, you must provide a written invitation from the festival or performing arts market that meets program guidelines. We compile the names of festivals and performing arts markets included in past applications within the [Mid Atlantic Arts International Festival Database](#). Please note that this is not a full list of every international festival and performing arts market eligible for the program, and not all festivals listed in this database are currently eligible for the USAI program. Please check the festival against current eligibility guidelines before applying.

Is my festival engagement eligible for USArtists International?

Full engagement eligibility details are available under the Eligibility section in the [program guidelines](#) on our website.

My engagement abroad is not part of an international festival or performing arts market. Can I apply for USArtists International funding?

Congrats on your performance abroad, but you cannot apply with just a standard engagement. If you get an invitation to an international festival or performing arts market, you can then also include your standard engagement in your application, but it is a requirement to have at least one festival or performing arts market engagement in order to apply.

We have been invited to perform at a festival but it is not within the eligible project window for the next round. Can we still apply?

No. Applications must meet [program guidelines](#) to be eligible for funding. Each grant deadline has at least a full calendar year project window in which the engagement(s) must occur. If you know about an engagement in advance, you can potentially apply for multiple deadlines if you are not selected for a grant on your first attempt. The deadlines for the program are available in the program guidelines on our [website](#).

When are the deadlines for USArtists International?

Deadlines for each program year are announced each summer. In 2024 – 2025, there will be one deadline: on February 26, 2025. See the [program guidelines](#) on our website to learn more about the specific deadline dates and project windows.

How do you select grantees?

USArtists International is a competitive grant program that uses a peer-panel review process. Panelists read all eligible applications and score and comment on how well an application meets published program review criteria. The program criteria used by panelists to evaluate applications is included in the program guidelines under the section “Application Review Criteria.” These are the only criteria that panelists use to score applications. Mid Atlantic Arts requires that panelists follow scoring instructions that reflect their interpretation of USArtists International’s evaluation criteria and recuse themselves from conflicts of interest.

Who are your panelists?

Each panel consists of four performing arts professionals from across the country, including artists, presenters, curators, previous grantees, and scholars. Panelists are leaders in the performing arts who have demonstrated excellence and broad knowledge of the field. They reflect the range of diversities that USArtists International supports: geographic, aesthetic, racial, ethnic, gender, and career stage. Serving on a USArtists International panel reflects a commitment to international exchange and to sustaining the careers of U.S. performing artists. Panelist and grantee names are announced in [press releases](#) following the completion of each grants round. You can also see [recent panelists](#) listed on our website. To be considered as a panelist for this and other programs, complete our [Panelist Interest Form](#). You only need to complete the form once to be considered for multiple programs.

How can my application be reviewed more favorably by the panel?

The program criteria by which panelists evaluate applications is included in the [program guidelines](#) under the section “Application Review Criteria.” These are the only criteria that panelists use to score applications. Familiarizing yourself with the objectives of the program and the review criteria may be helpful in providing evidence that your application strongly meets review criteria. See the [program guidelines](#) on our website for application review criteria.

We have multiple eligible engagements. Which should we include in our application?

Each application must have at least one eligible festival or performing arts market engagement, and can then include up to two additional engagements as part of the international tour. These additional engagements can be more festivals and performing arts markets, or standard engagements not taking place at a festival. When including multiple engagements they must be part of a continuous tour with no return trip to the United States between engagements. Which eligible engagement(s) you include in the application is your decision. Familiarizing yourself with the objectives of the program and the review criteria may be helpful in selecting the engagements that most strongly meet review criteria. See the section “Application Review Criteria” in the [program guidelines](#) on our website for application review criteria. These are the only criteria that panelists use to score applications.

We only have one eligible engagement. Will it be held against us that we don’t have more?

Historically, many applications and funded projects have had only one eligible engagement, so if you have one strong festival engagement we would strongly recommend that you apply. USAI does seek to support international tours that include multiple engagements abroad, thereby maximizing the tour’s effectiveness when considering the environmental impacts of touring. Part of the review criteria is the consideration of the number of confirmed engagements in the application. We seek to encourage artists to add-on standard performances to their tour, so applications with multiple engagements will receive a modest bump in consideration due to this review criteria.

We applied and didn’t receive a USArtists International grant. If we apply again, will it be held against us?

No. Panelists change each round and will not know the status of previous applications or awards unless you include these details in your application. As long as your application is eligible, you can continue to reapply. The program criteria with which panelists evaluate applications is included in the [program guidelines](#) under the section “Application Review Criteria.” See the [program guidelines](#) on our website to learn about program eligibility.

We received a USArtists International grant in the past. If we apply again, will it be held against us or work in our favor?

Neither. Panelists change each round and will not know the status of previous applications or awards unless you include these details in your application. The program criteria by which panelists evaluate applications is included in the [program guidelines](#) under the section “Application Review Criteria.” These are the only criteria that panelists use to score applications. Review criteria do not include any language to favor or disadvantage previous grantees or repeat applicants. Recent USAI grantees do have to wait a certain period of time before they are eligible to reapply. Review guidelines for additional details.

We have been invited back to a festival for which we received USArtists International support in the past. If we apply again, will it be held against us or work in our favor?

If you are applying for funding to support an engagement at a festival for which you previously received support through USAI, you will need to provide a compelling reason and statement for the return engagement as part of your application. The program criteria with which panelists evaluate applications is included in the [program guidelines](#) under the section “Application Review Criteria.” These are the only criteria that panelists use to score applications. Review criteria do not include any language to favor or disadvantage previous grantees attending the same festival.

Do you fund residencies abroad?

Due to limited funds, not at this time. Grants can only support travel expenses and artist fees directly related to the performances at eligible festivals, performing arts markets, and eligible non-festival performances. On our website, see “Eligible Grant Expenses” in the [program guidelines](#) and USAI budget instructions for additional information.

Can we see the application?

The online application will be available [here](#) in advance of the program deadlines.