

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Friday, March 29, 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

Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation (MAAF), in partnership with the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities (DCCAH), the Delaware Division of the Arts (DDOA), the Virgin Islands Council on the Arts (VICA), and the West Virginia Division of Culture and History (WVDCH), offers a special funding initiative to support the presentation of professional performing artists/ensembles at small and mid-size venues within these jurisdictions that enhance meaningful exchanges between touring artists and a presenter's community. The initiative is designed to support performing arts engagements and related activities that would not otherwise be possible, particularly in communities underserved by the arts (defined for the purposes of this program as populations whose opportunities to experience the arts are limited by geography, ethnicity, age, economics, or disability). Nonprofit organizations and government entities that meet the eligibility criteria are invited to apply.

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

Special Presenter Initiatives supports projects that present exemplary touring artists involving all performing arts disciplines, including dance, music, theater, multi-disciplinary work, and folk/traditional arts. For the purposes of this program, a presenter is defined as an organization that selects and engages touring artists to perform work before audiences in their communities. Presenters manage all the local requirements for the performance and facilitate the interaction between artists and the public.

Presenters applying for funding from the Special Presenter Initiatives must:

- be based in Delaware, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands, 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;
- be an arts or community-based organization, college or university, or government entity with an ongoing performing arts presenting program; and
- be in good standing with their state arts agency and Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation at the time of application, with no overdue or outstanding required reports and/or grant documents.

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.

PROJECT ARTIST ELIGIBILITY

- Special Presenter Initiatives 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.

- Project artist can be based anywhere in the United States or around the world, except the artist cannot be based in the same state or jurisdiction as the applicant presenter.
- Artists on MAAF's 2019-2020 [Mid Atlantic Tours](#) and [Southern Exposure](#) rosters are ineligible for support in the current round.
- Organizations applying for support through the current grant round of the Special Presenter Initiatives cannot apply to MAAF's ArtsCONNECT program for funding to support the same artists and engagements.

PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

All Special Presenter Initiatives projects must include the following:

- At least one public performance that serves and is marketed to the general public in the applicant presenter's community. 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 a Special Presenter Initiatives project.
- At least one community engagement activity. 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.

The Special Presenter Initiatives will not fund:

- projects taking place outside of the state or jurisdiction where the applicant presenter is based;
- producing organizations that create artistic work or assemble artists to perform as ensembles for performances;
- programs or events in which the artist/ensemble is not the primary focus of the performance;
- programs or events that are commercial in nature or in which the arts are not the primary focus (e.g. message oriented educational events or programs, information sessions, sidewalk sales, food festivals, fireworks displays, etc.);
- fundraising events; or
- general operating expenses.

APPLICATION REVIEW

Applications will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- **Artistic Excellence**
The demonstrated excellence of the artist/ensemble as evidenced by submitted work samples and records of achievement, including awards, honors, grants, and performance history
- **Quality of Engagements**
The degree to which public performances and well-designed community engagement activities provide a greater appreciation for the artists' work and encourage meaningful exchanges between artists, audiences, and communities, as well as the potential to reach populations underserved by the arts
- **Impact of the Grant**
The ability of grant support to enable the applicant to present an artist/ensemble or performing arts genre with which the applicant has little or no prior presenting history or whose fees would otherwise be beyond the applicant's means
- **Organizational Capacity**
The organization's capacity to carry out the project successfully as demonstrated by its presenting history and financial and human resources

GRANT AMOUNTS AND ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

Applicants may apply for up to \$2,000 per project, for a maximum of two projects, except for applicants in the Virgin Islands who may apply for up to \$5,000 per project. Grant requests must be for a minimum of \$500.

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 and artist-related travel and lodging expenses.
- 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 the applicant presenter with a project that is approved for support.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Friday, March 30, 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 accepted 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 June 2019.

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 countered-signed 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 the Special Presenter Initiatives. To access the online application, please visit <http://midatlanticarts.egrant.net>.

NOTE: Applicants who apply for two projects must submit a separate application for each.

The Special Presenter Initiatives application consists of the following:

1. Application and Engagement Information
2. Presenter Programming Profile
3. Application Narrative
4. Project Budget
5. Certificate & Statement of Assurances

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

6. Two recent work samples uploaded through the online application. Please refer to the Work Sample page in the online application for more detailed information about how to prepare and upload work samples.
7. 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.

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

The Special Presenter Initiatives program is made possible through the support of the National Endowment for the Arts' Regional Touring Program with additional support for engagements in Delaware provided by the Delaware Division of the Arts.

