

# Opera Grants for Women Composers: Discovery Grants - 2023-2024

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*OPERA America*

## *Opera Grants for Women Composers: Discovery Grants*

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### **Opera Grants for Women Composers: Discovery Grants**

*Generously funded by the Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation*

#### **Important Dates and Deadlines**

Application deadline: January 26, 2024

Grantee announcement: No later than April 30, 2024

Grant activity period: July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

#### **Guidelines**

Complete guidelines may be found here.

#### **Contact**

For more information, contact Diana Hossack, director of grantmaking, at [DHossack@operaamerica.org](mailto:DHossack@operaamerica.org) or 646.699.5236. You may also schedule a 15-minute grant consultation by using this [Calendly link](#).

## *Applicant Information*

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### **Composer First Name\***

*Character Limit: 250*

### **Composer Surname/Family Name\***

*Character Limit: 250*

### **Composer Email\***

*Character Limit: 254*

### **Composer Citizenship Status\***

Indicate if you have United States citizenship, permanent residence, or Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status.

#### **Choices**

Yes

No

## IDENTITY

To better understand the demographics of OPERA America's applicant pool and evaluate the impact on our grant programs, we invite you to provide information about how you identify.

### Applicant Gender Identity\*

Applicants must be individual artists who identify as cis or trans women composers. Do you identify as a cis or trans woman?

#### Choices

Yes

### Applicant Racial/Ethnic Identity

We invite you to optionally provide information about how you identify racially or ethnically.

- Arab — includes those who identify with one or more nationalities originating in the Arabian Peninsula and neighboring territories, inhabiting much of the Middle East and North Africa.
- Asian — includes those who identify with nationalities or ethnic groups originating in the Far East, Indian subcontinent, and Southeast Asia.
- Black — includes those who identify with nationalities or ethnic groups originating in any of the Black racial groups of Africa, including African American, Caribbean, Latin American, etc.
- Latinx — includes those who identify with nationalities or ethnic groups originating in Central America, Cuba, Mexico, Puerto Rico, South America, and other Latin nations.
- Native American — includes those who identify as Aboriginal peoples, First Nations, Indigenous peoples, and/or Native peoples of the Americas with tribal affiliation or community attachment.
- Pacific Islander — includes those who identify with nationalities and ethnic groups originating in Guam, Hawaii, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.

The above is not an exhaustive list but is meant to provide clarity and context for the purpose of the IDEA Opera Grants.

Please select all that apply.

#### Choices

Arab

Asian

Black

Latinx

Native American

Pacific Islander

Additional

## Additional - Applicant Racial and Ethnic Identity

If you selected "Additional" from the checklist above, please write in alternative or additional words that describe how you identify racially and ethnically.

*Character Limit: 250*

## Applicant Gender Pronouns

Please share the pronouns you use in reference to yourself (e.g., she/her/hers, he/him/his, they/them/their, ze/hir/hir, she/they, he/they). To learn more about gender pronouns, click [here](#).

*Character Limit: 250*

## Applicant Biography\*

The biography should be narrative and limited to 1,000 characters. The resume should be uploaded as a PDF.

*Character Limit: 1000 | File Size Limit: 1 MB*

## Applicant Website

*Character Limit: 2000*

## Personal Statement\*

Provide a brief statement explaining the reasons for being drawn to the operatic medium. What inspires you creatively?

*Character Limit: 3000*

## *Teammate(s) (if applicable)*

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### Teammate First Name

*Character Limit: 150*

### Teammate Surname/Family Name

*Character Limit: 250*

### Teammate Creator Type

Check all that apply.

#### Choices

Composer

Librettist

### Teammate Email

*Character Limit: 254*

## Teammate Citizenship Status

Indicate if this teammate has United States citizenship, permanent residence, or Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status.

### Choices

Yes

No

## IDENTITY

To better understand the demographics of OPERA America's applicant pool and evaluate the impact on our grant programs, we invite you to optionally provide information about how this teammate identifies.

## Teammate Racial/Ethnic Identity

We invite you to optionally provide information about how this teammate identifies racially and ethnically.

- Arab — includes those who identify with one or more nationalities originating in the Arabian Peninsula and neighboring territories, inhabiting much of the Middle East and North Africa.
- Asian — includes those who identify with nationalities or ethnic groups originating in the Far East, Indian subcontinent, and Southeast Asia.
- Black — includes those who identify with nationalities or ethnic groups originating in any of the Black racial groups of Africa, including African American, Caribbean, Latin American, etc.
- Latinx — includes those who identify with nationalities or ethnic groups originating in Central America, Cuba, Mexico, Puerto Rico, South America, and other Latin nations.
- Native American — includes those who identify as Aboriginal peoples, First Nations, Indigenous peoples, and/or Native peoples of the Americas with tribal affiliation or community attachment.
- Pacific Islander — includes those who identify with nationalities and ethnic groups originating in Guam, Hawaii, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.

The above is not an exhaustive list but is meant to provide clarity and context for the purpose of the IDEA Opera Grants.

Please select all that apply.

### Choices

Arab

Asian

Black

Latinx

Native American  
Pacific Islander  
Additional

### **Additional - Teammate Racial and Ethnic Identity**

If you selected "Additional" from the checklist above, please write in alternate or additional words that describe how this teammate identifies racially and ethnically.

*Character Limit: 250*

### **Teammate Gender Identity**

Please share this teammate's gender identity.

#### **Choices**

Intersex  
Man  
Nonbinary  
Transgender  
Woman  
Additional

### **Additional - Teammate Gender Identity**

If you selected "Additional" from the checklist above, please write in alternate or additional words that describe how this teammate gender identifies.

*Character Limit: 250*

### **Teammate Gender Pronouns**

Please share the pronouns this teammate uses in reference to themselves (e.g., she/her/hers, he/him/his, they/them/their, ze/hir/hir, she/they, he/they). To learn more about gender pronouns, [click here](#).

*Character Limit: 250*

### **Teammate Biography**

The biography should be narrative and limited to 1,000 characters. The resume should be uploaded as a PDF.

*Character Limit: 1000 | File Size Limit: 1 MB*

### **Teammate Website**

*Character Limit: 2000*

### **Teammate 2 First Name**

*Character Limit: 250*

### **Teammate 2 Surname/Family Name**

*Character Limit: 250*

## Teammate 2 Creator Type

Check all that apply.

### Choices

Composer  
Librettist

## Teammate 2 Email

*Character Limit: 254*

## Teammate 2 Citizenship Status

Indicate if this teammate has United States citizenship, permanent residence, or Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status.

### Choices

Yes  
No

## IDENTITY

To better understand the demographics of OPERA America's applicant pool and evaluate the impact on our grant programs, we invite you to optionally provide information about how this teammate identifies.

## Teammate 2 Racial/Ethnic Identity

We invite you to optionally provide information about how this teammate identifies racially and ethnically.

- Arab — includes those who identify with one or more nationalities originating in the Arabian Peninsula and neighboring territories, inhabiting much of the Middle East and North Africa.
- Asian — includes those who identify with nationalities or ethnic groups originating in the Far East, Indian subcontinent, and Southeast Asia.
- Black — includes those who identify with nationalities or ethnic groups originating in any of the Black racial groups of Africa, including African American, Caribbean, Latin American, etc.
- Latinx — includes those who identify with nationalities or ethnic groups originating in Central America, Cuba, Mexico, Puerto Rico, South America, and other Latin nations.
- Native American — includes those who identify as Aboriginal peoples, First Nations, Indigenous peoples, and/or Native peoples of the Americas with tribal affiliation or community attachment.
- Pacific Islander — includes those who identify with nationalities and ethnic groups originating in Guam, Hawaii, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.

The above is not an exhaustive list but is meant to provide clarity and context for the purpose of the IDEA Opera Grants.

Please select all that apply.

### Choices

Arab  
Asian  
Black  
Latinx  
Native American  
Pacific Islander  
Additional

### Additional - Teammate 2 Racial and Ethnic Identity

If you selected "Additional" from the checklist above, please write in alternate or additional words that describe how this teammate identifies racially and ethnically.

*Character Limit: 250*

### Teammate 2 Gender Identity

Please share the gender identity of this teammate.

### Choices

Intersex  
Man  
Nonbinary  
Transgender  
Woman  
Additional

### Additional - Teammate 2 Gender Identity

If you selected "Additional" from the checklist above, please write in alternate or additional words that describe this teammate's gender identity.

*Character Limit: 250*

### Teammate 2 Gender Pronouns

Please share the pronouns this teammate uses in reference to themselves (e.g., she/her/hers, he/him/his, they/them/their, ze/hir/hir, she/they, he/they). To learn more about gender pronouns, click [here](#).

*Character Limit: 250*

### Teammate 2 Biography

The biography should be narrative and limited to 1,000 characters. The resume should be uploaded as a PDF.

*Character Limit: 1000 | File Size Limit: 1 MB*

## Teammate 2 Website

*Character Limit: 2000*

## Creative Team History\*

Describe the composer/librettist relationship. Have you worked together previously? Whether or not you have, explain why have you chosen each other for this project.

If you are both the composer and librettist, please describe your reason for serving in both capacities.

*Character Limit: 1000*

## Work Samples

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Applicants are required to submit work samples that best represent their voices and creative styles. Work samples need not be classical or operatic. Samples that demonstrate the creator's aptitude for theatrical storytelling are recommended.

If you intend to advance an existing project, you are encouraged to submit excerpts from that work.

## Composer Samples

Submit two samples (hosted audio or video on sites like YouTube, Vimeo, Dropbox, and SoundCloud).

Combined samples must be no longer than 20 minutes. Neither sample should exceed 10 minutes in length.

At least one sample should feature voice(s) that are not digitally generated.

Scores or other forms of visual representation of a musical work are optional.

Although no previous experience with opera is required, we encourage you to submit any vocal music you have written and if possible, give some sense of your notational skills (e.g., scores, chord charts, or other graphic representations of your music).

MIDI recordings are permitted but not recommended.

## SAMPLE 1 - Composer



**Composer Sample 1 Title\***

*Character Limit: 100*

**Composer Sample 1 Relevance\***

Explain the reasons you are presenting this sample to support this application.

*Character Limit: 2000*

**Composer Sample 1 A/V Link\***

*Character Limit: 2000*

**Composer Sample 1 A/V Password (if necessary)**

*Character Limit: 100*

**Composer Sample 1 Timings\***

If you are not providing trimmed samples of the specific excerpt that you would like to be reviewed, please provide suggested timings (e.g., Play from 3'22"—7'49").

*Character Limit: 250*

**Composer Sample 1 Composer Name\***

*Character Limit: 100*

**Composer Sample 1 Librettist Name\***

*Character Limit: 100*

**Composer Sample 1 Description\***

Provide a brief synopsis of the sample, including roles, voicing, and information about this work sample, and credit the performing artists (e.g., soprano Sally Singer, bass Bobby Baritone).

*Character Limit: 1000*

**Composer Sample 1 Score or Chart (optional)**

Upload the score/chart below and provide any relevant notes about the score here.

*Character Limit: 500 | File Size Limit: 8 MB*

**Composer Sample 1 Libretto Upload (optional)**

*File Size Limit: 5 MB*

**COMPOSER SAMPLE 2****Composer Sample 2 Title\***

*Character Limit: 100*

**Composer Sample 2 Relevance\***

Explain the reasons you are presenting this sample in support of this application.

*Character Limit: 2000*

### **Composer Sample 2 A/V Link\***

*Character Limit: 2000*

### **Composer Sample 2 A/V Password (if necessary)**

*Character Limit: 100*

### **Composer Sample 2 Timings\***

If you are not providing trimmed samples of the specific excerpt that you would like to be reviewed, please provide suggested timings (e.g., Play from 3'22"–7'49").

*Character Limit: 1000*

### **Composer Sample 2 - Composer Name\***

*Character Limit: 100*

### **Composer Sample 2 - Librettist Name\***

*Character Limit: 100*

### **Composer Sample 2 Description\***

Provide a brief synopsis of the sample, including roles, voicing, and information about this work sample, and credit the performing artists (e.g., soprano Sally Singer, bass Bobby Baritone).

*Character Limit: 1000*

### **Composer Sample 2 Score or Chart (optional)**

Upload the score/chart below and provide any relevant notes about the score here.

*Character Limit: 1000 | File Size Limit: 4 MB*

### **Composer Sample 2 Libretto Upload (optional)**

*File Size Limit: 5 MB*

## **Librettist**

Submit two samples (written and/or audio or video) that demonstrate your storytelling abilities. These can include but are not limited to poetry, short stories, and excerpts of plays, operas, or music-theater works.

Combined written samples should be no more than 20 pages in length.

If submitting audio-video samples, combined samples must be no longer than 20 minutes. Neither sample should exceed 10 minutes in length.

Scores or other forms of visual representation of a musical work are optional.

Although no previous experience with opera is required, we are especially interested in seeing any lyrics, poetry, or theater work you may have written.

## LIBRETTIST SAMPLE 1

### Librettist Sample 1 Title\*

*Character Limit: 100*

### Librettist Sample 1 Relevance\*

Explain the reasons you are presenting this sample to support this application.

*Character Limit: 2000*

### Librettist Sample 1 A/V Link

*Character Limit: 2000*

### Librettist Sample 1 A/V Password (if necessary)

*Character Limit: 250*

### Librettist Sample 1 Sample Timings

If you are not providing trimmed samples of the specific excerpt that you would like to be reviewed, please provide suggested timings (e.g., Play from 3'22"—7'49").

*Character Limit: 500*

### Librettist Sample 1 Composer Name

*Character Limit: 250*

### Librettist Sample 1 Librettist Name

*Character Limit: 250*

### Librettist Sample 1 Description\*

Provide a brief synopsis of the sample.

*Character Limit: 1000*

### Sample 1 - Librettist Upload\*

Upload the sample below.

*Character Limit: 500 | File Size Limit: 3 MB*

### Librettist Sample 1 Score or Chart Upload (optional)

*File Size Limit: 5 MB*

## LIBRETTIST SAMPLE 2

### Librettist Sample 2 Title\*

*Character Limit: 250*

### Librettist Sample 2 Relevance\*

Explain the reasons you are presenting this sample to support this application.

*Character Limit: 2000*

### Librettist Sample 2 A/V Link

*Character Limit: 2000*

### Librettist Sample 2 A/V Password (if necessary)

*Character Limit: 250*

### Librettist Sample 2 Timings

If you are not providing trimmed samples of the specific excerpt that you would like to be reviewed, please provide suggested timings (e.g., Play from 3'22"—7'49").

*Character Limit: 1000*

### Librettist Sample 2 Composer Name

*Character Limit: 250*

### Librettist Sample 2 Librettist

*Character Limit: 250*

### Librettist Sample 2 Description\*

Provide a brief synopsis of the sample.

*Character Limit: 5000*

### Librettist Sample 2 Upload\*

Upload the sample below.

*Character Limit: 500 | File Size Limit: 4 MB*

### Librettist Sample 2 Score or Chart (optional)

*File Size Limit: 5 MB*

## *Work Information*

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### Work Title\*

Title or working title of the opera in development

*Character Limit: 250*

### Work Summary\*

Submit a plot summary of the work associated with the application.

*Character Limit: 1500*

## Creative Impetus\*

Explain why you are drawn to create this work at this time, and why you are choosing to tell this story with music.

*Character Limit: 2000*

## Intellectual Property

“Existing work” includes items such as a novel, short story, film, or life story. Please select the appropriate choice from the drop-down menu below.

### Choices

This is my own original work.

This is based on existing work protected by copyright. I have secured rights to this material.

This is based on existing work protected by copyright for which I have not yet secured rights.

This is based on existing work that is in the public domain. Rights do not need to be secured.

## Rights Documentation

If the work is based on an existing work protected by copyright, please attach the rights documentation. Rights must be secured by the adjudication of applications in January 2024.

*File Size Limit: 1 MB*

## Roles\*

For example, in an opera adaptation of *The Avengers*, a cast list might look like this: Captain Marvel, Soprano; Black Widow, Mezzo-Soprano; Spiderman, Tenor; Black Panther, Baritone; The Hulk, Bass.

For a list of common voice types in opera, please click [here](#). You are welcome to include non-traditional/alternate voice types, and may explain those choices below.

*Character Limit: 1000*

## Chorus

If this work utilizes a chorus, indicate the number of singers in the chorus by voice type (e.g., Soprano: 4, Alto: 2, Tenor: 6, Bass: 1).

For a list of common voice types in opera, please click [here](#). You are welcome to include non-traditional/alternate voice types, and may explain those choices below.

*Character Limit: 500*

## Instrumentation\*

Please list the instrument(s) you will utilize in your work (e.g., “I will write for 1 piano, 1 violin, 1 viola, 1 cello, and 1 Iranian santur”).

*Character Limit: 2000*

## Scenic Breakdown\*

Provide a scenic breakdown of the opera. You may use either a character/scene breakdown, storyboard, or dramaturgical outline that narrates the theatrical arc of the work. Please refer to [this link](#) for examples.

*Character Limit: 5000*

## Libretto (optional)

Please upload as much of the libretto as is available. A partial libretto or an outline is acceptable.

*Character Limit: 250 | File Size Limit: 2 MB*

## Project Information

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### Project Activity Type\*

#### Choices

Libretto Reading  
Workshop  
Working Performance  
Other

### Other - Project Activity Type

*Character Limit: 500*

### Project Description\*

Describe the specific activities for which funding will be used.

*Character Limit: 1000*

### GRANT ACTIVITY PERIOD

While the development of the project may have commenced, the scope of the funded activities proposed cannot cover expenses incurred outside of the award period, and the budget should be restricted to anticipated expenses between **July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025.**

### Proposed Project Start Date\*

Funding may not be applied to expenses incurred before July 1, 2024.

*Character Limit: 10*

### Proposed Project End Date\*

Grant-funded activities must be completed by June 30, 2025.

*Character Limit: 10*

## Timeline\*

Provide a timeline for the development of the work, including the activities for which you are requesting funding. An example of a timeline is included below for your reference.

February 2024: Creative team meeting with composer, librettist, and dramaturg

April 2024: Libretto reading

May – October 2024: Revisions to the libretto, completion of excerpts or full piano/vocal score for workshop

Late October 2024: Piano/vocal workshop (5 days), recorded by videographers (day 6)

Post-workshop: Creative design meeting with the stage director, librettist, composer, and media designer

**This is an example. Your timeline may include other activities.**

*Character Limit: 2000*

Please update these fields if anything has changed since you submitted the intent to apply.

## Creative Team

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Name any other creative or performing artists associated with this project, if known at this time (e.g., stage director, music director, lighting designer, dramaturg).

You are not required to have a full creative team in place at this time.

### Creator 1 Name

*Character Limit: 250*

### Creator 1 Role

(e.g., stage director, music director, lighting designer, dramaturg)

*Character Limit: 250*

### Creator 1 Biography

You may choose to upload your teammate's resume in PDF format, provide a brief bio (1,000 characters or less), and/or share a link to their website here.

*Character Limit: 1000 | File Size Limit: 1 MB*

### Creator 1 Email

*Character Limit: 254*

### Creator 2 Name

*Character Limit: 250*

## Creator 2 Role

(e.g., stage director, music director, lighting designer, dramaturg)

*Character Limit: 250*

## Creator 2 Email

*Character Limit: 254*

## Creator 2 Biography

You may choose to upload your teammate's resume in PDF format, provide a brief bio (1,000 characters or less), and/or share a link to their website here.

*Character Limit: 1000 | File Size Limit: 1 MB*

## Creator 3 Name

*Character Limit: 250*

## Creator 3 Role

(e.g., stage director, music director, lighting designer, dramaturg)

*Character Limit: 250*

## Creator 3 Email

*Character Limit: 254*

## Creator 3 Biography

You may choose to upload your teammate's resume in PDF format, provide a brief bio (1,000 characters or less), and/or share a link to their website here.

*Character Limit: 1000 | File Size Limit: 1 MB*

## Creator 4 Name

*Character Limit: 250*

## Creator 4 Role

(e.g., stage director, music director, lighting designer, dramaturg)

*Character Limit: 250*

## Creator 4 Email

*Character Limit: 254*

## Creator 4 Biography

You may choose to upload your teammate's resume in PDF format, provide a brief bio (1,000 characters or less), and/or share a link to their website here.

*Character Limit: 1000 | File Size Limit: 1 MB*



## *Budget*

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### **FUNDING PARAMETERS**

- Grants of up to \$15,000 will be awarded.
- Funding may not be applied to expenses incurred before July 1, 2024.
- Grant activities must be completed by June 30, 2025.

Grants will cover up to 100 percent of eligible expenses, not exceeding \$15,000; no matching funds are required. Additional expenses to complete the project are the responsibility of the creators.

- Eligible expenses include but are not limited to:
  - Vocalist, instrumentalist, and other performer fees;
  - Music director/conductor;
  - Dramaturg;
  - Orchestrator, arranger, copyist;
  - Stage director;
  - Vocal coach;
  - Sound designer;
  - Rehearsal and workshop venue rental fees;
  - Stage manager;
  - Equipment rental (e.g., lighting, sound, instrumental cartage);
  - Childcare and/or eldercare while creators are in rehearsal or workshop;
  - Research materials (e.g., performance tickets, new work recordings, reference books);
  - Living expenses for the composer of up the 30% of grant request; and
  - Transportation and housing for personnel related to creative meetings, rehearsals, and performances. (Airfare is limited to coach class.)
- Ineligible expenses include:
  - Commissioning fees to composers and librettists;
  - Set, costume, or properties construction or rental expenses for a fully staged production;
  - Institutional overhead expenses if partnering with an organization;
  - Expenses that are not connected specifically to a project, including general administrative expenses and competition or contest application fees;
  - Tuition expenses;

- o Professional development fees;
- o Fundraising expenses;
- o Ticket subsidies; and
- o Any other expenses incurred in relation to a fully produced premiere for public presentation.

Applicants are required to submit a budget for the proposed project, listing anticipated expenses and any revenue.

### **SAMPLE BUDGET**

Below is a sample budget breakdown for a potential project funding a piano workshop. This is just one proposed model for your consideration. No item contains a standardized rate because there are not any. The best suggestion for a budget layout is to take the budget you have available, start with the highest responsibilities/fees, and work down from there.

5-Day Workshop for New Opera Based on a Budget of \$14,000

Piano workshop in NYC. No travel or housing costs required.

5 days workshop with public/invited event on last day

6 hours per day (2x3 hour session; i.e., 10-1 and 2-5 with one-hour break)

\$2000 - Conductor/Music Director (1 person)

\$2000 - Stage Director

\$1500 - Piano/Coach (1 person)

\$1250 - Dramaturg

\$1250 - Stage Manager

\$3750 - 3 Singers - principal roles (\$1250 each)

\$2250 - 3 Singers - secondary/ensemble roles (\$750 each)

**This is an example. There are many factors that would influence the line items differently in your unique project.**

### **Budget\***

OPERA America provides an Excel worksheet outlining many possible expenses for your consideration. You do not need to complete every line. There are five "Other" lines in each budgetary section to add other expenses if necessary.

Please use the budget worksheet here to provide your budget. Upload it as an Excel document,

*File Size Limit: 1 MB*

### **Total Requested Funding\***

Please indicate your total request below. You may request up to \$18,000.

*Character Limit: 20*

## *Certification*

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### **Citizenship\***

I certify that at least 50 percent of the team members in this proposal have United States citizenship, permanent residence, or Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status.

### **Choices**

Yes

## *Signature*

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### **Applicant Signature\***

By typing your name below, you acknowledge that the information contained in this application and its attachments is accurate and complete.

*Character Limit: 100*