



MID-AMERICA ARTS ALLIANCE

## Artistic Innovations Grant Program

### Call for Letter of Intent Form for Applicant Artists (Issued September 2020)

**Deadline: Friday, November 13, 2020**

Mid-America Arts Alliance strengthens and supports artists, cultural organizations, and communities throughout the region and beyond. We are especially committed to equitable policies, inclusive practices, accessible programming, and celebration of the rich diversity of our region.

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 in the M-AAA region. This 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 in Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Texas to submit a Letter of Intent Form for a project that meets the eligibility requirements listed below.

#### PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The grant program is designed to support a new innovative creative project by in-region artists that culminates in at least two public-facing events: one, the premiere feature presentation and the second, an educational outreach event that occurs in M-AAA's six-state region between July 1, 2021, and June 30, 2022. Public-facing events include but are not limited to performance, publication, lecture/demonstration, exhibition, master class and/or workshop.

A great Artistic Innovations project is one that has in-person experiences of art, art making, or artists at the heart of the endeavor and introduces a new original idea or artwork to the applicant's audience. M-AAA recognizes that in-person projects might not be possible given ongoing public health concerns surrounding COVID-19, but for the purposes of the letter of intent and proposal process we ask that you plan for the best-case scenario in which in-person experiences are a safe option.

#### APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

Applicant Individual Artists *must*:

1. not be an Artistic Innovations grant recipient or an artist/ensemble involved in an Artistic Innovations project in fiscal year 2021;
2. be at least 21 years of age;
3. have a Social Security Number;
4. have a résumé that demonstrates at least three consecutive years of engagement in a creative practice;
5. have lived in the M-AAA region full-time for at least three years prior to the Letter of Intent Form deadline and if awarded will remain a resident during the entire grant period; 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 accessible, public-facing events including at least one educational outreach event and at least one premiere feature presentation at locations in the M-AAA region between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022;
2. All applicants and artists involved in the project's public-facing events are residents of the M-AAA region at the time of application and throughout the grant period; and

3. The anticipated project budget reflects a 1:1 dollar-for-dollar 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, 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 festivals or fairs, art competitions, scholarships or fundraisers, and projects that involve artists who reside 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. Individual artist applicants may meet the match requirement through evidence of either a cash match or in-kind market value contributions toward the project. Federal and other M-AAA grant funding procured for the project should be included in the budget, but cannot be used to meet any part of the 1:1 match requirement.

This grant program supports most direct costs related to the creation and premiere of new endeavors. Allowable expenditures include, but are not limited to commissioning fees, artists' fees, rehearsal or studio rental expenses or overhead, production or exhibition materials, as well as promotion and audience development for all public-facing events related to the project.

## PROPOSAL AND REVIEW PROCESS

M-AAA's Artistic Innovations proposal process has two steps.

**Step 1:** Submit a Letter of Intent Form. This is an open call requesting information about the proposed project and the artists involved. Limit one Letter of Intent Form per applicant and per project per fiscal year. Artists and organizations cannot be involved in more than one project put forward for consideration in any given fiscal year. Letter of Intent Forms are screened by M-AAA staff to determine applicant and project eligibility. All eligible applicants with eligible projects will be 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.*

**Step 2:** Submit a Proposal (by invitation only). The proposal requires a fully developed project narrative, a detailed project budget, and letters of support and/or work samples from project artists and/or partners. Proposed projects are reviewed by M-AAA staff for eligibility. If found eligible, then Proposals are reviewed for artistic excellence and merit by discipline-specific 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 Friday, November 13, 2020
- Notification/Invitation to Submit a Proposal Friday, December 18, 2020
- Proposal Submission Deadline Friday, January 29, 2021
- Proposal Advisory Panel Review Underway April 2021
- Award Notification by Monday, June 14, 2021
- Public-facing Events must occur between July 1, 2021, and June 30, 2022.
- Final Report due within 30 days of the project's conclusion.

**Questions? Want to discuss your project prior to submitting a Letter of Intent Form?**

**Contact Christine Bial, Director of Grant Programs at (816) 421-1388, ext. #227 or email [innovations@maaa.org](mailto:innovations@maaa.org)**

## HOW INDIVIDUAL ARTISTS CAN APPLY FOR THE ARTISTIC INNOVATIONS GRANT

If you wish to apply, please use the following checklist to prepare for the online Artistic Innovations Letter of Intent Form. Data typed in the form can be saved for editing later. To resume your form, check your email inbox for the most recent link at which it can be accessed. Each time the form is saved, you should check your email and use the last link sent to you to resume the most the most recent draft of your form.

M-AAA will only review Letter of Intent Forms submitted by 11:59 p.m. CST on Friday, November 13, 2020 at:

<https://www.tfaforms.com/4765487>

## ARTISTIC INNOVATIONS: LETTER OF INTENT FORM CHECKLIST FOR APPLICANT ARTISTS

### APPLICANT INFORMATION

1. **Choose the category that best describes the Applicant's legal status**
2. **Applicant Legal Name**  
This is the individual's name as it appears on your social security card.
3. **Applicant Address and Contact Information**
4. **U.S. Congressional District Number**
5. **State House Legislative District Number**
6. **State Senate Legislative District Number**
7. **Applicant Demographic Survey** (Check all that are applicable)  
Gender, Age Range, Race/Ethnicity, Education, Other Identifiers including an option to decline to state.
8. **Applicant's Primary Artistic Discipline**
9. **Applicant's Artist Statement** (limit 125 words)
10. **Applicant's Artist Résumé** (upload document)
11. **Applicant's Artist Biography** (limit 250 words)

### PROJECT INFORMATION

12. **Project Title**
13. **Project Primary Discipline**
14. **Project Start and End Dates**  
Start date is the date of the first public-facing event and the end date is the date of the last public-facing event.
15. **Project Description** (limit 1,000 words)  
Include relevant information about the project's feature presentation and where it will take place.
16. **Educational Outreach Event Description** (limit 500 words)  
Include relevant information about the educational outreach event(s) and where it will take place.
17. **Description and Biography of Other Artist Partners** (If applicable, limit 125 words for each, limit five)  
Include a brief biography of any other artists involved in the project. Be sure to note in which M-AAA state the individuals resides. Describe their involvement in the development of the project to date.
18. **Description of Organizational Partners** (If applicable, limit 250 words for each, limit five)  
Briefly describe any 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. Describe their involvement in the development of the project to date.
19. **Proposed Project Budget** (this must be *at least* double the grant amount requested)
20. **Grant Amount Requested** (\$15,000 maximum)