IDEA Opera Grants - 2023-2024

IDEA Opera Grants

Generously funded by the Charles and Cerise Jacobs Charitable Foundation

Important Dates and Deadlines
Application deadline: December 1, 2023
Adjudication: January 2024
Grantee announcement: No later than March 29, 2024
Grant activity period: April 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

Guidelines
Complete guidelines may be found here.

Contact
For more information, contact Diana Hossack, director of grantmaking, at DHossack@operaamerica.org or 646.699.5236. You may also schedule a 15-minute grant consultation by using this Calendly link.

Applicant Information

Applicant First Name*
Character Limit: 150

Applicant Surname/Family Name*
Character Limit: 250

Applicant Creator Type*
Choices
Composer
Librettist
Composer/Librettist

Applicant Email*
Character Limit: 254
**Applicant Citizenship Status***
Indicate if you have United States citizenship, permanent residence, or 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 a racial or ethnic heritage including:

- 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.

The above is not an exhaustive list but is meant to provide clarity and context for the purpose of the IDEA Opera Grants.

Please select all that apply.

**Choices**
- Arab
- Asian
- Black
- Latinx
- Native American
- Pacific Islander
Additional - Applicant Racial and Ethnic Identity
If you selected "Additional" from the checklist above, please write in alternative or additional words that describe how you identify racially and ethnically.

*Character Limit: 250*

Applicant Gender Identity
Please share your gender identity.

*Choices*
- Intersex
- Man
- Nonbinary
- Transgender
- Woman
- Additional

Additional - Applicant Gender Identity
If you selected "Additional" from the checklist above, please write in alternate or additional words that describe how you gender identify.

*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*

Applicant Biography*
The biography should be narrative and limited to 1,000 characters. The resume should be uploaded as a PDF.

*Character Limit: 1000 | File Size Limit: 1 MB*

Applicant Website

*Character Limit: 2000*

Personal Statement*
Provide a brief statement explaining the reasons for being drawn to the operatic medium. What inspires you creatively?

*Character Limit: 3000*
Teammate(s) (if applicable)

Teammate First Name
*Character Limit: 150*

Teammate Surname/Family Name
*Character Limit: 250*

Teammate Email
*Character Limit: 254*

Teammate Creator Type
Check all that apply.

*Choices*
Composer
Librettist

Teammate Citizenship Status
Indicate if you have United States citizenship, permanent residence, or 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 optionally provide information about how you identify.

Teammate Racial/Ethnic Identity
IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Access) Opera Grants are designed to support creators who identify with a racial or ethnic heritage including:

- 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.

The above is not an exhaustive list but is meant to provide clarity and context for the purpose of the IDEA Opera Grants.

Please select all that apply.

**Choices**
- Arab
- Asian
- Black
- Latinx
- Native American
- Pacific Islander
- Additional

**Additional - Teammate Racial and Ethnic Identity**
If you selected "Additional" from the checklist above, please write in alternate or additional words that describe how you identify racially and ethnically.

*Character Limit: 250*

**Teammate Gender Identity**
Please share your gender identity.

**Choices**
- Intersex
- Man
- Nonbinary
- Transgender
- Woman
- Additional

**Additional - Teammate Gender Identity**
If you selected "Additional" from the checklist above, please write in alternate or additional words that describe how you gender identify.

*Character Limit: 250*

**Teammate 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.
Teammate Biography
The biography should be narrative and limited to 1,000 characters. The resume should be uploaded as a PDF.

Character Limit: 1000 / File Size Limit: 1 MB

Teammate Website
Character Limit: 2000

Third Collaborator First Name
Character Limit: 150

Third Collaborator Surname/Family Name
Character Limit: 250

Third Collaborator Creator Type
Check all that apply.

Choices
Composer
Librettist

Third Creator Email
Character Limit: 254

Third Collaborator Citizenship Status
Indicate if you have United States citizenship, permanent residence, or 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 optionally provide information about how you identify.

Third Collaborator Racial/Ethnic Identity
IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Access) Opera Grants are designed to support creators who identify with a racial or ethnic heritage including:
- 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.

The above is not an exhaustive list but is meant to provide clarity and context for the purpose of the IDEA Opera Grants.

Please select all that apply.

**Choices**
- Arab
- Asian
- Black
- Latinx
- Native American
- Pacific Islander
- Additional

**Additional - Third Collaborator Racial and Ethnic Identity**
If you selected "Additional" from the checklist above, please write in alternate or additional words that describe how you identify racially and ethnically.

*Character Limit: 250*

**Third Collaborator Gender Identity**
Please share your gender identity.

**Choices**
- Intersex
- Man
- Nonbinary
- Transgender
- Woman
- Additional
Additional - Third Collaborator Gender Identity
If you selected "Additional" from the checklist above, please write in alternate or additional words that describe how you gender identify.

*Character Limit: 250*

Third Collaborator 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*

Third Collaborator Biography
The biography should be narrative and limited to 1,000 characters. The resume should be uploaded as a PDF.

*Character Limit: 1000 | File Size Limit: 1 MB*

Third Collaborator Website
*Character Limit: 2000*

Creative Team History*
Describe the composer/librettist relationship. Have you worked together previously? Whether or not you have, explain why have you chosen each other for this project.

If you are both the composer and librettist, please describe your reason for serving in both capacities.

*Character Limit: 1000*

Work Samples
Applicants are required to submit work samples that best represent their voices and creative styles. Work samples need not be classical or operatic. Samples that demonstrate the creator’s aptitude for theatrical storytelling are recommended.

If you intend to advance an existing project, you are encouraged to submit excerpts from the work.

Composer Samples
Submit two samples (hosted audio or video on sites like YouTube, Vimeo, Dropbox, and SoundCloud).
Combined samples must be no longer than 20 minutes. Neither sample should exceed 10 minutes in length.

At least one sample should feature voice(s) that are not digitally generated.

Scores or other forms of visual representation of a musical work are optional.

Although no previous experience with opera is required, we encourage you to submit any vocal music you have written and if possible, give some sense of your notational skills (e.g., scores, chord charts, or other graphic representations of your music).

MIDI recordings are permitted but not recommended.

**SAMPLE 1 - Composer**

**Composer Sample 1 Title***
*Character Limit: 100

**Composer Sample 1 Relevance***
Explain the reasons you are presenting this sample to support this application.
*Character Limit: 2000

**Composer Sample 1 A/V Link***
*Character Limit: 2000

**Composer Sample 1 A/V Password (if necessary)**
*Character Limit: 100

**Composer Sample 1 Timings***
If you are not providing trimmed samples of the specific excerpt that you would like to be reviewed, please provide suggested timings (e.g., Play from 3’22”–7’49”).
*Character Limit: 250

**Composer Sample 1 Composer Name***
*Character Limit: 100

**Composer Sample 1 Librettist Name***
*Character Limit: 100

**Composer Sample 1 Description***
Provide a brief synopsis of the sample, including roles, voicing, and information about this work sample, and credit the performing artists (e.g., soprano Sally Singer, bass Bobby Baritone).
*Character Limit: 1000
Composer Sample 1 Score or Chart (optional)
Upload the score/chart below and provide any relevant notes about the score here.
Character Limit: 500 | File Size Limit: 8 MB

Composer Sample 1 Libretto Upload (optional)
File Size Limit: 5 MB

COMPOSER SAMPLE 2

Composer Sample 2 Title*
Character Limit: 100

Composer Sample 2 Relevance*
Explain the reasons you are presenting this sample in support of this application.
Character Limit: 2000

Composer Sample 2 A/V Link*
Character Limit: 2000

Composer Sample 2 A/V Password (if necessary)
Character Limit: 100

Composer Sample 2 Timings*
If you are not providing trimmed samples of the specific excerpt that you would like to be reviewed, please provide suggested timings (e.g., Play from 3’22”–7’49”).
Character Limit: 1000

Composer Sample 2 - Composer Name*
Character Limit: 100

Composer Sample 2 - Librettist Name*
Character Limit: 100

Composer Sample 2 Description*
Provide a brief synopsis of the sample, including roles, voicing, and information about this work sample, and credit the performing artists (e.g., soprano Sally Singer, bass Bobby Baritone).
Character Limit: 1000

Composer Sample 2 Score or Chart (optional)
Upload the score/chart below and provide any relevant notes about the score here.
Character Limit: 1000 | File Size Limit: 4 MB
Composer Sample 2 Libretto Upload (optional)

File Size Limit: 5 MB

Librettist
Submit two samples (written and/or audio or video) that demonstrate your storytelling abilities. These can include but are not limited to poetry, short stories, and excerpts of plays, operas, or music-theater works.

Combined written samples should be no more than 20 pages in length.

If submitting audio-video samples, combined samples must be no longer than 20 minutes. Neither sample should exceed 10 minutes in length.

Scores or other forms of visual representation of a musical work are optional.

Although no previous experience with opera is required, we are especially interested in seeing any lyrics, poetry, or theater work you may have written.

LIBRETTIST SAMPLE 1

Librettist Sample 1 Title*
Character Limit: 100

Librettist Sample 1 Relevance*
Explain the reasons you are presenting this sample to support this application.
Character Limit: 2000

Librettist Sample 1 A/V Link
Character Limit: 2000

Librettist Sample 1 A/V Password (if necessary)
Character Limit: 250

Librettist Sample 1 Sample Timings
If you are not providing trimmed samples of the specific excerpt that you would like to be reviewed, please provide suggested timings (e.g., Play from 3’22”–7’49”).
Character Limit: 500

Librettist Sample 1 Composer Name
Character Limit: 250
Librettist Sample 1 Librettist Name
*Character Limit: 250

Librettist Sample 1 Description*
Provide a brief synopsis of the sample.
*Character Limit: 1000

Sample 1 - Librettist Upload*
Upload the sample below.
*Character Limit: 500 | File Size Limit: 3 MB

Librettist Sample 1 Score or Chart Upload (optional)
File Size Limit: 5 MB

LIBRETTIST SAMPLE 2

Librettist Sample 2 Title*
*Character Limit: 250

Librettist Sample 2 Relevance*
Explain the reasons you are presenting this sample to support this application.
*Character Limit: 2000

Librettist Sample 2 A/V Link
*Character Limit: 2000

Librettist Sample 2 A/V Password (if necessary)
*Character Limit: 250

Librettist Sample 2 Timings
If you are not providing trimmed samples of the specific excerpt that you would like to be reviewed, please provide suggested timings (e.g., Play from 3’22”–7’49”).
*Character Limit: 1000

Librettist Sample 2 Composer Name
*Character Limit: 250

Librettist Sample 2 Librettist
*Character Limit: 250

Librettist Sample 2 Description*
Provide a brief synopsis of the sample.
*Character Limit: 5000
**Librettist Sample 2 Upload**
Upload the sample below.

*Character Limit: 500 | File Size Limit: 4 MB*

**Librettist Sample 2 Score or Chart (optional)**

*File Size Limit: 5 MB*

---

**Work Information**

**Work Title**
Title or working title of the opera in development

*Character Limit: 250*

**Work Summary**
Submit a plot summary of the work associated with the application.

*Character Limit: 1500*

**Creative Impetus**
Explain why you are drawn to create this work at this time, and why you are choosing to tell this story with music.

*Character Limit: 2000*

---

**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.

**Rights Documentation**
If the work is based on an existing work protected by copyright, please attach the rights documentation. Rights must be secured by the adjudication of applications in January 2024.

*File Size Limit: 1 MB*

**Roles**
For example, in an opera adaptation of *The Avengers*, a cast list might look like this: Captain Marvel, Soprano; Black Widow, Mezzo-Soprano; Spiderman, Tenor; Black Panther, Baritone; The Hulk, Bass.
For a list of common voice types in opera, please click here. You are welcome to include non-traditional/alternate voice types, and may explain those choices below.

*Character Limit: 1000*

**Chorus**
If this work utilizes a chorus, indicate the number of singers in the chorus by voice type (e.g., Soprano: 4, Alto: 2, Tenor: 6, Bass: 1).

For a list of common voice types in opera, please click here. You are welcome to include non-traditional/alternate voice types, and may explain those choices below.

*Character Limit: 500*

**Instrumentation***
Please list the instrument(s) you will utilize in your work (e.g., “I will write for 1 piano, 1 violin, 1 viola, 1 cello, and 1 Iranian santur”).

*Character Limit: 2000*

**Scenic Breakdown***
Provide a scenic breakdown of the opera. You may use either a character/scene breakdown, storyboard, or dramaturgical outline that narrates the theatrical arc of the work. Please refer to this link for examples.

*Character Limit: 5000*

**Libretto (optional)**
Please upload as much of the libretto as is available. A partial libretto or an outline is acceptable.

*Character Limit: 250 | File Size Limit: 2 MB*

---

**Project Information**

**Project Activity Type***

**Choices**
Libretto Reading
Workshop
Working Performance
Other

*Other - Project Activity Type*

*Character Limit: 500*

**Project Description***
Describe the specific activities for which funding will be used.
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 April 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025.

Proposed Project Start Date*
Funding may not be applied to expenses incurred before April 1, 2024.

Proposed Project End Date*
Grant-funded activities must be completed by June 30, 2025.

Timeline*
Provide a timeline for the development of the work, including the activities for which you are requesting funding. An example of a timeline is included below for your reference.

February 2024: Creative team meeting with composer, librettist, and dramaturg
April 2024: Libretto reading
May – October 2024: Revisions to the libretto, completion of excerpts or full piano/vocal score for workshop
Late October 2024: Piano/vocal workshop (5 days), recorded by videographers (day 6)
Post-workshop: Creative design meeting with the stage director, librettist, composer, and media designer

This is an example. Your timeline may include other activities.

Please update these fields if anything has changed since you submitted the intent to apply.

Creative Team
Name any other creative or performing artists associated with this project, if known at this time (e.g., stage director, music director, lighting designer, dramaturg).

You are not required to have a full creative team in place at this time.

Creator 1 Name
Character Limit: 250
**Creator 1 Role**
(e.g., stage director, music director, lighting designer, dramaturg)

*Character Limit: 250*

**Creator 1 Biography**
You may choose to upload your teammate’s resume in PDF format, provide a brief bio (1,000 characters or less), and/or share a link to their website here.

*Character Limit: 1000 | File Size Limit: 1 MB*

**Creator 1 Email**
*Character Limit: 254*

**Creator 2 Name**
*Character Limit: 250*

**Creator 2 Role**
(e.g., stage director, music director, lighting designer, dramaturg)

*Character Limit: 250*

**Creator 2 Email**
*Character Limit: 254*

**Creator 2 Biography**
You may choose to upload your teammate’s resume in PDF format, provide a brief bio (1,000 characters or less), and/or share a link to their website here.

*Character Limit: 1000 | File Size Limit: 1 MB*

**Creator 3 Name**
*Character Limit: 250*

**Creator 3 Role**
(e.g., stage director, music director, lighting designer, dramaturg)

*Character Limit: 250*

**Creator 3 Email**
*Character Limit: 254*

**Creator 3 Biography**
You may choose to upload your teammate’s resume in PDF format, provide a brief bio (1,000 characters or less), and/or share a link to their website here.

*Character Limit: 1000 | File Size Limit: 1 MB*

**Creator 4 Name**
*Character Limit: 250*
Creator 4 Role
(e.g., stage director, music director, lighting designer, dramaturg)
*Character Limit: 250*

Creator 4 Email
*Character Limit: 254*

Creator 4 Biography
You may choose to upload your teammate’s resume in PDF format, provide a brief bio (1,000 characters or less), and/or share a link to their website here.
*Character Limit: 1000 | File Size Limit: 1 MB*

**Budget**

**FUNDING PARAMETERS**

- Three grants of up to $18,000 will be awarded annually.
- Funding may not be applied to expenses incurred before April 1, 2024.
- Grant activities must be completed by June 30, 2025.

Grants will cover up to 100 percent of eligible expenses, not exceeding $18,000; no matching funds are required. Additional expenses to complete the project are the responsibility of the creators.

**Eligible expenses** include but are not limited to:

- Vocalist, instrumentalist, and other performer fees;
- Music director/conductor;
- Dramaturg;
- Orchestrator, arranger, copyist;
- Stage director;
- Vocal coach;
- Sound designer;
- Rehearsal and workshop venue rental fees;
- Stage manager;
- Costs associated with the project recording, including venue rental, recording personnel, and technical support for audio-visual needs;
- Equipment rental (e.g., lighting, sound, instrumental cartage);
- Graphic design, web design, and programs for project;
• Childcare and/or elder care while creators are in rehearsal or performance;
• Research materials (e.g., performance tickets, new works recordings, reference books);
• Transportation and housing for personnel related to creative meetings, rehearsals, and performances (Airfare is limited to coach class.); and
• Living expenses for the composer/librettist team (up to 30% of grant request).

**Ineligible expenses** include:

• Commissioning fees to composers and librettists;
• Set, costume, or properties construction or rental expenses for a staged production;
• Institutional overhead expenses if partnering with a producing organization;
• Expenses that are not connected specifically to the project, including general administrative expenses and competition or contest application fees;
• Tuition expenses;
• Professional development fees;
• Fundraising expenses;
• Ticket subsidies; and
• Any other expenses incurred in relation to a fully produced premiere for public presentation.

Applicants are required to submit a budget for the proposed project, listing anticipated expenses and any revenue.

**SAMPLE BUDGET**

Below is a sample budget breakdown for a potential project funding a piano workshop. This is just one proposed model for your consideration. No item contains a standardized rate because there are not any. The best suggestion for a budget layout is to take the budget you have available, start with the highest responsibilities/fees, and work down from there.

5-Day Workshop for New Opera Based on a Budget of $14,000
Piano workshop in NYC. No travel or housing costs required.
5 days workshop with public/invited event on last day
6 hours per day (2x3 hour session; i.e., 10-1 and 2-5 with one-hour break)

$2000 - Conductor/Music Director (1 person)
$2000 - Stage Director
$1500 - Piano/Coach (1 person)
$1250 - Dramaturg
$1250 - Stage Manager
$3750 - 3 Singers - principal roles ($1250 each)
$2250 - 3 Singers - secondary/ensemble roles ($750 each)

This is an example. There are many factors that would influence the line items differently in your unique project.

**Budget**
OPERA America provides an Excel worksheet outlining many possible expenses for your consideration. You do not need to complete every line. There are five “Other” lines in each budgetary section to add other expenses if necessary.

Please use the budget worksheet [here](#) to provide your budget. Upload it as an Excel document,

*File Size Limit: 1 MB*

**Total Requested Funding**
Please indicate your total request below. You may request up to $18,000.

*Character Limit: 20*

**Certification**

**Citizenship**
I certify that at least 50 percent of the team members in this proposal have United States citizenship, permanent residence, or 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

**Signature**

**Applicant Signature**
By typing your name below, you acknowledge that the information contained in this application and its attachments are accurate and complete.

*Character Limit: 100*