



MID-AMERICA ARTS ALLIANCE

Artistic Innovations Grant Program

Call for Letter of Intent Forms for Applicant Organizations (Issued September 2018)

Deadline: Monday, October 15, 2018

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

The Artistic Innovations Grant Program encourages 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 offers up to \$15,000 in support of expenses incurred in the art-making process and premiere of these 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 Form for projects that meet the eligibility requirements listed below.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

A great Artistic Innovations project is one that has in-person experiences of 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. Engagement through feature presentation and outreach includes but is not limited to performance, publication, lecture/demonstration, exhibition, master class and/or workshop.

The grant program is designed to support new projects by in-region artists that culminate in at least two public-facing events including a premiere feature presentation and an outreach event between July 1, 2019, and June 30, 2020 in M-AAA's six-state region.

PROGRAM CRITERIA

A Letter of Intent Form is required of all applicants. Letter of Intent Forms are screened by M-AAA staff to determine applicant and project eligibility. All eligible applicants with eligible projects are invited to submit a proposal. The Artistic Innovations Request for Proposal (RFP) guidelines are distributed as part of that invitation. *Please note: Receipt of an invitation to submit a proposal does not infer, confer, or guarantee funding for any project.*

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

Applicant Organizations *must*:

1. not be an Artistic Innovations grant recipient in fiscal year 2019;
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 registered in the Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS);
4. have three consecutive years of operating history prior to the Letter of Intent Form deadline;
5. be incorporated and located in the M-AAA region; and
6. be in good standing with M-AAA and all other federal agencies, with no delinquent reports and/or grant documents.

PROJECT ELIGIBILITY

Projects described in the Letter of Intent Form are evaluated by M-AAA staff for the following eligibility requirements:

1. The project is new and original culminating in two public-facing events including at least one outreach activity and at least one premiere feature presentation in accessible venues in the M-AAA region between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020;

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. The maximum grant request allowed is \$15,000.

Projects not eligible for consideration include: those that engage audiences solely through online streaming content, 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, art competitions or fundraisers, and projects working with any artist from outside the M-AAA region.

Artistic Innovations grant requests are limited to a maximum of \$15,000 with a required 1:1 dollar-for-dollar match. Organizational applicants must show evidence of a cash match. In-kind market value contributions and other federal funding procured for the project are allowed, but cannot be used to meet the 1:1 match requirement.

This grant program supports most direct costs related to the creation and premiere of new endeavors. Allowed expenditures 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.

APPLICATION PROCESS

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

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

Step 2: Submit a Proposal (by invitation only). The proposal requires a fully developed project narrative, a detailed project budget, and statements and/or work samples from project artists and/or partners. Proposed projects are reviewed a second time 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.

GRANT PROGRAM TIMELINE

- Letter of Intent Form Submission Deadline Monday, October 15, 2018
- Invitation to Submit a Proposal Distributed Friday, November 16, 2018
- Proposal Submission Deadline Friday, January 18, 2019
- Proposal Advisory Panel Convening March 25 – 29, 2019
- Award Notification Monday, June 24, 2019
- Project Public Events must occur between July 1, 2019, and June 30, 2020.
- Final Report due within 30 days of the project's conclusion.

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

Christine Dotterweich Bial, Director of Grant Programs
(816) 421-1388, ext. #227 or email innovations@maaa.org

HOW TO APPLY

If you wish to apply, please use the following checklist to prepare for the Artistic Innovations Letter of Intent Form online. 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 Form per applicant and per project per fiscal year.

M-AAA will only review Letter of Intent Forms submitted by 11:59 p.m. CST on Monday, October 15, 2018, through the following website:

<https://www.tfaforms.com/4695851>

ARTISTIC INNOVATIONS: LETTER OF INTENT FORM CHECKLIST FOR APPLICANT ORGANIZATIONS

APPLICANT INFORMATION

1. **Cover Letter** (optionl, limit one page)
2. **Choose the category that best describes the Applicant's legal status**
3. **Organization Legal Name**
This is the organization name as it appears on its Federal Employer Identification document.
4. **Organization Address and Contact Information**
5. **Application Contact Person Name, Title, and Information**
6. **U.S. Congressional District Number**
7. **State House Legislative District Number**
8. **State Senate Legislative District Number**
9. **Organization Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN)**
10. **Organization Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS)**
11. **Organization Primary Artistic Discipline**
12. **Organization Mission Statement** (limit 125 words)

PROJECT INFORMATION

13. **Project Title**
14. **Project Primary Discipline**
15. **Project Start and End Dates**
16. **Project Description** (limit 1,500 words)
Include information about outreach activities and the premiere feature presentation. Do not describe unrelated programming.
17. **Artist Selection Process and Biography** (250 word limit for each)
Briefly describe the process /criteria for the selection of the artists involved in the project. Include a brief biography and where relevant, describe their involvement in the development of the project to date. Be sure to note in which U.S. state the artist resides. You may include up to ten.
18. **Other Key Individuals Selection Process and Biography** (If applicable, 250 word limit for each)
Briefly describe the process / criteria for the selection of other key individuals involved in the project. Include a brief biography and where relevant, describe their involvement in the development of the project to date. You may include up to ten.
19. **Description of Organizational Partner** (If applicable, 250 word limit for each)
Briefly describe key organizational partners. 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. You may include up to ten.
20. **Expected Project Budget**
21. **M-AAA Grant Amount Requested** (\$15,000 maximum)