



Leadership Intensive

Supported by the American Express Foundation

2021 Guidelines and Application Procedures

OPERA America
National Opera Center
330 Seventh Avenue
New York, NY 10001
operaamerica.org

About

The Leadership Intensive program identifies the most promising professionals in the field of opera administration and provides them with a unique experience designed to bolster their leadership capacity and advance their careers. Seminars and networking opportunities provide an active learning environment for addressing strategic issues, building necessary skills, and fostering strong professional connections in order to lead the opera field. Following the program, participants are prepared to apply new skills, share their learning, and demonstrate leadership that contributes to local companies and communities.

Participation

Those accepted into the program are expected to participate fully in all aspects of the Leadership Intensive's active learning environment before, during, and after the summer intensive. Each participant will serve as a resource and support system for others in the 2021 Leadership Intensive cohort and contribute to OPERA America's ongoing efforts to support future generations of leaders. The summer intensive week should be considered a retreat, and due to the demanding schedule, maintaining other work obligations may not be possible during that period. Candidates are strongly encouraged to seek approval for leave, prior to applying.

The 2021 Leadership Intensive is scheduled to take place in person in New York City. Should New York public health orders change to prohibit gatherings of up to 20 people at the time of the summer session, the program will be delivered digitally. If you are not comfortable traveling in August 2021, we invite you to apply for the next cycle of the program.

For the health and safety of everyone involved, all participants in the Leadership Intensive will be required to provide proof of vaccination against COVID-19.

Application and Selection Process

Application deadline: May 27, 2021, at 11:59 p.m. EDT

Notification: July 6, 2021

Program Dates in New York City: August 13–20, 2021

- [Selection Rubric](#) (PDF)
- [Application Questions](#) (PDF)
- Apply: All applications must be [submitted online](#).

Participants are selected based on their potential to make a significant contribution to the field, demonstrated leadership thus far in their careers, and the clearly articulated learning goals they have set for their professional growth. Selection is made without regard to current title, company affiliation, or area of specialty. View the [selection rubric](#).

Final selection of the participants is made over three rounds:

- Round One: Review of Written Application
- Round Two: Phone Interview with OPERA America Staff
- Round Three: Interview with Field Leader

Eligibility Requirements

Participation in the Leadership Intensive is available to all individuals (members and non-members) who currently work in or wish to continue their professional careers in the opera field. Alumni of the program are ineligible to apply. The application must be completed in full. Please note that this includes having the support of your direct supervisor and a letter of recommendation from someone in the opera field who can endorse your application.

Program Expenses — U.S. Participants

Thanks to a generous grant from American Express, OPERA America provides this program tuition-free to participants. Recipients must be U.S. citizens and must attend the program in full. Reimbursements of up to \$1,500 per person are available to cover 50% of eligible travel and lodging expenses (50% of total receipts of up to \$3,000). Participants are responsible for making their own travel and lodging arrangements.

International Applicants

Canadian Applicants:

- [Selection Rubric](#) (PDF)
- [Application Questions](#) (PDF)
- Apply: All applications must be [submitted online](#).
- For more information, contact Christina Loewen, executive director of the Association for Opera in Canada, at C.Loewen@opera.ca.

European Applicants:

- For more information, contact Audrey Jungers, general manager of Opera Europa, at Audrey@opera-europa.org.

Other international applicants: You may apply using the OPERA America application.

- Please note that no transportation or accommodation reimbursement will be available. Registration fees may apply.
- In your cover letter, please include additional information:
 - Confirmation that you will provide your own transportation and accommodations, and that you will arrange for any required visas.
 - If English is not your primary language, please provide evidence that your written and spoken English is at a level that will enable you to succeed in this program.

Contact Information

Please direct questions about this program to Sarah Carter, director of learning and leadership, at SCarter@operaamerica.org.

Alumni Services

Following the summer intensive, group coaching is available to the participants in the 2021 cohort. All alumni participate in regular conference calls, including informational interviews with field leaders and discussions on field issues. Alumni of the program are invited to attend special Leadership Intensive Roundtables at OPERA America's annual conference. Attendance at Opera Conference 2022 is encouraged, but not a required component of the program.