



Association of Performing Arts Presenters

Ensemble Theatre Collaborations Project Grants Application Helpful Hints

If you are considering applying for a project grant, you should know that there is a two-tiered application process. The initial applications received in March will be reviewed by a peer panel in April. This panel will select a smaller group of applicants to submit a full project proposal on June 1, 2006. Panelists are selected for their breadth of knowledge and experience in the theatre, producing, and arts presenting sectors. Invitations for round 2 applications will be made at the beginning of May. Grant recipients will be announced at the end of July. We anticipate making 10-12 grants with this round of applications.

We encourage you to consider the following in your decision-making and grant-writing process:

- The program is designed to encourage cross-sector collaborations between ensemble and independent theatre artists working in partnership with either an arts presenter or a producing theatre partner.
- Your relationship with your partner(s) should be as thought through as possible when you submit your narrative. Collaborations between partners should not be “business as usual” arrangements but should, in some way, demonstrate how the partnership increases opportunities and access to resources for each participating organization. Projects where the partnership between the ensemble theatre company and the arts presenter or producing theatre consists primarily of a rental contract for a venue with some discounts and/or marketing support will not be competitive.
- Competitive applications will be those with equitable partnerships designed to maximize the complementary capacities of each partner. The panel will read each narrative for the degree to which mutual benefits and effective communication are established and managed throughout the project.
- It is extremely important for the panel to understand the ensemble nature of each applicant’s work. This is the first question in the narrative and one that should convey the passion, creativity, and unique artistic voice of your ensemble. If the panel cannot get a sense of how your company works as an ensemble, your application will be less competitive.
- This program utilizes a broad and inclusive definition for what an ensemble theatre company is. You can read this definition at <http://www.artspresenters.org/services/definitions.cfm>.
- Please select your work samples carefully and thoughtfully. Work samples may play an important role in the panel review process if there are panelists who are unfamiliar with your recent work. Applicants should cue videotape or indicate where to begin watching the DVD. In general, panelists will watch no more than 2-3 minutes of tape if at all.

If you are considering applying to this program, there are some changes to the eligibility and the 2006 round 1 application process from last year’s process. They are:

- Ensemble theatre companies with a strong choreographic component to their work can apply to both this grant program and the National Dance Project for the same project but can only receive funding from one of these programs.
- The narrative questions and support materials have been considerably streamlined from the first year of the program.