



## ArtsCONNECT | Program Guidelines 2025-2026

Projects in Development listing closes: February 13, 2025

Application deadline: February 25, 2025

Project Period: July 1, 2025- June 30, 2026

### ACCESSIBILITY

This publication is available in .PDF format and as an accessible Word file at

<https://www.midatlanticarts.org/opportunity/artsconnect/>

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](mailto:slewitus@midatlanticarts.org) or call 410-539-6656 X 110.

### ABOUT ARTSCONNECT

**Three or more** Presenters (referred to throughout these guidelines as “the consortium”) located in two or more states across the mid-Atlantic region who partner to present the same artist/company during the project period can each receive up to 50% subsidy for that artist/company’s compensation (including artistic compensation, housing, per diem and travel) plus support for other eligible project expenses.

One presenter in the consortium must submit the artist/company to the projects in Development listing by the stated deadline. Presenters may review the Projects in Development listing periodically to connect with developing ArtsCONNECT projects.

Each presenter in the consortium must submit their own application. One presenter in the consortium must serve as the lead presenter, completing an additional application section including proposed artist/company bio and work samples. See below for more information on eligibility, application process, application adjudication and award notification.

Mid Atlantic Arts is committed to supporting diverse, equitable, inclusive, and accessible programming in our region. Projects that demonstrate clear mission impact, strong artistry, well-rounded community and artist engagements, and thoughtful and inclusive efforts to engage audiences systemically underserved by the arts are encouraged to apply.

## ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for an ArtsCONNECT grant award, presenters\* must:

- be based in Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Virginia, West Virginia, and the Native nations that share this geography;
- be a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization or be a unit of state or local government or Federally recognized Indian tribal government;
- demonstrate organizational administrative capacity\*\* to complete all required project components;
- be in good standing with Mid Atlantic Arts at the time of application, with no overdue or outstanding required reports and/or grant documents

*\*For this program, Mid Atlantic Arts defines “presenter” as an organization that financially compensates an artist/company that is a separate entity from the presenter for performance(s) and engagement activities in the presenter’s community. Producing organizations that solely create artistic work or assemble artists to perform as ensembles for performances are not eligible to apply.*

*\*\*Presenters do **not** need to have a history of engaging professional touring artists as an ongoing and/or significant part of their organization’s activity to receive ArtsCONNECT support; organizations without a history of presenting touring artists will be asked to describe their administrative plan for engaging the artist/company within their existing staff structure and among other organizational priorities.*

## MAXIMUM NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS PER PRESENTER

- Each presenter may submit an application for a maximum of **one** ArtsCONNECT consortia project per annual application cycle.

## CONSORTIUM REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for an ArtsCONNECT award, the following additional eligibility requirements surrounding consortia must be met:

- Each consortium must include at least **three** presenters from two or more mid-Atlantic states or jurisdictions. Presenters based outside of the mid-Atlantic states or jurisdictions are not eligible to apply. See Presenter Eligibility above for list of mid-Atlantic states/jurisdictions.
- One presenter of the consortium must be designated the lead presenter of the project. The lead presenter is responsible for:
  - coordinating all members of the consortium to ensure consortium requirements are met;
  - coordinating with the artist/company to complete additional questions in the application on behalf of the consortium (e.g., artist description, work samples)
- Each presenter in the consortium, including the lead presenter, is responsible for:
  - planning a performance engagement with the touring artist in their community;

- negotiating with the artist the terms of the specific engagement;
- completing a full application for the engagement as part of the proposed consortium project

## ARTIST/COMPANY REQUIREMENTS

All presenters in an ArtsCONNECT consortium must propose engagement with the same artist/company. Each presenter’s proposed engagement must take place within the project period. The tour is not required to be contiguous, nor does the artist need to perform the same work or repertoire at each site on the tour.

The artist can be based anywhere across the U.S. or around the world, including those based in the same state or jurisdiction as any of the applicant presenters. Mid Atlantic Arts does not offer an artist roster for this program; the presenter consortia will independently decide the artist they jointly propose to tour.

Eligibility restrictions related to Artist/Company support through ArtsCONNECT:

- Presenters may not participate in a consortium to present an artist they have presented with ArtsCONNECT support within the past three years
- Artists on Mid Atlantic Arts’ active Performing Arts Global Exchange (PAGE), Iber Exchange, or Mid Atlantic Tours rosters are not eligible for presentation support through ArtsCONNECT. See [midatlanticarts.org](http://midatlanticarts.org) for active program rosters
- Presenters applying for support through the current grant round of ArtsCONNECT cannot receive funding from Mid Atlantic Arts’ Special Presenter Initiatives or Folk & Traditional Arts Community Projects Grant programs to support the same artists and engagements
- One presenter within the consortium must submit the Artist/Company to the Projects in Development listing by the deadline. See “Application Process” below for more details.

## PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

Each presenter in the consortium is required to include the following activities in their respective engagements:

- At least one in-person or virtual\* performance with the artist that is open to the general public; **and**
- At least one community engagement activity. These may include exhibitions, lecture/demonstrations, master classes, panel discussions, pre- or post-performance artist question and answer sessions, residencies, workshops, and interactive engagements over digital platforms

Competitive ArtsCONNECT applications often go beyond the two required engagement activities described above, with multiple community engagement activities and thoughtful effort to engage communities systemically underserved by the arts. See “Application Adjudication” below for more details on the selection process.

*\*Mid Atlantic Arts defines a virtual performance as an online, public presentation of work by an*

*artist or group of artists that is streamed live or pre-recorded.*

Proposed activities must meet the following requirements:

- All eligible activities must take place during the project period (July 1, 2025- June 30, 2026)
- Fundraising events, either as part of the public performance or community engagement activity, are not eligible for support
- Performances that primarily serve a non-public audience (such as K-12 schools, university classes, summer camps, senior centers, etc.) are not considered public performances, although they may be one of the community engagement activities that comprise an ArtsCONNECT project

## APPLICATION PROCESS

### PROJECTS IN DEVELOPMENT LISTING

The Projects in Development listing is a user-generated resource for presenters to connect with one another as they develop their ArtsCONNECT consortium. Presenter participation in the Projects in Development listing is required. A presenter must submit an artist's information to the listing by Thursday, February 13, 2025. **Cohort applications proposing artists that have not been submitted to the listing by Thursday, February 13, 2025 will not be eligible for ArtsCONNECT funding.** [Submit to the Projects in Development listing at this link](#) or by visiting [midatlanticarts.org](http://midatlanticarts.org).

Projects in Development Listing details:

- The Projects in Development listing is not a grant application. All presenters must apply through Mid Atlantic Arts' grant portal in order to be considered for funding. See Application section below for more details
- The purpose of the listing is to help applicants identify presenting partners. Content of the listing entry will not be reviewed by the grant panel
- The listing must be submitted by a presenter; an artist (including the artist representative/manager) cannot self-submit to the listing
- Only one presenter in a consortium should submit a Projects in Development listing.
- There are no penalties for any listing entries that do not successfully form into a full consortium
- Mid Atlantic Arts encourage presenters to submit to the listing as early as possible to allow ample time for consortium and project development

### APPLICATION PORTAL

All presenters in an ArtsCONNECT consortium must apply through Mid Atlantic Arts' online grant portal for funding consideration. The web portal can be accessed by visiting [midatlanticarts.smartsimple.com](http://midatlanticarts.smartsimple.com).

Presenters must log into the grant portal with their existing username and password. If the presenter has never applied for funding through Mid Atlantic Arts, or if the last application submitted was through Mid Atlantic Arts' former portal, "eGrant," the presenter must create a new login through SmartSimple. Email the Program Director, Performing Arts if you have any questions about your account status.

The ArtsCONNECT application, including lead presenter narrative and work sample requirements, can be previewed and downloaded in Microsoft Word and PDF formats at this link: <https://www.midatlanticarts.org/opportunity/artsconnect/>

The following required materials are uploaded with the online application:

- Countersigned letter of intent between the presenter and the proposed artist. The letter must include the following:
  - Specific dates of the engagement
  - Negotiated artist fee for proposed project, inclusive of performance and community engagement activities
  - The title of the works to be performed (if known)
- If the presenter forms part of local or state government: one copy of a letter on letterhead, signed by an authorizing official, confirming the applicant's status as a unit of local or state government.

## ARTIST CONSENT

We highly encourage applicant organizations to share the specific plans and activities of a proposal with the artist and the artist representative for the purpose of transparency. Please plan your timing to share the information accordingly.

## ELIGIBLE REQUESTS

**A Presenter can request a maximum grant amount of \$12,000.00 USD per project.** The Lead Presenter does not serve as a fiscal conduit for a funded ArtsCONNECT project. Each presenter in a funded consortium will receive a grant directly from Mid Atlantic Arts.

Each presenter may request the following:

- A fee subsidy up to 50% of the negotiated artist fee for the engagement, but not to exceed \$10,000.00 USD;
- Other eligible expenses of no more than \$2,000.00 USD to support direct project expenses including, but not limited to, program staff salary, direct technical personnel fees, audience development, marketing and promotional expenses, project-specific purchases or consulting related to increasing access for artists with disabilities, staff, audiences or community members, technical and equipment rental expenses for virtual or in-person engagements, artist travel/lodging expenses, and/or expenses related to public health measures for in-person engagements

Funding requests must meet the following requirements:

- Funding awarded by Mid Atlantic Arts is restricted to the specific, direct costs of the project, as detailed above, and may not be used for indirect costs, including funding for the presenter capacity support amount
- Grants must be matched on a 1:1 basis. The match may not include Federal funds whether they are received directly from a Federal agency or indirectly, such as through a state agency or other entity. In addition, the Mid Atlantic Arts grant and the required match may not be used to match any other directly or indirectly received Federal funds

## **DEADLINES**

- **Projects in Development listing closes: February 13, 2025**
- **Application deadline: February 25, 2025**

## **APPLICATION ADJUDICATION**

A panel composed of experienced performing arts professionals will review applications and make recommendations for support using the following criteria. All criteria will be reviewed through the lens of Mid Atlantic Arts' mission, vision and guiding principles, available at [midatlanticarts.org](http://midatlanticarts.org). All criteria have equal weight.

### **Mission Impact**

The project demonstrates artistic merit by fulfilling a clearly defined mission of the applicant organization, with feasible planning and significant potential for impact.

### **Artistry**

The project demonstrates artistic excellence as defined by its rigor in artistic practice as well as richness and depth in exploration of ideas and social relevance.

### **Community Benefit**

The project offers meaningful and equitable exchanges between the artist, the presenter, and local communities through its planned activities.

### **Access**

The project engages in thoughtful efforts and partnerships that help cultivate diverse audiences and alleviate barriers of participation for individuals representing communities that have been systemically underserved by the arts. Barriers of participation may include those due to age, class, disability status, gender, geographic location, race, sexual orientation, or other factors.

## **ADJUDICATION DETAILS**

Applications will be adjudicated individually based on the four criteria above. Total application scores will be averaged for each consortium. ArtsCONNECT funding decisions will be made based on average consortium score.

Consortium projects will be reviewed in two tiers:

- Tier 1: Proposed negotiated artist fee for all consortia members averaged at or below \$10,000.00 USD
- Tier 2: Proposed negotiated artist fee for all consortia members averaged above \$10,000.00 USD

Presenter applicants will be assessed in part on the risk of noncompliance with Federal statutes, regulations and the terms and conditions as provided by the applicant's Certification and Statement of Assurances in the submitted application and the results of previous audits including adherence to Single Audit requirements as set forth by Federal statutes.

## **AWARD NOTIFICATION**

**All applicants will be notified by email on the status of their proposals by the end of May, 2025.**

If awarded, 100% of the grant amount is paid by ACH transfer or, if necessary, by check to the grantee (or fiscal sponsor, if applicable) approximately 45 – 60 days prior to the engagement following the review and signing of a grant award agreement.

A final report for a funded project is due no later than 30 days after the project completion date. The final report, made available in the online grant portal at the time the grant is awarded, requires a brief description of the completed project along with an accounting of expenditures of the funded activities. Final report instructions are provided as part of the grant award documents.

## **QUESTIONS?**

Contact Sarah Lewitus, Program Officer, Performing Arts & Accessibility Coordinator at [slewitus@midatlanticarts.org](mailto:slewitus@midatlanticarts.org) or 410-539-6656 x 110.

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