

Racial Justice Opera Network Steering Committee Member Duties

The Racial Justice Opera Network Steering Committee is composed of dedicated volunteers who are trusted with guiding the racial justice commitment of OPERA America, which leads and serves the entire opera community, supporting the creation, presentation, and enjoyment of opera.

Purpose of Racial Justice Opera Network

OPERA America's Racial Justice Opera Network is an action group of opera professionals from all sectors of the field who are committed to enriching our art form and industry by seeking racial equity.

The Racial Justice Opera Network is a coalition of BIPOC and White antiracist members working to dismantle racism in opera by actively changing policies and practices that perpetuate the oppression of Black people, Indigenous people, and other people of color.

The Racial Justice Opera Network (RJON) convenes annually at the national Opera Conference and international Racial Justice Opera Forum. Learn more: [Racial Justice Opera Network](#).

The Steering Committee is seeking members with skillsets, interests, and experiences that contribute to the operatic art form. Applicants are not required to have a career in opera.

Skills/Experiences: Individuals who wish to make a meaningful contribution to the steering committee will:

- Identify as Black, Indigenous/First Nation/Native American, Asian, Pacific Islander, Latiné, and/or groups within the identity of a person of color, including multiracial identity.
- Have a desire to champion the diversity and collaborative nature of opera.
- Have a personal commitment to abolishing racism and racial injustice.
- Have demonstrated knowledge and skill (of any scale) in guiding racial justice initiatives in collaboration with others.
- Align with OPERA America's commitment to racial justice and racial equity.
- Dedicate time to guide, assess, and implement racial justice initiatives.
- Co-create affirming spaces for discussion, learning, and implementation for all identities.

Commitment: Steering committee members are expected to contribute dedicated time and knowledge to ensure the successful progress of racial justice in the opera field. Average time commitment is three to four hours a month through:

- Two-year terms with an opportunity to extend to an additional third year

- Monthly RJON Steering Committee meetings (90 minutes)
- Working groups for specific projects, including research, meetings, and written/verbal communication
- Drafting, reviewing, and/or editing communication to the opera field
- Field engagement through network meetings and annual forum

To Apply:

Please apply by emailing Quodesia Johnson, social justice advisor, at QJohnson@operaamerica.org with the following materials.

- Cover letter/video answering the following questions:
 - Why do you engage in opera?
 - What is your approach to racial justice?
 - Why do you want to join the Racial Justice Opera Network Steering Committee?
 - What do you hope to contribute as a steering committee member?
- Résumé and other information about your work, volunteer experience, and personal accomplishments

Deadline: December 22, 2023/ongoing until positions are filled

Process: Current committee members will review applications with a focus on fulfilling the needs of the committee's collective skillset. Prospective members will be contacted no later than January 15, 2024, to schedule an interview/discussion. New steering committee members will be announced as confirmed.

Please contact Quodesia Johnson, social justice advisor, with any questions or requests at QJohnson@operaamerica.org.

About OPERA America

OPERA America leads and serves the entire opera community, supporting the creation, presentation, and enjoyment of opera. Founded in 1970, OPERA America has a membership that includes over 600 opera companies, educational institutions, affiliated businesses, and other entities. More than 40,000 staff members, artists, and trustees at these organizations join 3,000+ individual members in empowering us as the national champion for opera.

Through national convenings, research, advocacy, granting, thought leadership, and a variety of programs for artists, administrators, educators, trustees, and appreciators, we move opera forward as an industry and an art form. The quarterly *Opera America Magazine* highlights the progress of the sector and the impact of more than \$15 million in strategic grants we have awarded to increase new work, audience engagement, civic practice, business innovation, and inclusivity.

The National Opera Center, our custom-built rehearsal and performance facility in New York City, serves as the centralized home for the industry, welcoming 80,000 visitors each year.