

Robert L.B. Tobin Director-Designer Prize 2024-2025

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 opera careers with those who are in a position to advance their work. Designer- or director-driven teams must select a work that deeply resonates 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.

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

Breaking the Waves (Mazzoli/Vavrek)
Die Fledermaus (Strauss/Haffner and Genée)
Der Rosenkavalier (Strauss/von Hofmannsthal)
Idomeneo (Mozart/Varesco)
Missing (Clements/Current)
La hija de Rappaccini (Catán/Tovar)
La traviata (Verdi/Piave)
Samson and Delilah (Saint-Saëns/Lemaire)
The Sound of Music (Rodgers/Hammerstein)
X: The Life and Times of Malcolm X (A. Davis/T. Davis)

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

Comments

Character Limit: 2000

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 the 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 on our grant programs, we invite you to provide information about how you identify.

OPERA America believes that different perspectives, cultural histories, life experiences, and personal stories enrich the operatic repertoire. OPERA America is dedicated to supporting creators who reflect the diversity of the nation.

RACIAL AND ETHNIC DEFINITIONS

We invite you to optionally provide information about how you identify racially or ethnically.

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.

Asian — includes those who identify with nationalities or ethnic groups originating in the Far East, Indian subcontinent, and Southeast Asia.

Black — includes those who identify with nationalities or ethnic groups originating in any of the Black racial groups of Africa, including African American, Caribbean, Latin American, etc.

Latinx — includes those who identify with nationalities or ethnic groups originating in Central America, Cuba, Mexico, Puerto Rico, South America, and other Latin nations.

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

Pacific Islander — includes those who identify with nationalities and ethnic groups originating in Guam, Hawaii, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.

White

The above is not an exhaustive list.

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

- Arab
- Asian
- Black
- Latinx
- Native American
- 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

Team Representative Gender Identity

Please select all that apply.

Choices

- Intersex
- Man
- Non-binary
- Transgender

Woman
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: 1000 | 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

Arab
Asian
Black
Latinx
Native American
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

Intersex
Man
Non-binary
Transgender
Woman
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: 1000 | 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

- Arab
- Asian
- Black
- Latinx
- Native American
- 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

Man
Intersex
Non-binary
Transgender
Woman
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: 1000 | 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

Arab
Asian
Black
Latinx
Native American
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

Intersex
Man
Non-binary
Transgender
Woman
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: 1000 | 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

Arab
Asian
Black
Latinx
Native American
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

Intersex
Man
Non-binary
Transgender
Woman
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: 1000 | 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

- Arab
- Asian
- Black
- Latinx
- Native American
- 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

Intersex

Man

Non-binary

Transgender

Woman

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: 1000 | 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