



MID-AMERICA ARTS ALLIANCE

Artistic Innovations Grant Program

Request for Letters of Intent (Issued December 2012)

Deadline: February 15, 2013

The mission of Mid-America Arts Alliance (M-AAA) is *strengthening communities and improving lives through extraordinary cultural experiences*. In an effort to encourage creativity and generate greater visibility for regional artists and nonprofit arts-based organizations of all disciplines, M-AAA is now requesting Letters of Intent for the Artistic Innovations grant program.

Proposed Artistic Innovations projects encourage the spirit of **experimentation** and **exploration**, engaging artists in the **creation of new 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 (NEA), M-AAA invites individuals and organizations 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 that ultimately result in regional public engagement between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014. Public engagement includes but is not limited to:

- performance,
- presentation,
- publication,
- exhibition,
- and/or workshop.

Straight adaptations from one medium to another, remounting of past work in a new venue, traditional restaging of classic productions and rereleases of previously published or recorded material are not eligible for consideration. A great Artistic Innovations project is one that has art, art making, or artists at the heart of the initiative and introduces a new idea, product, method, or service to the organization's or artist's audience.

Artistic Innovations is intended to raise the public profile of an artist's work or an organization's programming, thereby increasing opportunities to flourish as a member of the region's creative economy. Therefore 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, workshop or studio expenses, promotion, audience outreach and production or exhibition costs up to and including the premiere of the work.

Artistic Innovations grant requests are limited to a maximum of \$15,000 with a required 1:1 match. Applicant *organizations* will be required to 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.

M-AAA will favor projects that are replicable, can tour, and/or show the commitment of a variety of partners dedicated to exploring new creative territory. We at M-AAA want to learn

alongside those involved in the work, share those lessons and leverage the creative potential of the work with others across the region.

GRANT PROGRAM TIMELINE

- Letter of Intent Submission Deadline Friday, February 15, 2013
- Invitation to Submit a Proposal Week of February 25
- Proposal Submission Deadline Friday, March 29
- Proposal Advisory Panel Convening Week of May 13
- Award Notification Week of May 20
- Project Premiere Engagement must occur between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014.
- Final Reports due within 30 days of the project's conclusion.

A Letter of Intent 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 select applicants will be invited to submit a full 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.*

Proposals are reviewed by an advisory panel consisting of staff from other regional and state arts agencies as well as artists and arts professionals in the field. All awards are subject to approval by the M-AAA Board of Directors. Artistic Innovation projects must culminate with a premiere public engagement during fiscal year 2014 (between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014).

Grant awards are considered taxable income. Grant recipients are responsible for all individual tax obligations under federal, state and local laws. M-AAA recommends that all recipients consult a tax accountant or local Internal Revenue Service office with questions or concerns regarding deductions and reporting.

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

Individual applicants *must*:

1. have a resume' that demonstrates at least two years of professional experience and commitment to an artistic discipline;
2. be at least 21 years of age;
3. have lived in the M-AAA region full-time for at least two years prior to the proposal deadline and intend to remain a regional resident during the entire grant period; and
4. be in good standing with M-AAA, with no overdue or delinquent reports and/or grant documents.

Organizational applicants *must*:

1. be a nonprofit, 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization, a unit of state or local government, or a federally recognized tribal community;
2. be located in the M-AAA region; and
3. be in good standing with M-AAA, with no overdue or delinquent reports and/or grant documents.

HOW TO APPLY

If you wish to apply, please use the following checklist to prepare all responses before completing the Artistic Innovations Letter of Intent online. Data imported into the online form cannot be saved for editing later. Preparation of information in advance is encouraged. Please be specific about the work for which you are seeking support.

M-AAA will only review Letter of Intent materials submitted online by Friday, February 15, 2013 through the following website:

<https://maaa.wufoo.com/forms/artistic-innovations-letter-of-intent/>

ARTISTIC INNOVATIONS: LETTER OF INTENT CHECKLIST

- Applicant Type (choose one): 501(c)3 nonprofit, government, tribal, individual
- Cover Letter (optional, PDF format, one page limit)
- Applicant Organization Name (leave blank if the applicant is an individual artist)
- Lead Applicant Name (either the contact person at the applicant organization or the name of the individual applicant)
- Address and Contact Information (for the applicant)
- Project Title
- Project Discipline (check as many as apply): visual arts, performing arts, literary arts, film, design, multimedia, other
- Project Start and End Dates
- Provide a brief description of the project for which you are seeking support (200 words maximum)
- Amount requested from M-AAA (\$15,000 maximum)
- Total Project Budget (must be at least twice the amount requested from M-AAA in order to show initial evidence of 1:1 match)
- Has the applicant applied for or received other funding within the past year that relates to this project? If so, please explain. (100 words maximum)
- Name and contact information for person responsible for the artistic quality of the project
- Provide a brief biography of the person responsible for delivering the artistic quality of the project (i.e., artistic director, curator, principal artist, etc.) (200 words maximum)
- Has the applicant contacted other potential partners to discuss the project with them? If so, please describe what has resulted from that conversation (100 words maximum)

Direct all inquiries about the Artistic Innovations Grant Program to:

Christine Dotterweich Bial, Curator of Performing Arts
(816) 421-1388, ext. 227 or email innovations@maaa.org