

Robert L.B. Tobin Director-Designer Prize 2022–2023

OPERA America

Application

The Robert L.B. Tobin Director-Designer Prize

The Robert L.B. Tobin Director-Designer Prize is a biennial program offered as part of OPERA America’s continuing effort to foster emerging opera artists. The program is intended to bring new talent to the forefront and connect directors and designers early in their careers with those who are in a position to advance their work. Designer- or director-driven teams must select a work that is deeply resonant with the team from an OPERA America-approved list of operatic works. Original submissions will translate the team’s meaningful response into a unique concept and design for the selected work. Four teams will be invited to turn speculative ideas into a full design presentation at Opera Conference 2023 in Pittsburgh, PA.

The following timeline is in place for 2022-2023 grants:

Application available online: July 2022

Intent to apply deadline: August 31, 2022, at 11:59 p.m. ET - EXTENDED

Application deadline: September 16, 2022, at 11:59 p.m. ET - EXTENDED

Applications adjudicated: October 2022

Prizes announced: November 2022

Showcase Presentation: May 2023, Pittsburgh, PA

First Name of Team Representative*

Character Limit: 50

Last Name of Team Representative*

Character Limit: 50

Team Representative Position*

Please select the team representative's role from the dropdown menu below.

Choices

Director

Designer

Work Selection*

Please choose one of the following operas.

Choices

Blue by Tesori/Thompson

Champion by Blanchard/Cristofer
Cold Mountain by Higdon/Scheer
Fellow Travelers by Spears/Pierce
Florencia en el Amazonas by Catán/Fuentes-Berain
Hansel and Gretel by Humperdinck/Wette
Les contes d'Hoffmann by Offenbach/Barbier
Otello by Verdi/Boito
Salome by Strauss
Sweeney Todd by Sondheim/Wheeler and Quentin

Prior panelists recommend that you start by listening to the music before reading the libretto to find the piece that resonates with you. You should feel and develop an emotional response. You have to feel deeply and fully, then translate that into the design.

Reference scores are available upon request. Please contact Noelle Deutsch at NDeutsch@operaamerica.org if you would like to access these for research.

Project Description

Project Description Narrative*

Describe the complete production, including a thorough explanation of the concept from idea to realized implementation; basic ideas for scenery, props, costumes, and any additional design elements; personnel to be involved (chorus, extras, etc.); and suggestions for adaptations and/or editing, if any. The concept should recognize the technical particularities and specifications of the stage described below.

[Vectorworks, CAD and Venue Specifications are available here.](#)

Character Limit: 5000

Supplementary Materials*

Upload supplementary materials to further illustrate the concept, including research images. Include designer sketches that illustrate how the research translates to the design onstage.

Please note the Library of Congress statements on copyright and fair use if you include rights protected imagery in your reference materials or designs.

No application may contain more than twenty (20) 8.5" by 11" pages of attached supplementary materials, including all images and additional narrative.

Please upload materials as a single, multi-page PDF here.

File Size Limit: 5 MB

The Creative Team

Definition of Team

Each team must comprise a minimum of one stage director and a minimum of two creative designers. Each team must identify a team representative who will serve as the project's fiscal agent and as OPERA America's primary contact.

For each member of the team, you need to provide requested information for the following:

Team Representative - The member of the team who will serve as the project's fiscal agent and as OPERA America's primary contact. (May be either the director or a designer.)

Team Members - The Team Representative plus two Team Members is the minimum on an eligible team.

Additional Team Members - The team may include additional designers and other creative artists.

ARTIST IDENTITY

To better understand the demographics of OPERA America's applicant pool and evaluate the impact of our grant programs, we invite you to optionally select all of the terms that you and your teammates use to self-identify racially or ethnically and in regard to gender identity. You will also have the opportunity to write-in additional or alternate responses in the "Additional" category. The choices below are not exhaustive or intended to be limiting or prescriptive.

OPERA America does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex and gender identity, national origin, political affiliation, sexual orientation, disability, age, or any other status protected under federal, state or local law.

RACIAL AND ETHNIC DEFINITIONS

Black - includes those who identify with nationalities or ethnic groups originating in any of the Black racial groups of Africa including African American and Caribbean.

Latinx - includes those who identify with nationalities or ethnic groups originating in Mexico, Puerto Rico, Cuba, Central and South America, and other Spanish cultures.

Asian - includes those who identify with nationalities or ethnic groups originating in the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Indian subcontinent, Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.

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.

Native American – includes those who identify as Indigenous peoples, First Nations, Aboriginal peoples, and/or Native peoples of the Americas with tribal affiliation or community attachment.

White - includes those who identify with nationalities or ethnic groups originating in Europe.

TEAM REPRESENTATIVE (REQUIRED TEAM MEMBER)

First Name of Team Representative**Character Limit: 50***Last Name of Team Representative****Character Limit: 50***Team Representative Position*****Choices**

Designer
Director

Team Representative Citizenship Status*

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

Choices

Yes
No

Team Representative Email**Character Limit: 254***Team Representative Racial and Ethnic Identity**

Please select all that apply.

Choices

Alaskan Native/American Indian/Native American/Indigenous
Arab/Middle Eastern/North African
Asian
Black
Hispanic/Latinx
Pacific Islander
White
Additional

Additional - Racial and Ethnic Identity

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

*Character Limit: 100***Team Representative Gender Identity**

Please select all that apply.

Choices

Female
Male
Non-binary
Transgender

Intersex
Additional

Additional - Gender Identity

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

Character Limit: 100

Team Representative Gender Pronouns

Please share the pronoun this artist prefers. (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: 100

Team Representative Biography and Resume*

Provide a 150-word biography below, and upload the artist's resume as a PDF file.

Character Limit: 150 | File Size Limit: 1 MB

Team Representative Photo

File Size Limit: 4 MB

SECOND TEAM MEMBER (REQUIRED TEAM MEMBER)

First Name of Second Team Member*

Character Limit: 50

Last Name of Second Team Member*

Character Limit: 50

Second Team Member Position*

Choices

Director
Set Designer
Costume Designer
Lighting Designer
Projection/Media Designer
Other

Second Team Member Citizenship Status*

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

Choices

Yes
No

Second Team Member Email*

Character Limit: 254

Second Team Member Racial and Ethnic Identity

Please select all that apply.

Choices

Alaskan Native/American Indian/Native American/Indigenous

Arab/Middle Eastern/North African

Asian

Black

Hispanic/Latinx

Pacific Islander

White

Additional

Additional - Racial and Ethnic Identity

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

Character Limit: 100

Second Team Member Gender Identity

Please select all that apply.

Choices

Female

Male

Non-binary

Transgender

Intersex

Additional

Additional - Gender Identity

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

Character Limit: 100

Second Team Member Gender Pronouns

Please share the pronoun this artist prefers. (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: 100

Second Team Member Biography and Resume*

Provide a 150-word biography below, and upload the artist's resume as a PDF file.

Character Limit: 150 | File Size Limit: 1 MB

Second Team Member Photo

File Size Limit: 4 MB

THIRD TEAM MEMBER (REQUIRED TEAM MEMBER)

First Name of Third Additional Team Member*

Character Limit: 50

Last Name of Third Team Member*

Character Limit: 50

Third Team Member Position*

Choices

- Director
- Set Designer
- Costume Designer
- Lighting Designer
- Projection/Media Designer
- Other

Third Team Member Citizenship Status*

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

Choices

- Yes
- No

Third Team Member Email*

Character Limit: 254

Third Team Member Racial and Ethnic Identity

Please select all that apply.

Choices

- Alaskan Native/American Indian/Native American/Indigenous
- Arab/Middle Eastern/North African
- Asian
- Black
- Hispanic/Latinx
- Pacific Islander
- White
- Additional

Additional - Racial and Ethnic Identity

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

Character Limit: 100

Third Team Member Gender Identity

Please select all that apply.

Choices

Female

Male

Non-binary

Transgender

Intersex

Additional

Additional - Gender Identity

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

Character Limit: 100

Third Team Member Gender Pronouns

Please share the pronoun this artist prefers. (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: 100

Third Team Member Biography and Resume*

Provide a 150-word biography below, and upload the artist's resume as a PDF file.

Character Limit: 150 | File Size Limit: 1 MB

Third Team Member Photo

File Size Limit: 4 MB

ADDITIONAL TEAM MEMBERS (OPTIONAL)

Please provide the requested information below for any additional team members. Additional members are allowable, but not required.

First Name of Additional Team Member #1

Character Limit: 50

Last Name of Additional Team Member #1

Character Limit: 50

Additional Team Member #1 Position

Choices

Set Designer
Costume Designer
Lighting Designer
Projection/Media Designer
Choreographer
Other

Additional Team Member #1 Citizenship Status

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

Choices

Yes
No

Additional Team Member #1 Email

Character Limit: 254

Additional Team Member #1 Racial and Ethnic Identity

Please select all that apply.

Choices

Alaskan Native/American Indian/Native American/Indigenous
Arab/Middle Eastern/North African
Asian
Black
Hispanic/Latinx
Pacific Islander
White
Additional

Additional - Racial and Ethnic Identity

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

Character Limit: 100

Additional Team Member #1 Gender Identity

Please select all that apply.

Choices

Female
Male
Non-binary
Transgender
Intersex
Additional

Additional - Gender Identity

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

Character Limit: 100

Additional Team Member #1 Gender Pronouns

Please share the pronoun this artist prefers. (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: 100

Additional Team Member #1 Biography and Resume

Provide a 150-word biography below, and upload the artist's resume as a PDF file.

Character Limit: 150 | File Size Limit: 1 MB

Additional Team Member #1 Representative Photo

File Size Limit: 4 MB

First Name of Additional Team Member #2

Character Limit: 50

Last Name of Additional Team Member #2

Character Limit: 50

Additional Team Member #2 Position

Choices

Set Designer
Costume Designer
Lighting Designer
Projection/Media Designer
Choreographer
Other

Additional Team Member #2 Citizenship Status

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

Choices

Yes
No

Additional Team Member #2 Email

Character Limit: 254

Additional Team Member #2 Racial and Ethnic Identity

Please select all that apply.

Choices

Alaskan Native/American Indian/Native American/Indigenous
Arab/Middle Eastern/North African
Asian
Black
Hispanic/Latinx
Pacific Islander
White
Additional

Additional - Racial and Ethnic Identity

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

Character Limit: 100

Additional Team Member #2 Gender Identity

Please select all that apply.

Choices

Female
Male
Non-binary
Transgender
Intersex
Additional

Additional - Gender Identity

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

Character Limit: 100

Additional Team Member #2 Gender Pronouns

Please share the pronoun this artist prefers. (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

Additional Team Member #2 Biography and Resume

Provide a 150-word biography below, and upload the artist's resume as a PDF file.

Character Limit: 150 | File Size Limit: 1 MB

Additional Team Member #2 Representative Photo

File Size Limit: 4 MB

First Name of Additional Team Member #3

Character Limit: 50

Last Name of Additional Team Member #3

Character Limit: 50

Additional Team Member #3 Position

Choices

Set Designer
Costume Designer
Lighting Designer
Projection/Media Designer
Choreographer
Other

Additional Team Member #3 Citizenship Status

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

Choices

Yes
No

Additional Team Member #3 Email

Character Limit: 254

Additional Team Member #3 Racial and Ethnic Identity

Please select all the apply.

Choices

Alaskan Native/American Indian/Native American/Indigenous
Arab/Middle Eastern/North African
Asian
Black
Hispanic/Latinx
Pacific Islander
White
Additional

Additional - Racial and Ethnic Identity

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

Character Limit: 100

Additional Team Member #3 Gender Identity

Please select all that apply.

Choices

Female
Male
Non-binary
Transgender
Intersex
Additional

Additional - Gender Identity

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

Character Limit: 100

Additional Team Member #3 Gender Pronouns

Please share the pronoun this artist prefers. (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: 100

Additional Team Member #3 Biography and Resume

Provide a 150-word biography below, and upload the artist's resume as a PDF file.

Character Limit: 150 | File Size Limit: 1 MB

Additional Team Member #3 Representative Photo

File Size Limit: 4 MB

Additional Team Members

If there is an additional person in your team, please indicate their name and role here.

Character Limit: 250

Technical Specifications

Technical specifications Narrative*

Explain how the production will function successfully in a theater with the following technical specifications. Identify technical barriers that need to be addressed based on the design concept.

Vectorworks, CAD and venue specifications are available here.

Character Limit: 5000

Ground plan and/or Elevation*

Please upload a ground plan and/or elevation in PDF format.

File Size Limit: 3 MB

Certification

Press Release Project Summary*

Please provide a 150-word project summary for OPERA America's public announcement of the grant recipients. Your response will not be publicized unless your application is awarded. You will have the opportunity to review the description prior to publication.

Character Limit: 1000

Final Certification*

We attest that the information contained in this application and its attachments is accurate and complete, to the best of our knowledge.

Choices

Yes