

Presenter Development FY27

Guidelines

The Montana Performing Arts Consortium

The Montana Performing Arts Consortium (MPAC) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization serving Montana's community of presenting organizations and the artists who bring their talent to our stages. Its mission is to:

- Promote and encourage the touring and presentation of the performing arts throughout Montana in a professional and cost-effective manner.
- Provide support and technical assistance to non-profit performing arts presenters, presenting communities, and artists.
- To foster a favorable climate for both artists and presenters in Montana and promote, cultivate, and amplify the vibrant, innovative, and powerful presenting culture in Montana communities.

Presenter Development Program

The Presenter Development Program is an opportunity for small-budget, rural presenters to receive artistic and outreach fee support for the 2026-2027 season series (FY27). This program supports a maximum of 20% of artist fees and/or 50% of artist outreach fees. This program depends on state funds from a Montana Cultural Trust legislative grant, Susan Heyneman Foundation, and other funding sources. **These allocations are not guaranteed. Do not sign contracts assuming funds will be available.** Participants receive support in the form of funding ranging from a minimum of \$300 to a maximum of \$2,000. The average funding amount is \$900.

Award installment 1 will be disbursed in December 2026, at the earliest. Award installment 2 will be disbursed in June 2027 upon receipt of required reporting (Forms A, B, & C).

Application

- Applications may be submitted by
 - o online form at www.mtperformingarts.org.
- **Application deadline: September 15, 2026**

Review criteria

Applications will be reviewed and scored against the following criteria:

- Applicant demonstrates understanding of the community's needs and strives to meet them through programming.
- Programming exhibits artistic and educational quality.
- Applicant provides artistic/cultural programming to an otherwise underserved community.

Supported Activities

Examples of supported activities include:

- Efforts to develop current audiences or target new audiences.
- Creating a new performing arts series in a community that does not have one.

- Expanding programming by adding artistic diversity or culturally diverse artists.
- Adding or modifying outreach activities to increase access or reach new audiences.

Consideration will also be given to:

- Presenters in communities where there is no performing arts series. E.g., organizations may occasionally present events, but do not organize or promote these events in a series format.
- Presenters in a community with an existing series with plans to add events that increase artistic quality, reach new audiences, broaden audience aesthetic perceptions and experiences, or grow outreach offerings.
- Presenter series that include a professional artist or group based in or originating from Montana.
- Presenters serving rural audiences located in a broad geographic area.

Restrictions

Activities that **do not qualify** for support:

- Fundraising events or galas
- Self-produced, amateur, or student performances
- Community theater
- Events occurring before July 1, 2026, or after June 30, 2027

Applicants should omit these items from their application/budget section.

Review process & notification

Presenter Development applications will be reviewed by a panel consisting of local professionals in the Montana presenting community. The panel will meet in late September 2026 and organizations accepted into the program will be notified in early October 2026.

Eligible organizations

- Applicants must be an MPAC member in good standing. (See mtperformingarts.org/membership for information.)
- Applicant must be a performing arts presenting organization located in a rural Montana community.
 - For the purposes of this program, we define rural Montana as any community outside the seven urban hubs (Billings, Missoula, Bozeman, Great Falls, Kalispell, Helena, and Butte).
 - Applicant is a 501(c)3 nonprofit or has a fiscal sponsor.
- There is no artist fee budget maximum or minimum for eligibility.
 - Applicants with artist fees exceeding \$26,000 in FY27 must demonstrate how their programs serve a large rural community (examples include but are not limited to serving a large geographic area, expanded outreach programs, multiple performances per visiting artist)

Participant requirements

Organizations accepted into the Presenter Development program must meet the following requirements:

- Sign an Agreement Letter
- Present events in a series format with the following criteria:
 - A minimum of three (3) full-length performances by three (3) different professional performing artists.
 - Charge admission for full-length performances.

- Promote events together under one series or organization name.
- Supported events take place between July 1, 2026, and June 30, 2027.
- The series must contain at least one (1) outreach activity in addition to that artist's full-length public performance.
- Offer a series ticket package.
- Promote the series with at least one (1) of the following:
 - Series website
 - Series brochure
 - Active series social media account
 - Series email campaigns
- File a final report with MPAC by June 15, 2027 which includes:
 - Form A: an individual evaluation for each performance series event
 - Form B: One final series financial report
 - Form C: one report on each supported event location
 - Templates for Forms A, B, and C will be made available at www.mtperformingarts.org.
- Include the following credit line in all printed and electronic promotional materials as a contractual obligation:

"This event is made possible in part by the Montana Performing Arts Consortium and the Susan Scott Heyneman Foundation. Additional support from coal tax placed into Montana's Cultural and Aesthetic Projects Trust Fund"

PLEASE NOTE: Participating organizations that do not include this line in their printed and electronic materials will not receive the second installment of their funding.

MPAC Annual Showcase & Conference

Presenters are strongly urged, but not required, to attend MPAC's Annual Showcase & Conference. **The next conference will be held in Helena on October 16-18, 2026.** Registration is available at www.mtperformingarts.org. Registration scholarships are available to rural Montana presenting organizations that are members of MPAC.

Collaborative Grant Partnerships (NEW for FY27)

MPAC will seek new opportunities to submit collaborative grant requests with MPAC as the lead requester and with **Presenter Development participants listed as "project partners."** MPAC will inform all participants of these opportunities before they are pursued and will notify them of the results.

As part of the online application process, organizations will be asked to:

1. **Confirm** if they wish to be included in collaborative or group grant requests.
2. **Grant permission** for MPAC to use applicant data (such as artist engagement dates, fees, and budget information) in future collaborative grant applications.
3. **Upload a Letter of Support** for MPAC (see details in the Checklist below).

Contact

For questions or assistance, contact Emily Wolfram, Executive Director at info@mtperformingarts.org or (406) 284-5524.

Application Checklist

- List of cities/towns and counties your organization serves
- List of schools and/or community centers where you program outreach events
- Marketing information (website, social media links, PDF of brochure or other marketing samples)
- **(NEW) Letter of Support for MPAC: A letter addressed "To Whom It May Concern" stating that your organization supports MPAC's grant requests. The letter should:**
 - Outline the benefits your organization receives through Presenter Development participation, MPAC member services, or the Artist Showcase & Conference.
 - Provide a first-hand account of how MPAC helps increase arts access for your organization and community.
- The following files ready to upload:
 - FY27 artist information (artist name, dates, fees)
 - Your organization's Budget for FY27
 - ~~Artist contracts or letters of intent for supported events~~
 - Your organization's Profit & Loss Statement for 2025-26 (FY26)
 - Your organization's board of directors list for your presenting organization

INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

How to submit your application

- Complete the online application at <https://www.mtperformingarts.org/pd-applicants>.
- Please complete ONE (1) application per nonprofit organization.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 15, 2026