



Awards for Digital Excellence in Opera

*Supported by
The Joseph and Robert Cornell
Memorial Foundation*

2022–2023 Guidelines and Application Procedures

Important Dates

- **Application available online:** July 2022
- **Application deadline:** August 31, 2022, at 11:59 p.m. EDT
- **Finalist notification:** September 2022
- **Winner announcement:** October 2022

OPERA America
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operaamerica.org

OPERA America is pleased to announce the launch of the Awards for Digital Excellence in Opera, a new initiative that seeks to recognize the best projects created for digital platforms and encourage further investment in this vibrant aspect of opera. Open to individual producers and organizations, the program is made possible by a generous grant from The Joseph and Robert Cornell Memorial Foundation, with gratitude for the support of foundation trustees, Joe Erdman and Melissa Young.

During the COVID crisis, opera producers, and artists demonstrated tremendous creative capacity to adapt and invent, most notably on digital platforms. From film projects to recitals, to education programs and lecture series, new and exciting digital projects reached veteran opera lovers and newcomers to the art form across the country and around the world.

The objectives of the Award for Digital Excellence in Opera are to:

- Raise the standard of digital opera productivity by turning the spotlight on the best audio/visual projects being created each year.
- Promote digital activity as a continuing and important part of the opera enterprise.

Qualified Digital Activities

The Awards are open to individual and organizational producers in the U.S. and Canada. Content may include any form of audio/visual digital product, including made-for-digital projects, filmed stage performances, virtual and augmented reality, and enrichment content, among others.

This Award will be offered in four different categories:

- Artistic Creation, which may include captured stage performances, film projects, recitals, or any other artistic expression;
- Education/Enrichment Material, which may include education programs for all ages, including K-12 classroom activities, lectures, demonstrations, master classes, and/or interviews or panel discussions;
- University/Conservatory Projects, which may include projects conceived, created, and distributed by a teaching institution; and
- Noteworthy Projects that cross definitional boundaries or expand the definition of opera.

Eligibility

- Both individual producers and organizations are eligible to apply.
- To be considered, submitted projects must have been available to the general public and/or limited ticket-buying audiences between January 1, 2021, and December 31, 2021.
- Applicants must have permission to share links to the projects with OPERA America and the judges through the adjudication process.
- Applying producers must have had proper rights and licensing in place for the project's original presentation and any subsequent runs.

- Applying organizations must be based in the United States or Canada.
- Individual applicants must have U.S. or Canadian citizenship, permanent residence, or Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status.
- OPERA America membership is not required to submit applications for consideration.
- Applicants may submit a maximum of two digital products, including consortia, across any/all categories for consideration. Each submission must be in a separate category.

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How to Apply

Read these guidelines carefully before completing application materials.

- Applications must be submitted online at operaamerica.org/GrantsDashboard.
- Applications require a statement describing the case for consideration, including artistic objectives, intended audiences, and unique technical challenges or accomplishments.
- Applications require detailed specifications including runtime, numbers of creative artists, crew, and labor involved.
- Technical specifications and a description of verification of screening rights will be required.
- An external link to the complete digital project is required. Applicants must confirm they have permission to share links to the projects with OPERA America and the judges through the adjudication process.
- Complete applications, including all supplementary materials, must be submitted by August 31, 2022, 11:59 p.m. EDT. Applications that are incomplete, late, or sent via mail or email will not be accepted.

Application Review

Submissions will be reviewed in several rounds by judges from across the field. Individuals with conflicts of interest may not serve as a judge. Judges will represent the diverse disciplines involved in creating and producing digital content, as well as artists and individuals with special expertise in the four categories, in addition to technology, interdisciplinary programming, and audience development. The judges will reflect varied gender identities, races and ethnicities, and geographic diversity. Decisions of the judges are final.

Judges will assess the applications considering the following:

- Success of the digital projects in relation to the overall screen experience and the project goals articulated by producers.
- Underlying quality of the digital projects.
- Level of innovation and/or experimentation demonstrated by the application.

- Quality of scenic design, costume design, lighting/projection design, sound design, and editing, although no specific awards will be made in these allied areas.

Award Announcement

- All applicants will be notified in September 2022 by email indicating if their submission is among the finalists.
- Awardees will be announced in October 2022.
- The receipt of an award, prize, or grant from OPERA America does not guarantee or imply support for this project or subsequent support for other proposed activities.

Award

A winner will be awarded in each of the four categories — Artistic Creation, Education/Enrichment Material, University/Conservatory Projects, and Noteworthy Projects. The winners will receive a trophy in recognition of achievement. Winners will be announced at an OPERA America digital event, through media releases, and showcased on OPERA America’s website.

Contact Information

Contact Diana Hossack, director of grantmaking, at DHossack@operaamerica.org or 646.699.5236 with questions.

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