



New Works Exploration Grants

***Generously supported by the Andrew W. Mellon
Foundation and the Virginia B. Toulmin
Foundation***

2019–2020 Guidelines

OPERA America
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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 in North America 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.
- Introduce producers to new works by female composers.
- Create relationships among opera companies interested in pursuing the creation and production of new works.

Supported Activities

Travel expenses related to staff attendance at performances/workshops of new American works are eligible for this grant.

New Works Exploration Grants cover the cost of transportation (train, bus, car or economy airfare, plus ground transportation) and reasonable lodging (not to exceed \$250 per night), with a limit of three hotel nights per funded trip. Incidentals, including meals and/or per diem, are the responsibility of the company.

Funding Parameters

There is no limit to the number of grants a company may apply for during fiscal year 2020 (July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2020); however, the total amount granted to a single company cannot exceed \$4,000 during the year, of which at least \$2,000 must be used for attending works by female composers.

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.
- For the purpose of this grant, OPERA America defines “new American works” as those written by a creative team that is at least 50 percent American, meaning either the composer or the librettist must have U.S. citizenship or permanent residency.
- Productions eligible for Exploration Grants are designated here: <https://www.operaamerica.org/applications/schedule/north.aspx>.
- Funding may not be used to support travel to attend performances or workshops of works that are covered by existing partnership agreements.

- 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, 2019, and June 30, 2020.
- Applicants may apply up to six months in advance of the proposed travel dates. Applications must be received at least two weeks prior to the proposed travel dates. Shorter timelines will be considered only in exceptional circumstances.

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.

Application Review Process

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

- OPERA America staff will review and approve the application, which authorizes travel.
- Requests are reviewed and approved at the discretion of the program director, based on the availability of funds and the applicant company's prior utilization of the program.
- Applicants will be notified of approval within three to five business days of the receipt of the application.
- Within 45 days of completing funded travel, applicants must submit a travel report via the grants portal, attaching relevant travel and/or hotel receipts.
- Grants are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis until the funding is exhausted.
- To ensure the distribution of funding throughout the year, the total available funds will be split equally into two sixth-month periods, for travel occurring between July and December, and between January and June.

Reporting and Payment

Positive notification will include reporting instructions. Grantees will be required to submit a report within 45 days of the completion of funded travel, 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 including documentation of meeting(s).

Reports will be submitted online via the [grants portal](#).

Grant payments will not be made until the final application, including report and receipts, is submitted and approved. Additional information may be requested prior to payment.

Staff Contact Information

For more information, including consultation on a project's appropriateness, contact Kristal Pacific, grantmaking manager, at KPacific@operaamerica.org or 646.699.5236.

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