



Special Presenter Initiatives

Program Guidelines

DEADLINE

Final Application Deadline: Tuesday, May 24, 2022

PROJECT PERIOD

September 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

ACCESSIBILITY

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

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Mid Atlantic Arts, 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 arts and community organizations within these jurisdictions.

Mid Atlantic Arts is committed to supporting diverse, equitable, inclusive, and accessible programming throughout our region. Special Presenter Initiatives support projects that enhance meaningful and equitable exchanges between touring artists and a presenter's community, particularly in populations whose opportunities to experience the arts are limited by age, class, disability, gender, geographic location, race, or sexual orientation. Projects that demonstrate strong artistry and well-rounded community engagement strategies are encouraged to apply.

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

Presenters applying for funding from the Special Presenter Initiatives must:

- be based in Delaware, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands, West Virginia, and 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;
- 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 at the time of application, with no overdue or outstanding required reports and/or grant documents.

Please note:

- 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 of the local requirements for the performance and facilitate interaction between artists and the public.
- 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

- Project artists can be based anywhere in the United States or around the world, including those based in the same state or jurisdiction as applicant presenter.
- Artists on Mid Atlantic Arts' active Performing Arts Global Exchange (PAGE) or Mid Atlantic Tours rosters are NOT eligible. See midatlanticarts.org or reach out to the Program Officer, Performing Arts if you have questions about an artist's inclusion on an active roster.
- Organizations applying for support through the current grant round of the Special Presenter Initiatives cannot apply to Mid Atlantic Arts' 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 in-person or virtual performance of 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, 2022 and June 30, 2023.

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 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 a Special Presenter Initiatives project.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE AND REQUIRED MATERIALS

- Applications must be submitted through the online grant portal at midatlanticarts.org. No hard copies of any application material are required.
- Presenters may submit a maximum of two Special Presenter Initiatives applications per cycle. 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:

1. Two links to recent work samples. Please refer to the application form for more information on work sample requirements.
2. Countersigned Letter of Intent or Letter of Agreement between the presenter and the proposed artist. The letter must include the following:
 - a. Specific dates of the engagement
 - b. Artist fee for performance and community engagement activities

- c. A list of performances and community engagement activities in the presenter's community
- d. The title of the works to be performed (if known)

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

3. 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.

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.

GRANT AMOUNTS AND ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

Each presenter may request a project support grant per 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 \$2,000 (\$5,000 for USVI presenters) and no less than \$750, 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, project-specific purchases or consulting related to increasing access for disabled artists, 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.

Regarding the funding request, please note:

- Contracted artist fees 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, 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.

Grants are made directly to the applicant presenter with a project that is approved for support.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Tuesday, May 24, 2022 for projects taking place between September 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023.

REVIEW

Applications will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- **Grant Impact**

The project demonstrates artistic merit by enabling the applicant to feasibly fulfill clearly-stated goals and ideas of the project.

- **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 that help cultivate diverse audiences and alleviate barriers of participation.

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

AWARD NOTIFICATION

All applicants will be notified by email on the status of their proposals by August 2022.

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 Mid Atlantic Arts no later than 30 days prior to the engagement start date

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.

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

QUESTIONS?

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

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.

