

IDEA Opera Grants - 2025

OPERA America

IDEA Opera Grants

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Generously supported by the Charles and Cerise Jacobs Charitable Foundation

Important Dates and Deadlines

Intent to apply deadline: March 20, 2025

Required for access to full application

Application deadline: April 24, 2025

Adjudication: June 2025

Grantee announcement: No later than June 30, 2025

Grant activity period: July 1, 2025 – September 30, 2026

Guidelines

Complete guidelines may be found [here](#).

Contact

For questions about your project eligibility or for technical assistance using the application platform, email Grants@operaamerica.org.

Applicant Information

In this document, the author of the music will be referred to as the composer, and the author of the text will be referred to as the librettist, although applicants may have prior experience as songwriters, poets, or playwrights.

Applicant First Name*

Character Limit: 150

Applicant Surname/Family Name*

Character Limit: 250

Applicant Creator Type*

Check all that apply.

Choices

Composer

Librettist

Composer/Librettist

Applicant Email*

Character Limit: 254

Applicant Citizenship Status*

Indicate if you are a United States citizen or permanent resident, or possess 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 Racial/Ethnic Identity*

IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Access) Opera Grants are designed to support creators who identify with one or more of the following racial or ethnic heritages, which have historically encountered barriers in the opera industry:

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

** If awarded an IDEA Opera Grant, individuals who identify themselves as Indigenous/Native*

American will be asked to provide proof of their enrollment in a federally recognized tribe, if applicable.

Please select all that apply.

Choices

Asian
Black/African American
Indigenous/Native American
Latiné/Hispanic
Middle Eastern or North African
Pacific Islander
Additional

Additional - Applicant Racial and Ethnic Identity

If you selected "Additional" from the checklist above, please tell us what language best describes your racial or ethnic identity.

Character Limit: 250

Applicant Gender Identity

Please share gender identity.

Choices

Intersex
Man
Nonbinary
Transgender
Woman
Additional

Additional - Applicant Gender Identity

If you selected "Additional" from the checklist above, please tell us what language best aligns with your gender identity.

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

Teammate (if applicable)

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 you are a United States citizen or permanent resident, or possess 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 your teammate's identifies.

Teammate Racial/Ethnic Identity*

IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Access) Opera Grants are designed to support creators who identify with one or more of the following racial or ethnic heritages, which have historically encountered barriers in the opera industry:

- Asian — includes those who identify with nationalities or ethnic groups originating in Asia, including East Asia, Southeast Asia, and South Asia, including the Indian subcontinent.
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- Latiné/Hispanic — includes those who identify with nationalities or ethnic groups originating in Mexico, Puerto Rico, Cuba, Central and South America, and other Latin nations.
- Indigenous/Native American — includes those who identify as Indigenous peoples, American Indian/Native American, Alaska Native, First Nations, and/or Native peoples of the Americas and Australia with tribal affiliation or community attachment.*

- Middle Eastern or North African — includes those who identify with one or more nationalities originating in the Middle East, North Africa, the Arabian Peninsula, and neighboring territories.
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The above is not an exhaustive list but is meant to provide clarity and context for the purpose of the IDEA Opera Grants.

** If awarded an IDEA Opera Grant, individuals who identify themselves as Indigenous/Native American will be asked to provide proof of their enrollment in a federally recognized tribe, if applicable.*

Please select all that apply.

Choices

Asian
 Black/African American
 Indigenous/Native American
 Latiné/Hispanic
 Middle Eastern or North African
 Pacific Islander
 Additional

Additional - Teammate Racial and Ethnic Identity

If you selected "Additional" from the checklist above, please tell us what best describes your teammate's racial or ethnic identity.

Character Limit: 250

Teammate Gender Identity

Please share your teammate's gender identity.

Choices

Intersex
 Man
 Nonbinary
 Transgender
 Woman
 Additional

Additional - Teammate Gender Identity

If you selected "Additional" from the checklist above, please tell us the language that best describes your teammate's gender identity.

Character Limit: 250

Teammate Gender Pronouns

Please share the pronouns your 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

Work Information

Work Title*

Character Limit: 250

Work Summary*

Submit a plot summary of the work associated with the application. (You will be given an opportunity to describe the work in greater detail in the full application.)

Character Limit: 1500

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.

Project Information

Project Activity Type*

IDEA Opera Grants support the exploration of opera as an artistic medium through such activities as:

- A Libretto Reading: a reading in which the devised literature is read aloud for evaluation.
- A Workshop: an informal performance of some or all of a work to obtain feedback on specific elements of the piece. Workshops might be performed with piano and/or instrumental accompaniment.
- Working Performance: a partial or full run-through of a work, with piano or instrumental accompaniment, to obtain feedback for the further development of the piece. An audience may or may not be present.

The above are examples of typical developmental activities and are not meant to limit the goals of any application.

Choices

Libretto Reading
Workshop
Working Performance
Other

Other - Project Activity Type

If you selected other, please describe.

Character Limit: 500

Project Description*

Describe the specific activities for which funding will be used. (You will have the opportunity to describe the activities in greater detail in the full application.)

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, 2025, and September 30, 2026.**

Proposed Project Start Date*

Funding may not be applied to expenses incurred before July 1, 2025.

Character Limit: 10

Proposed Project End Date*

Grant-funded project activities must be completed by September 30, 2026.

Character Limit: 10

Other

Questions

Do you have questions or concerns about this grant or application process? You may use the space here to share your thoughts, and an OPERA America staff member will assist you.

Character Limit: 500

How Did You Learn of the IDEA Opera Grants?

From which organization(s) did you hear about this grant opportunity?

Choices

OPERA America

New Music USA
 Philanthropy New Digest
 Other

Other - How Did You Hear of IDEA Opera Grants?

If you selected "other," please specify.

Character Limit: 250

Channels

Through which channels did you learn of the IDEA Opera Grants? Check all that apply.

Choices

Colleague
 Email
 Facebook
 Newsletter
 Professor
 Twitter
 Website
 Other

Other - Channels

If you selected "other," please specify.

Character Limit: 250

Certification

Citizenship*

I certify that all of the team members in this proposal are United States citizens or permanent residents, or possess Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status.

Choices

Yes

Identity*

I certify that my teammate (if applicable) and I identify with the racial and ethnic heritage communicated above.

Choices

Yes

Mailing List*

I certify that I understand that by submitting this intent to apply, my teammate (if applicable) and I will be added to OPERA America's mailing list to receive the latest opera news.

Choices

Yes

Signature

Signature*

By typing my name below, I attest that I am the primary contact for this intent to apply submission. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in the intent to apply form and its attachments is accurate and complete.

Character Limit: 250