

REGIONAL

TOURING PROGRAM

A SERVICE OF MID-AMERICA ARTS ALLIANCE

Regional Touring Program: FAQ by Artists (Revised July 2024)

This document is intended to answer as many questions for **artists or ensembles** about the Regional Touring Program (RTP) Grant. Please read through all questions and answers before emailing your inquiry to Mid-America Arts Alliance (M-AAA) at rtp@maaa.org.

If you have accessibility needs for an alternate format or process, please contact: Angelette Severt, Operations and Accessibility Coordinator at angelette@maaa.org or (816) 421-1388 ext. #216.

Q#1. Does M-AAA have geographic priorities?

A#1. Yes. As a regional arts organization offering grants, programs and services, M-AAA is focused on supporting individual artists and cultural organizations that reside or are incorporated in Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Texas.

Q#2. Who is eligible to apply for funding through the RTP grant?

A#2. Eligible applicants must be cultural organizations incorporated in and currently conducting business in one or more states in the M-AAA region (Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Texas). Applicant organizations should be:

- 501(c)3 tax-exempt nonprofit organizations;
- A unit of state or local governmental agency; or
- A federally recognized tribal entity.

Note: Awards are directly presented to in-region organizations and restricted to support the direct costs specified in the contracts between the artist and the organization presenter.

Q#3: Do you offer support for artists to travel or perform abroad?

A#3. A#3. No. M-AAA's grants and programs do not offer support for in-region artists to travel outside of our six-state service region or perform abroad. We encourage artists to contact our member state arts agency partners and Regional Arts Organizations (RAOs) on whether they assist with travel since there are not many funding opportunities for travel.

To find out more about our member state arts agency partners, visit the State Arts Agency Rosters webpage at <https://www.maaa.org/for-organizations/regional-touring-program/>.

To get to know the Regional Arts Organizations (RAOs), please visit our National Partners page at <https://www.maaa.org/about/national-partners/>.

Q#4. Can organizations (also known as “Presenters”) submit multiple applications for the RTP grant? Is there a limit to the amount of funding an applicant can receive in a single fiscal year? Will M-AAA make only one award per community per fiscal year?

A#4. Eligible organizations may submit a maximum of three (3) applications and receive awards for up to three (3) different projects in a single fiscal year, July 1–June 30. M-AAA will consider multiple awards to applicants in a single community. Each applicant is eligible for a maximum aggregate amount of \$15,000 awarded or received as a result of a successful completed application in a single fiscal year.

As noted above, awards are directly presented to in-region organizations and restricted to support the direct costs specified in the artist contracts.

Q#5: I am based outside of M-AAA’s six state region. Do you offer support for touring artists from outside of your six-state service region?

A#5. No. M-AAA’s grants and programs only offer support for touring artists within our six-state service region (Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Texas). If artists reside outside of our region, we encourage artists to contact your state arts agency.

Q#6. I spend time working with a company outside of M-AAA’s six-state region and am working to figure out a way to fund and bring a touring project to Arkansas. Am I eligible for M-AAA’s grants and programs?

A#6. It depends on the circumstances. Please email us at rtp@maa.org with more information to address your questions.

Q#7. Is there information available regarding organizations in the M-AAA region (Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Texas) so that Artists can efficiently market their programming?

A#7. Yes. Although RTP grants are awarded directly to presenting organizations, touring artists from outside the presenter’s state but within M-AAA’s service region can market their programming by taking the following steps:

- Each state’s touring roster includes artists working in conjunction with our state arts agency partners to bring arts experiences to wider audiences. To be included on your state’s roster, artists should contact their state arts agency’s staff at <https://www.maa.org/for-organizations/regional-touring-program/>.
 - If you are already listed, make sure all relevant contact information is up to date.
- Artists can request a list of Organizational Grantees that have taken advantage of this grant by completing a [Records Request Form](#).
- Create a website and ensure all relevant contact information is up to date. Note, Presenters are required to submit a link to your website as part of the application process.

- Artists can use the following marketing flyer to download and promote their programming at https://www.maaa.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/RTPpostcard_2023.pdf

Q#8. How much funding can be requested through the RTP grant?

A#8. A maximum of 50% of the artists' contract fees, if listed on a state touring roster; up to \$5,000 can be requested in a single application. Likewise, a maximum of 25% of any other regional artists' contract fees that live in the region, but are not listed on a touring roster; up to \$5,000 can be requested in a single application. Adjustments for designated rural areas will be made by M-AAA.

Q#9. Does M-AAA require matching funds for the RTP grant?

A#9. Yes. M-AAA requires a 1:1 dollar-for-dollar cost share. That 1:1 share is typically met with ease because the grant offers support up to 50% of the artist's contract fees. The 1:1 cost share *must* be reflected in the application and we expect applicants to adhere to the terms of the touring artists' contracts and to pay the remaining fees which is, in fact, the 1:1 dollar-for-dollar cost share. Note, all other project expenses (i.e., remaining artist fees, staff time, marketing, materials) must be covered by the applicant organization. See [RTP Grant Application Guidelines](#).

Q#10. How do Artists get funding for their work through this program?

A#10. Artists must be booked by and paid through regional organizations showcasing the work of touring artists from elsewhere in the M-AAA region for public-facing activities. All artist contracts including M-AAA's grant agreement are with the organizational grantees.

Q#11. Are organizations required to include artist work samples?

A#11. No, but a link to the feature presentation artist's website is required.

Q#12. If the touring artist has been awarded a M-AAA grant through another program in the current fiscal year, can they be the designated feature or outreach artist involved in our RTP project?

A#12. It depends. Given the limited funding M-AAA has available throughout our six-state region to support creative endeavors, artists and cultural organizations alike - they can be the recipient of no more than an aggregate of \$15,000 in a single fiscal year for touring projects. Questions should be directed to the Director of the Arts and Humanities Grant Programs.

Q#13. What kinds of projects are eligible for consideration through the RTP grant? Can projects be live streamed online?

A#13. The grant is designed for projects to engage and deepen the impact of arts programming on regional audiences through exposure, interaction, and outreach engagement that occurs in M-AAA's six-state region. Eligible project activities must consist of at least two (2) public-facing events with a minimum of 30 to 60-minutes in length that build an appreciation for the touring featured artist and educate an audience about the artist's creative discipline. See [RTP Grant Application Guidelines](#).

1. A feature or premier presentation event of the work by the touring artist(s) can include, but is not limited to:
 - Concert
 - Performance
 - Other creative approaches
2. An outreach or educational event can be presented by the touring artist(s), scholar/educator(s), or another artist who works with similar themes or the same art form as that involved in the feature presentation. All activities must educate the community about the art form(s) and provide direct interaction between the artist(s) and the audience. Activities can include, but are not limited to:
 - Artist Talk
 - Exhibitions
 - Lecture/demonstrations
 - Master classes
 - Residencies
 - Workshops
 - Other creative approaches

Effective 2021, online live streaming activities are a reasonable accommodation to provide programming to audiences in a safe manner in light of the ongoing COVID-19 public health crisis. Programs live streamed online must allow for artist and audience interaction before, during and/or after the events. While M-AAA prefers in-person experiences of RTP funded projects, applicants and artists are urged to include a termination clause in all project contracts contingent upon local public health authority guidance and/or funding from M-AAA and other pending financial resources. Additionally, when the activities are streamed online, the artist's fee can include payment for services and online streaming fees associated with the project described in the contract. See RTP Grant Application Guidelines.

Q#14. Must the feature presentation artist provide the outreach engagement?

A#14. No. Although, the grant requires an outreach event to create a connection between the artist and/or the art form. An **outreach event** can be presented either by a feature **presentation artist or ensemble**, scholar/educator(s), or another artist who works with similar themes or the same art form as that involved in the feature presentation. All activities must educate the community about the art form(s) and provide direct interaction between the artist(s) and audience. Activities can include, but are not limited to:

- Artist Talk
- Exhibitions
- Lecture/demonstrations
- Master classes
- Residencies
- Workshops
- Other creative approaches

Q#15. Will artists supported through RTP grants be subject to the reporting and auditing requirements associated with federal programs?

A#15. No. M-AAA final reports are due from the direct recipient, the organizational grantee.

Q#16. I didn't find my question/answer here; now what?

A#16. If you did not see your question addressed here, please email us at rtp@maaa.org.