

THE NATIONAL **OPERA** CENTER  
**AMERICA**

**New Works Exploration Grants  
2017–2018 Guidelines and Application Procedures**

OPERA America  
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# OPERA America

## New Works Exploration Grants

### Purpose

Attending more performances of new works and meeting with the creative artists and producers responsible for them will build the fluency and expertise of OPERA America members in an area of artistic enterprise that is still new to many company leaders. Greater familiarity with the broad range of new American opera and music-theater works — and the producers and artists who create them — will improve the quality, quantity and creativity of productions of new pieces. New Works Exploration Grants provide support to representatives of OPERA America Professional Company Members in the U.S. who wish to travel to another city to attend a performance or workshop of a new American work and meet with the creative artists and administrators who are responsible for the piece's creation. The goals of the program are to:

- Broaden awareness of new American opera and music-theater works across the field.
- Create relationships among opera companies interested in pursuing the creation and production of new works.

### Supported Activities

New Works Exploration Grants cover the cost of transportation (train, bus, car or economy air fare, plus ground transportation) and reasonable lodging (not to exceed \$250 per night). Incidentals, including meals and/or per diem, are the responsibility of the company. There is no limit to the number of grants a company may apply for during fiscal year 2018 (July 1, 2017, to June 30, 2018); however, the total amount granted to a single company cannot exceed \$3,000 during the year.

### Eligibility

- Grants are available to U.S. Professional Company Members (PCMs) of OPERA America. General and artistic directors, as well as artistic, education and production staff, may apply for New Works Exploration Grants.
- Applications will be advanced for consideration only if applicant companies are current in membership dues, the submission of required surveys (including the Professional Opera Survey) and the submission of reports from prior grants.
- Travel must occur between July 1, 2017, and June 30, 2018.
- Applicants may apply up to six months in advance of the proposed travel date. Applications must be received at least two weeks prior to the proposed travel dates. Shorter timelines will be considered only in exceptional circumstances.
- Grants are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis, until the funding is exhausted.

### How to Apply

All applications must be [submitted online](#) at least two weeks prior to the requested travel dates.

- OPERA America staff will review and approve the Intent, which authorizes travel.
- Upon completion of your trip, fill out the [reporting form](#), including receipts, to request payment.
- Grants are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis, until the funding is exhausted.

## **Grant Criteria**

OPERA America will only provide travel support to applicants who demonstrate that attendance at a performance will be accompanied by substantive discussion(s) with the creative artists and/or administrators associated with the project during the same trip.

## **Notification and Reimbursement Procedures**

All applications are processed upon receipt and handled individually. Requests for all New Works Exploration Grants are reviewed by the project director. Applicants will be notified of approval within three business day of the LOI's receipt.

Positive notification will include reporting instructions, wherein the applicant will be required to provide details of the trip, including:

- Travel and/or hotel receipts; and
- A brief report (maximum two pages) describing the applicant's impressions of or reactions to the performance(s) and documentation of meeting(s).

Grant payments will not be made until the Final Application, including report and receipts, is submitted and approved. Once submitted, the applicant will be notified of approval and reimbursement within two weeks.

## **Evaluation**

The report on the activities funded will constitute a final report on the grant. Additional follow-up may be required for some grants. Any special evaluation procedures will be indicated in the grant letter.

## **Staff Contact Information**

For more information, including consultation on a project's appropriateness, contact Noah Stern Weber, artistic services manager, at [NSWeber@operaamerica.org](mailto:NSWeber@operaamerica.org) or 646.699.5240.

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