



Mid Atlantic Presenter Initiatives

Program Guidelines 2026-2027

Application deadline: April 30, 2026

Project Period: September 1, 2026 - December 31, 2027

ACCESSIBILITY

This publication is available in .PDF format and as an accessible Word file at <https://www.midatlanticarts.org/opportunity/mid-atlantic-presenter-initiatives/>

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.

ABOUT MID ATLANTIC PRESENTER INITIATIVES

Mid Atlantic Presenter Initiatives opens the former Special Presenter Initiatives program, which was limited to specific states and jurisdictions, to the larger mid-Atlantic region, including 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. The program supports performing arts engagements including public performance and community engagement at small and mid-size arts and community organizations, with budgets under \$3,000,000.00**.

Presenters can receive up to 50% subsidy for the presentation of an artist/company (including artistic compensation, housing, per diem, and travel.)

Mid Atlantic Arts is committed to supporting diverse, equitable, inclusive, and accessible programming in our region. We encourage 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.

ELIGIBILITY

In addition to the eligibility requirements listed below, organizations may only apply for **one** of the following opportunities for the 2026-2027 cycle:

- [Mid Atlantic Presenter Initiatives](#)
- [Folk & Traditional Arts Community Projects](#)
- [Central Appalachia Living Traditions \(CALT\)](#)

Reach out to the Program Director for these programs to discuss your questions about which program is the best fit for your project in this cycle.

To be eligible for a Mid Atlantic Presenter Initiatives 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;
 - Units of government must provide a document on official letterhead to confirm your status as a government entity.
 - Fiscal sponsorship is not allowed for this program.
 - Applicants must have a confirmed [SAM.gov Unique Entity ID \(UEI\)](#) number by the application deadline.
- have an annual operating budget at or under \$3,000,000.00 USD** as listed on the organization's most recent Form 990;
- 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.*

***Organizations that have applied to Mid Atlantic Arts' ArtsCONNECT or Special Presenter Initiatives programs in the past three program cycles (FY24, FY25, FY26) **may** apply to the MAPI program in the 2026-2027 cycle, even if their budget is over \$3,000,000.00. Presenting organizations that are part of a larger institution (such as a University) but have a discreet departmental budget under \$3,000,000.00 may 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 MAPI 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

- Applicants may apply for a maximum of **ONE** (1) MAPI project per annual application cycle.

ARTIST/COMPANY REQUIREMENTS

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

Eligibility restrictions related to Artist/Company support through MAPI:

- Artists on Mid Atlantic Arts' active [Performing Arts Global Exchange \(PAGE\)](#) or [Mid Atlantic Tours](#) rosters are not eligible for presentation support through MAPI. See midatlanticarts.org for active program rosters.

PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

The presenter is required to include the following activities in their engagement:

- 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.

**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 (September 1, 2026-December 31, 2027);
- 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 a MAPI project.

APPLICATION PROCESS

APPLICATION PORTAL

All presenters requesting MAPI support must apply through Mid Atlantic Arts' online grant portal for funding consideration. The web portal can be accessed by visiting midatlanticarts.smartsimple.com.

The MAPI application can be previewed and downloaded in Microsoft Word and PDF formats at this link: <https://www.midatlanticarts.org/opportunity/mid-atlantic-presenter-initiatives/>

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

Organizations based in DC, DE, PR, USVI, & WV may request the following:

- A fee subsidy up to 50% of the negotiated artist fee for the engagement, not to exceed **\$5,000.00** 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.

Organizations based in MD, NJ, NY, PA, & VA may request the following:

- A fee subsidy up to 50% of the negotiated artist fee for the engagement, not to exceed **\$5,000.00** USD.

All funding requests must meet the following requirements:

- The minimum grant request is \$1,000.00 USD;
- 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

- ***Application deadline: Thursday, April 30, 2026, 11:59pm***

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. 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 based on the four criteria above. MAPI funding decisions will be made based on average application score by state/jurisdiction, ensuring equitable distribution of funding across the region.

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

Mid Atlantic Arts anticipates notifying all applicants on the status of their proposals by the end of July 2026. Funding notification timelines are pending funding notification from the National Endowment for the Arts. See section “Source of Funding: Transparency” section above for more details.

If awarded, 100% of the grant amount is paid by ACH transfer or, if necessary, by check to the grantee.

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 as well as photographs and examples of promotional materials from the funded engagement. Final report instructions are provided as part of the grant award documents.

QUESTIONS?

Contact Sarah Lewitus, Program Director, Performing Arts & Accessibility Coordinator at slewitus@midatlanticarts.org or 410-539-6656 x 110.

The Mid Atlantic Presenter Initiatives program is made possible through the support of the National Endowment for the Arts’ Regional Engagement Program.

Application Resources

We encourage you to get in touch with Program Director, Performing Arts Sarah Lewitus at slewitus@midatlanticarts.org or 410-539-6656 X 110 for a personalized conversation about your application. There are also several public opportunities to meet and ask questions.

WEBINARS

ACCESSIBILITY: We will provide CART translation/live captioning for all webinars, and post a recording on the [Mid Atlantic Arts website](#) and [YouTube channel](#).

To request other accommodations, or if you have any questions about webinars, please contact Program Director, Performing Arts Sarah Lewitus at 410-539-6656 X 110. Please request accommodation **at least 5 business days** before the webinar.

Wednesday, January 21, 2026, 2:00-3:30pm: Mid Atlantic Presenter Initiatives Program Overview

- **Register:** [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)
- Spoken content and live captioning for this webinar will be in English.

OFFICE HOURS

Program Director, Performing Arts Sarah Lewitus is available to answer quick questions without an appointment at our weekly office hours:

- Wednesday, February 18, 2026, 2:00-3:00pm. (In-Person Spanish Language Translator will be present.) Visit [program page](#) for link.
- Wednesday, April 1, 2026, 11:00am-12:00pm. Visit [program page](#) for link.

If the above times don't work for you, reach out for a conversation on your schedule to Program Director, Performing Arts Sarah Lewitus at slewitus@midatlanticarts.org or 410-539-6656 X 110.

APPLICATION AND FINAL REPORT

[Review Mid Atlantic Presenter Initiatives application and final report questions at the Mid Atlantic Presenter Initiatives program page, at this link.](#)