



MID-AMERICA ARTS ALLIANCE

Artistic Innovations Grant Program

Call for Letters of Intent (Issued September 2017)

Deadline: Monday, October 30, 2017

Mid-America Arts Alliance strengthens and supports artists, cultural organizations, and communities throughout our region and beyond. We are especially committed enriching the cultural life of underserved communities by providing high quality, meaningful, and accessible arts and culture programs and services.

Artistic Innovations projects encourage the spirit of **experimentation** and **exploration**, *exclusively* engaging in-region artists in the **creation of new, original works** for audiences across the M-AAA region. This unique grant program underwrites the direct expenses related to the art-making process and premiere of new endeavors. Through generous support from the National Endowment for the Arts, M-AAA invites individual artists and arts-based organizations in Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Texas to submit a Letter of Intent for projects that meet the eligibility requirements listed below.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES AND CRITERIA

The grant program is designed to support new artistic works by in-region artists that culminate in both regional public outreach activity and premiere feature presentation between July 1, 2018, and June 30, 2019.

Public engagement through outreach activities and feature presentation includes, but is not limited to performance, publication, lecture/demonstration, exhibition, and/or workshop. A great Artistic Innovations project is one that has art, art making, or artists at the heart of the initiative and introduces a new or original idea or product to the applicant's audience.

Projects not eligible for consideration include: straight adaptations from one medium to another, remounting of past work in a new venue, traditional restaging of classic productions, rereleases of previously published or recorded material, and projects working with any artists from outside the M-AAA region.

This grant program supports most direct costs related to the creation and premiere of new work. These costs include, but are not limited to commissioning fees, artists' fees, rehearsal or studio expenses, production or exhibition materials, as well as promotion and audience development for all public engagement related to the project.

Artistic Innovations grant requests are limited to a maximum of \$15,000 with a required 1:1 match. Organizational applicants must show evidence of a cash match, while individual artist applicants may meet this requirement through evidence of either a cash match or in-kind contributions. Other federal funding procured for the project cannot be used to meet the 1:1 match requirement.

GRANT PROGRAM TIMELINE

- Letter of Intent Submission Deadline Monday, October 30, 2017
- Invitation to Submit a Proposal Distributed Monday, November 20, 2017
- Proposal Submission Deadline Monday, January 22, 2018
- Proposal Advisory Panel Convening March 26 – 30, 2018
- Award Notification June 2018
- Project Public Engagements must occur between July 1, 2018, and June 30, 2019.
- Final Report due within 30 days of the project's conclusion.

A Letter of Intent Form is the first step in this process and is required of all applicants. Letters of Intent are screened by M-AAA staff to determine eligibility, after which eligible applicants are invited to submit a proposal. The Artistic Innovations Request for Proposal guidelines will be distributed at that time. *Please note: Receipt of an invitation to submit a proposal does not infer, confer, or guarantee funding for any project.*

Letters of Intent are evaluated by M-AAA staff for eligibility as follows:

1. Project is new and original culminating in at least one outreach activity and at least one premiere feature presentation in the M-AAA region between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019;
2. All applicants and artists involved in the project are residents of the M-AAA region; and
3. The anticipated project budget reflects a 1:1 match for the grant amount requested (max. \$15,000).

M-AAA's Artistic Innovations application process has three steps.

Step 1: Submit a Letter of Intent. This is an open call requesting written information about the proposed Artistic Innovations project and the artists involved.

Step 2: Full Proposal (by invitation only). The full proposal requires a project narrative, a detailed project budget, and statements and/or work samples from lead artists and partners. Full proposals are reviewed by M-AAA staff for eligibility.

Step 3: Proposals are reviewed for artistic excellence and merit by advisory panels consisting of artists and arts professionals in the field. All awards are subject to approval by the M-AAA Board of Directors.

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

Individual applicants *must*:

1. not be an Artistic Innovations grant recipient in fiscal year 2018;
2. have a résumé that demonstrates at least two years of professional experience and commitment to an artistic discipline;
3. be at least 21 years of age;
4. have lived in the M-AAA region full-time for at least two years prior to the proposal deadline and remain a regional resident during the entire grant period; and
5. be in good standing with M-AAA, with no delinquent reports and/or grant documents.

Organizational applicants *must*:

1. not be an Artistic Innovations grant recipient in fiscal year 2018;
2. be a nonprofit, 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization, a unit of state or local government, or a federally recognized tribal community;
3. be located in the M-AAA region; and
4. be in good standing with M-AAA, with no delinquent reports and/or grant documents.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss your project with M-AAA staff prior to submitting a letter of intent, please contact:

Christine Dotterweich Bial, Program Specialist
(816) 421-1388, ext. #227 or email innovations@maa.org

HOW TO APPLY

If you wish to apply, please use the following checklist to prepare for the Artistic Innovations Letter of Intent online application form. Data typed in the online form can be saved for editing later by clicking "Save Draft" at the bottom of the application webpage. Limit one Letter of Intent per applicant per fiscal year.

M-AAA will only review Letters of Intent submitted by 11:59 p.m. CST on Monday, October 30, 2017, through the following website:

<https://www.tfaforms.com/4636509>

ARTISTIC INNOVATIONS: LETTER OF INTENT CHECKLIST

APPLICANT INFORMATION

1. **Choose the category that best describes the Applicant's legal status**
2. **Applicant Legal Name**
This is the organization name as it appears on its Federal Employer Identification document or the individual applicant's name as it appears on your social security card.
3. **Applicant Contact Person Name, Title, and Information** *Organizational applicants only.*
4. **Applicant Address and Contact Information**
5. **U.S. Congressional District Number**
6. **State House Legislative District Number**
7. **State Senate Legislative District Number**
8. **Applicant Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN)** *Organizational applicants only.*
9. **Applicant Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS)** *Organizational applicants only.*
10. **Applicant Primary Artistic Discipline**
11. **Applicant Mission or Artist's Statement, Resume' of Applicant** (limit 125 words)

PROJECT INFORMATION

12. **Project Title**
13. **Project Primary Discipline**
14. **Project Start and End Dates**
15. **Project Description** (limit 1,500 words)
Include information about outreach activities and the premiere feature presentation. Do not describe unrelated programming.
16. **Key Individual Selection Process** (250 word limit)
Briefly describe the process and criteria for the selection of key individuals that will be involved in this project. Where relevant, describe their involvement in the development of the project to date.
17. **Key Individual Biography** (125 word limit for each bio)
Include a brief, current biography of each key individual. Be sure to note in which state the individual resides and whether the individual is pending or committed to the project. You may include up to ten
18. **Organizational Partner Selection Process** (If applicable) (250 word limit)
An organizational partner is an outside entity that will provide resources (other than money) to support the project. Funders are not excluded from being partners, but they must also provide human resources or information capital, or actively participate in some other way. Where relevant describe their involvement in the development of the project to date.
19. **Description of Organizational Partners** (If applicable, 125 word limit for each partner description)
Include brief descriptions of the key organizational partners. Be sure to note whether each is pending or committed to the project. You may include up to ten.
20. **Total Project Budget**
21. **Grant Amount Requested** (\$15,000 maximum)