



DEADLINES

Projects in Development Listing Submission Deadline: Friday, April 16, 2021
Final Application Deadline: Friday, May 21, 2021

PROJECT PERIOD

September 1, 2021 – December 31, 2022

ACCESSIBILITY

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

ABOUT ARTSCONNECT

Support for the presentation and touring of performing artists is central to the work of Mid Atlantic Arts. ArtsCONNECT provides funding support toward diverse and robust live performing arts engagements for all audiences and communities across the mid-Atlantic region.

The program recognizes that offering funding support for a variety of well-coordinated, collective booking efforts increases routing opportunities, leverages access for smaller markets, and benefits the region as a whole. To that end, ArtsCONNECT facilitates an open process of sharing touring project ideas amongst presenters and encourages active participation for presenters of all sizes.

Mid Atlantic Arts is committed to supporting diverse, equitable, inclusive, and accessible programming in our region. In addition, projects that demonstrate clear mission impact, strong artistry, well-rounded community and artist engagements, as well as thoughtful and inclusive efforts to cultivate diverse audiences – are encouraged to apply.

CONSORTIUM REQUIREMENTS

ArtsCONNECT supports projects developed collaboratively by a consortium of presenters within the mid-Atlantic region, jointly booking a touring artist. Please note:

- 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 under Presenter Eligibility for list of mid-Atlantic states/jurisdictions.
- The majority of presenters in a consortium must have a minimum of three years continuous history of offering multiple presentations by professional touring artists in a given season.

Lead Presenter

One presenter of the consortium should be designated the Lead Presenter of the project. The Lead Presenter is responsible for coordinating any planning effort of the project, as well as completing additional questions in the application form on behalf of the consortium (e.g., artist description, work samples, etc.)

Note: 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 Mid Atlantic Arts.

Presenter Partners

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; and
- completing a full application for the engagement as part of the proposed consortium project.

PRESENTER ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to apply to ArtsCONNECT, presenters 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;
- be an organization that selects and engages professional touring artists to perform before general audiences as an ongoing and significant component of their organization's activity; and
- be in good standing with Mid Atlantic Arts at the time of application, with no overdue or outstanding required reports and/or grant documents.

Please note:

- Each presenter may participate in a maximum of three ArtsCONNECT consortium projects per annual application cycle.
- 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.

ARTIST REQUIREMENTS

To request ArtsCONNECT funding, a consortium of presenters must jointly propose to engage a professional artist or ensemble for a tour. 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.

In addition, the following artists cannot be considered for an ArtsCONNECT project in the current round:

- Artists on Mid Atlantic Arts' 2021-2022 Mid Atlantic Tours and Performing Arts Global Exchange (PAGE) rosters.
- Organizations applying for support through the current grant round of ArtsCONNECT cannot apply to Mid Atlantic Arts' Special Presenter Initiatives program for funding to support the same artists and engagements.

PROJECTS IN DEVELOPMENT LISTING

The Projects in Development listing is a user-generated information hub that includes all of the consortia projects currently in development for ArtsCONNECT. Presenters can seek potential presenting partners by submitting artist and project information to the listing and learn about other developing consortia to possibly join.

A presenter must submit an artist's information to the listing by Friday, April 16, 2021, five weeks prior to the application deadline. Applications for artists that have **not** been submitted to the listing by Friday, April 16, 2021 will **not be eligible** for ArtsCONNECT funding.

Please note:

- We encourage presenters to submit to the listing as early as possible to allow ample time for consortium and project development.
- The listing must be submitted by a presenter; an artist (including the artist representative/manager) cannot self-submit to the listing.
- Only one presenter is required to submit a listing; you do not need to have all presenting partners in place in order to submit to the listing. The purpose of the listing is to help you identify presenting partners.
- There are no penalties for any listing entries that do not successfully form into a full consortium. Content of the listing entry will not be reviewed by the grant panel.

For more information, and the access to current listing, visit: <https://bit.ly/2ORdo8x>

PRESENTER PITCH SESSIONS

Presenters are invited to participate in virtual pitch sessions to coordinate potential ArtsCONNECT consortia with other presenters in the region. Pitch sessions are organized by Mid Atlantic Arts.

For more information, including session dates and links to RSVP, visit: <https://bit.ly/2ORdo8x>

Participation to a pitch session is optional.

PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

Competitive projects will demonstrate a series of meaningful and well-rounded activities that facilitate rich and equitable interactions between the artist, the presenting organization, and their communities.

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.

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.

All eligible activities must take place between September 1, 2021 and December 31, 2022.

FUNDING RESTRICTIONS

- Producing organizations that solely create artistic work or assemble artists to perform as ensembles for performances are not eligible to apply. Producing organizations with significant and ongoing presenting programs should inquire with Mid Atlantic Arts staff regarding their eligibility.
- 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 PROCEDURE AND REQUIRED MATERIALS

Applications must be completed and submitted through the eGRANT online system at <http://midatlanticarts.egrant.net>. No hard copies of any application material are required.

The ArtsCONNECT application consists of the following:

1. Basic information about the applicant and the artist
2. Narrative questions about the presenter and the artist, as well as plans for audience development/community engagement activities, and performances
3. Basic information about each planned activity
4. A project budget
5. Statistical & demographic information (for data reporting purposes only)

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

6. 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
- The title of the works to be performed (if known)

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

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

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

1. Narrative questions and other information about the proposed artist and pieces to be performed
2. Two links to recent work samples. Please refer to the application form for more information on work sample requirements

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 purpose of transparency. Please plan your timing to share the information accordingly.

GRANT AMOUNTS AND ELIGIBLE REQUESTS

Each presenter may request a project support grant per consortium application. The total grant award is a combination of two distinct components, structured as such:

- A fee subsidy amount up to 50% of the negotiated artist fee for the engagement, but not to exceed \$10,000, plus;
- A presenter capacity support amount of \$2,000 to support direct project expenses including program staff salary, direct technical personnel fees, audience development, marketing and promotional expenses, technical and equipment rental expenses for virtual engagements, artist travel/lodging expenses, and/or expenses related to public health measures for in-person engagements.

Regarding the funding request, please note:

- The negotiated artist fee 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 Mid Atlantic Arts is restricted to the specific, direct costs of the project, 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 Mid Atlantic Arts grant and the required match may not be used to match any other directly or indirectly received Federal funds.

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REVIEW

A panel composed of experienced performing arts professionals from across the U.S. will review applications and make recommendations for support using the following four criteria. These criteria are not ranked or given specific weights:

- **Mission Impact**

The project fulfills a clearly-defined mission of the applicant organization, with feasible planning and significant potential for impact.

- **Artistry**

The project demonstrates 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.

Note: barriers of participation may include those due to age, class, disability, gender, geographic location, race, sexual orientation, or other factors.

Projects will be assessed on the individual strength of each participating presenter.

PROJECT TIERS

Consortium projects will be reviewed in three tiers:

- Tier 1: consortia with a majority of presenters proposing negotiated artist fees of \$5,000 or below
- Tier 2: consortia with a majority of presenters proposing negotiated artist fees between \$5,001 and \$15,000
- Tier 3: consortia with a majority of presenters proposing negotiated artist fees of \$15,001 or above

In the case where a consortium consists of an equal amount of presenters falling under different tiers, the consortium will be placed in the tier of the highest fee range in those options. Mid Atlantic Arts will make the final decision for the placement of a project's funding tier.

AWARD NOTIFICATION

All applicants will be notified by email on the status of their proposals in August, 2021.

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 Mid Atlantic Arts 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 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.

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

QUESTIONS?

Contact Haowen Wang, Program Officer, Performing Arts at haowen@midatlanticarts.org or 410-539-6656 x 110.

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