

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Friday, March 8, 2019

PROJECT PERIOD

July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020

ACCESSIBILITY

This publication is available in .PDF format and as a Word file at www.midatlanticarts.org. The Word version is designed with headers to be screen-reader friendly.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Support for the presentation and touring of performing artists is central to the work of Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation (MAAF). The ArtsCONNECT program supports the excellence of live performing arts engagements for audiences and communities across the mid-Atlantic region for touring projects proposed by presenter consortia. Projects must include public performances and community engagement activities that enhance meaningful exchanges between touring artists and a presenter's community. The program supports tours of exemplary artists involving all performing arts disciplines, including dance, music, theater, multi-disciplinary work, and folk/traditional arts. MAAF encourages the development of commissioning projects and/or projects that tour widely within the mid-Atlantic states and jurisdictions.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

ArtsCONNECT is designed to bring artists of the highest quality to audiences throughout the mid-Atlantic region, particularly in communities underserved by the arts, which, for the purposes of this program, is defined as populations whose opportunities to experience the arts are limited by geography, ethnicity, age, economics, or disability. The program is interested in fostering the sharing of information, experiences and resources among presenters to build strong networks for future presentations. Competitive proposals will demonstrate well-designed engagements that reflect active collaboration amongst presenters in a consortium and feature meaningful exchanges between artists, audiences and their communities.

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

ArtsCONNECT supports projects that are conceived and developed collaboratively by consortia comprised of presenters from within the mid-Atlantic region. For the purposes of this program, MAAF defines a presenter as an organization that selects and engages professional touring artists to perform before general audiences in its community and manages the logistics in connection with those performances as an ongoing and significant component of their organization's activity. Presenters manage all the local requirements for the performance and facilitate the interaction between artists and the public. Producing organizations, which solely create artistic work or assemble artists to perform as ensembles for performances, are not eligible to apply to ArtsCONNECT.

All presenters participating in a consortium must:

- be based in Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Virginia, or West Virginia;
- be designated by the United States Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization or be a unit of state or local government; and
- be in good standing with MAAF at the time of application, with no overdue or outstanding required reports and/or grant documents.

Presenters are limited to participation in a maximum of three consortia applications per application deadline.

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 or Common Information Form and the results of previous audits including adherence to Single Audit requirements as set forth by Federal statutes.

Consortia must adhere to the following:

- Each consortium must include at least three presenters from a minimum of two eligible states or jurisdictions. Although tours may cross into other regions, MAAF will only support engagements based in the program's nine eligible states and jurisdictions.
- No more than four presenters in the same state or jurisdiction can be a part of any one consortium.
- All consortium members must be based outside the home state or jurisdiction of the proposed artist. Limited exceptions apply to New York State-based artists and presenters:
 - Presenters located in New York City, Nassau, Rockland, Suffolk or Westchester Counties are ineligible to apply for support for any artist based in these areas but are eligible to apply for support for artists based in any other part of New York or outside the state.
 - New York presenters located outside of New York City, Nassau, Rockland, Suffolk or Westchester Counties are eligible to apply for support for any artists based in these areas but are ineligible to apply for support for artists based in any other part of New York State.
- A majority of presenter partners in a consortium must have a minimum of three years continuous history of offering multiple presentations by professional touring artists in a given season.

PROJECT ARTIST ELIGIBILITY

- ArtsCONNECT projects must feature professional performing artists that have at least two years of touring experience either regionally, nationally, or internationally. For the purposes of this program, a professional artist is someone who receives a significant portion of annual income from artistic activities and has a demonstrated record of achievement within their chosen artistic discipline(s).
- The following artists supported through the ArtsCONNECT program for either the 2017-2018 or 2018-2019 seasons are ineligible in the current round:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ananya Dance Theatre** • Camille A. Brown & Dancers* • Cynthia Oliver Company Dance Theater* • David Roussève/REALITY** • Feathers of Fire: A Persian Epic* • Koresh Dance Company** • Las Cafeteras* • Oliver Lake Big Band* • Orkestra Mendoza* • Paul Taylor Dance Company* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Rose Ensemble** • Roy Assaf Dance* • San Jose Taiko** • So Percussion* • Theatre Re** • Tiger Trio** • Urban Bush Women**
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*supported in the 2017-2018 season
**supported in the 2018-2019 season
- Artists on MAAF's 2019-2020 [Mid Atlantic Tours](#) and [Southern Exposure](#) rosters are ineligible for support in the current round.
- Companies comprised of multiple, separate and distinct touring ensembles (e.g., Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and Ailey II or Paul Taylor Dance Company and Taylor 2) cannot have more than one of their ensembles included in a single ArtsCONNECT application.
- Organizations applying for support through the current grant round of ArtsCONNECT cannot apply to MAAF's the Special Presenter Initiatives program for funding to support the same artists and engagements.

PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

All ArtsCONNECT projects are required to include the following:

- At least one public performance that serves and is marketed to the general public in each community on the tour. For the purposes of this program, performances that primarily serve a non-public audience (such as K-12 schools, university classes, summer camps, nursing homes, etc.) are not considered public performances, although they may be one of the community engagement activities that comprise an ArtsCONNECT project.
- At least one community engagement activity in each community on the tour. For the purposes of this program, a community engagement activity is defined as an activity that enhances the audience's appreciation for the artists' work. These may include, but are not limited to, exhibitions, lecture/demonstrations, master classes, panel discussions, pre or post-performance artist question and answer sessions, residencies, workshops, and other creative approaches to engage the local community.

ArtsCONNECT tours are not required to be contiguous, nor does the artist need to perform the same work or repertoire at each site on the tour.

Projects in which the touring artist is not the primary focus of the performance, or are fundraising events, are ineligible for support.

CONSORTIUM MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

An ArtsCONNECT consortium is comprised of a Lead Presenter and at least two Presenter Partners. Each presenter has specific responsibilities in the development of an application as outlined below. All of the presenter partners should actively participate in the planning and development of the project.

Lead Presenters

The Lead Presenter is responsible for coordinating the planning effort that leads to the development of an ArtsCONNECT project. The Lead Presenter does not serve as a fiscal conduit for a funded ArtsCONNECT project. Each presenter (the Lead and the Presenter Partners) in a funded project will receive a grant directly from MAAF.

In acknowledgment of their role in facilitating ArtsCONNECT projects and completing the Lead Presenter section of the application on behalf of their respective Presenter Partners, Lead Presenters of funded projects will receive, as part of the grant award, \$100 per consortium member (excluding the Lead Presenter).

Presenter Partners

Each Presenter Partner, as well as the Lead Presenter, is responsible for:

- developing and planning the performance(s) and community engagement activity(ies) in their community, including identifying and coordinating with community partners;
- negotiating with the artist or ensemble the terms of the engagement in their community; and
- completing an application for the proposed project.

Important Notes on Project Collaboration

Projects will be assessed on the collaborative efforts of the consortium as well as the individual strength of each participating presenter. Lead Presenters and their Presenter Partners should develop plans for the engagements in their communities and prepare their respective applications in a timely manner that allows the consortium to collectively review and discuss them prior to submittal. An incomplete or weak application from any participating presenter can negatively impact or potentially disqualify a consortium request.

In rare cases, the request of an individual consortium partner may be denied funding while the remaining partners are funded, providing that the project still meets the program's requirements for eligibility.

APPLICATION REVIEW

A panel composed of experienced performing arts professionals will review applications and make recommendations for support.

ArtsCONNECT applications will be evaluated based on the following four criteria. These criteria are not ranked or given specific weights:

- **Artistic Excellence and Tour Readiness of the Artist/Ensemble**

The demonstrated excellence of the artist/ensemble as evidenced by submitted work samples and documented records of achievement, including awards, honors, grants, and performance history, as well as the selected artist/ensemble's proven experience in touring

- **Quality of Collaboration**

The degree to which the project reflects strong consortium planning, as demonstrated by the collaborative efforts of the lead presenter and the presenter partners in developing the tour, resulting in relevant and well-designed engagements in their respective communities

- **Depth of Engagements**

The degree to which the public performances and community engagement activities provide a greater appreciation for the artists' work, meaningful exchanges between artists and communities, and opportunities to reach populations underserved by the arts

- **Organizational Capacity**

The organization's capacity to carry out the project successfully as demonstrated by its presenting history and financial and human resources

In addition, priority consideration will be given to:

- Consortia that support works commissioned by one or more members of the consortium.

GRANT AMOUNTS AND ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

ArtsCONNECT grant amounts range from \$1,000 to \$10,000, except for projects that include the commissioning of new work, in which case grants cannot exceed \$15,000. No presenter request for less than \$1,000 for an engagement will be considered for support.

Grant amounts are based on a percentage of costs for an engagement. Presenters may request up to 50% of eligible project expenses (not to exceed dollar limits stated above). Regarding eligible expenses, please note:

- Eligible costs include contracted artist fees (including commissioning fees, if applicable) and artist-related travel and lodging.
- Contracted artist fees for the public performance and any community engagement activities in which the artist(s) is involved must be listed in the application budget and clearly outlined in the required Letter of Intent or contract submitted with the application.
- Funding awarded by MAAF is restricted to the specific, direct costs of the project, as detailed above, and may not be used for indirect costs.

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 MAAF grant and the required match may not be used to match any other directly or indirectly received Federal funds.

Grants are made directly to each presenter in a consortium project that is approved for support.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Friday, March 8, 2019 for projects taking place between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020.

Applications must be completed and submitted through the eGRANT online system at <http://midatlanticarts.egrant.net> on or before the published deadline. Applications submitted after the deadline will not be considered for review. No hard copies of the application will be accepted for consideration.

Questions should be directed to Haowen Wang, Program Officer, Performing Arts at haowen@midatlanticarts.org or 410-539-6656 x 110.

AWARD NOTIFICATION

All applicants will be notified by email on the status of their proposals in mid-June, approximately 12 weeks following the application deadline.

AWARD PAYMENTS AND FINAL REPORTS

If awarded, the initial payment of 90% of the grant will be released at the beginning of the grant period provided that the following items have been completed by the grant recipient:

- review and execution of a grant award agreement
- provide a copy of the countersigned contract with the proposed artist to MAAF no later than 30 days prior to the engagement start date

A final report for a funded project is to be completed through eGRANT and is due no later than 30 days after the project completion date. The final report, made available in eGRANT at the time the grant is awarded, requires 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.

The final 10% is paid once a complete and satisfactory final report is received from the grant recipient and approved.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE AND REQUIRED MATERIALS

Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation uses the eGRANT online application system for ArtsCONNECT. To access the online application, please visit <http://midatlanticarts.egrant.net>.

The ArtsCONNECT application consists of the following:

1. Applicant and Project Information
2. Presenter Programming Profile
3. Application Narrative
4. Presenter Project Outline
5. Project Budget
6. Statistical Information
7. Certificate & Statement of Assurances

The following required materials are to be submitted electronically as attachments to the online application:

8. Countersigned Letter of Intent or Letter of Agreement between the presenter and the proposed artist. The letter must include the following:
 - Specific dates of the engagement
 - Artist fee for performance and community engagement activities
 - A list of performances and community engagement activities in the presenter's community
 - The title of the works to be performed (if known).

NOTE: The presenter and the artist or their authorized agent must countersign the letter.

9. If applicable, one copy of a letter on organizational letterhead, signed by an authorizing official, confirming the applicant's status as a unit of government.

Lead Presenters are also responsible for completing an additional section of the online application that includes the following:

1. Consortium Project Summary
2. Artist/Ensemble Description
3. Consortia Planning and Collaboration Description
4. Work Sample Narrative
5. Two recent work samples uploaded through the online application. Please refer to the Work Sample page in the application for more detailed information about how to prepare and upload work samples

Please note: The application for ArtsCONNECT is completed entirely online. Do not print and send hard copies of any portion of your application.

ArtsCONNECT is made possible through support from the National Endowment for the Arts' Regional Touring Program.

