

Writing Your Artist's Bio

An artist bio is a short description about you, your work and what you have done. It is written about you and your accomplishments. Even though you are the person who writes it, it is written about you in third person (he/she/they—as if you are writing about someone else). Part of the challenge in writing an artist bio is that it is so straightforward. It will be read by someone who does not know you or what you do. The purpose of this piece of writing is to explain who you are and what your art is in a straight-forward, concise and engaging manner. It should clearly state the following:

- Your full name
- A description of your work that includes medium, technique, and/or style. Are you a contemporary dancer? It should say that. Are you a representative painter? It should say that. Do not forget the obvious.
- It may include references to the key themes of your work and/or unique processes.
- It should identify notable accomplishments and professional achievements including awards you have won, collections you are represented in, roles you have performed, etc.
- While it summarizes your past activities and accomplishments, it should include projects and/or bodies of work you are currently working on.
- Typically, it includes a reference to where you received your art-related education and if you have studied with any notable teachers in your field.
- Often it will include your nationality, your pronouns, where you live, where you currently work and/or age or number of years in the discipline.

Your primary artist bio should be approximately 150-200 words. It should be front-loaded, with the most engaging information at the beginning of the statement. The difficult part of writing the bio is to get the most important items in while clearly explaining what you do and making it something that is engaging to read.

This is a bio you will use for many materials including submissions, websites, speaking engagements, etc. Performing artists should note that this bio may be entirely different than what would be included in a program, contingent upon the discipline and the role. Often program bios for all those but the principal players are very brief and limited to a very specific format. Once you have a well-developed 150- to 200-word primary bio, you should develop a 100 word and 50-word version. It is very common to be asked for these smaller bios for inclusion in organizational promotional materials.

Example 100-Word Artist's Bios

BEAU BLEDSOE (he/him/his) performs and records classical music, jazz and folkloric music from around the world as he seeks to integrate different musical cultures with diverse audiences. Through his many varied projects and ensembles, Beau has toured extensively throughout Europe, Russia, South America and North America in addition to producing fifteen recordings under his recording label Tzigane. Beau is currently artistic director and founder of Ensemble Iberica which explores the music of Spain, Portugal and other areas of the world connected to the Iberian diaspora. (85 words)

NICK CARSWELL (he/him/his) is a musician, organizer and cultural producer. Nick has been performing professionally for 25 years, in his native Ireland and across the US Midwest, where he has lived since 2011. His main creative output is as songwriter and frontman for the alt-rock 5 piece, Carswell & Hope. Nick has also made award-winning short films, produced radio programs, and created large scale public art projects in Lawrence and Kansas City. Nick has wide experience with arts & cultural non-profits, community organizing, public art and professional development. He is currently program manager for the Audio-Reader Network, an audio information service for individuals with print-disabilities. (105 words)

EEPI CHAD (she/her/hers) is a practicing multidisciplinary artist, cultural worker, advocate, and naturalist. She tells stories using textiles, fibers, metals, places, and people. Her practice grows through collaboration within the community. Chaad studies humanity's relationship to both natural and built environments. She incorporates scale and mapping to illustrate social and environmental issues often with a focus on the Gulf Coast region. Chaad has received various grants and awards including being named one of the first resident artists for the City of Houston. Most recently in 2022, Chaad completed a residency with the CAMH and a public art installation in Galveston. (100 words)

AMOS COCHRAN (he/him/his) is an Emmy nominated composer, musician, and sound artist. His work has been showcased at the Sundance, Berlin, and Toronto Film Festivals; PBS; The London Design Festival; Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art; The Unexpected; The University of Houston Brain Center. Cochran currently serves as creative director of the new experimental art showcase, ArcadeNow. In 2023, Cochran will be one of the Arkansas Arts Council Fellows for his multisensory work. Along with expanding his work for film, he will be a collaborator with the Fort Smith Symphony for their new chamber music services, Perspectives. (97 words)

JOSÉ FAUS (he/him/his) is writer, performer, visual artist and independent teacher/mentor with an interest in the role of artists as creative catalysts for community building. He is a founder of the Latino Writers Collective and sits on the boards of the Writers Place, UMKC Friends of the Library, The Latino Writers Collective and Charlotte Street Foundation. His chapbook *This Town Like That* was released by Spartan Press. His second book of poetry *The Life and Times of Jose Calderon* was published by West 39 Press. He maintains qaridostudio in downtown Kansas City, Kansas. (93 words)

ERIN MCGRANE (she/her/hers) is an actress, musician, author, and professional development mentor. Notably, Erin appears in the Oscar-nominated film, *UP IN THE AIR* alongside George Clooney. She is known for her unforgettable cabaret stage performances and toured extensively for a decade with her early-jazz musical group, Victor & Penny. Currently, Erin is authoring a spoken-word poetry project set to original music exploring anxiety, isolation, and growing up in rural Iowa. Erin was honored in *KC Magazine's* "The 100: People who make Life Better in KC" and is proud to say she misspent her youth singing in a rock band. (99 words)

ANURADHA NAIMPALLY (she/her/hers) is a Bharata Natyam dancer and educator. She is a recipient of the 2017 and 2020 Artistic Innovations Grant from the Mid-America Arts Alliance. She is a recognized artist on the Texas Commission on the Arts Touring Roster as well as a funded artist by the City of Austin Cultural Arts Division. From concert halls to universities and schools, Anuradha connects this ancient art of India to modern audiences of all ages through engaging performances. She is a recipient of numerous awards including a 2018 induction into the Austin Arts Hall of Fame and the Jacqueline LeMieux Prize from the Canada Council. (105 words)