



MID-AMERICA ARTS ALLIANCE

Artistic Innovations Grant Program

Call for Letter of Intent Forms for Applicant Organizations (Issued September 2020)

Deadline: Friday, November 13, 2020

Mid-America Arts Alliance strengthens and supports artists, cultural organizations, and communities throughout our region and beyond. We are especially committed to equitable policies, inclusive practices, accessible programs, and celebration of the rich diversity of our region. 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 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 arts-based nonprofit 501c3 organizations 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 or 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 Organizations *must*:

1. not be an Artistic Innovations grant recipient or partnering organization in an Artistic Innovations project in fiscal year 2021;
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. be incorporated and located in the M-AAA region with three consecutive years of arts-based programming prior to the Letter of Intent Form deadline; and
5. 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 any 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. Organizational applicants must show evidence of a cash match toward the project. In-kind market value contributions and federal funding procured for the project should be included in the budget, but cannot be used by the applicant 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.

APPLICATION 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 a second time 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 Reviews Underway April 2021
- Award Notification 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***

HOW ORGANIZATIONS 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.

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/4765493>

ARTISTIC INNOVATIONS: LETTER OF INTENT FORM CHECKLIST FOR APPLICANT ORGANIZATIONS

APPLICANT INFORMATION

1. **Choose the category that best describes the Applicant's legal status**
2. **Organization Legal Name**
This is the organization name as it appears on its Federal Employer Identification document.
3. **Organization Address and Contact Information**
4. **Application Contact Person Name, Title, and Information**
5. **U.S. Congressional District Number**
6. **State House Legislative District Number**
7. **State Senate Legislative District Number**
8. **Organization Federal Employer Identification Number (EIN)**
9. **Organization Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS)**
10. **Organization Primary Artistic Discipline**
11. **Organization Mission Statement** (limit 125 words)
12. **How does the organization advance equity, diversity, inclusion and accessibility in internal and external practices?** (limit 250 words)

PROJECT INFORMATION

13. **Project Title**
14. **Project Primary Discipline**
15. **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.
16. **Project Description** (limit 1,000 words)
Include relevant information about the project's feature presentation and where it will take place.
17. **Educational Outreach Event Description** (limit 500 words)
Include relevant information about the educational outreach event(s) and where it will take place.
18. **Artist Selection Process and Biography** (limit 250 words for each, limit five)
Include a brief biography for the artist(s) involved in the project, describe the selection process as well as the artist's involvement in the development of the project to date. Be sure to note in which M-AAA state the artist resides.
19. **Name and 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. Where relevant, describe their involvement in the development of the project to date.
20. **Expected Project Budget** (this must be *at least* double the grant amount requested)
21. **M-AAA Grant Amount Requested** (\$15,000 maximum)