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The Opera ATX Residency for Latinx Creatives Application

Project Overview

The Opera ATX Residency for Latinx Creatives will provide a unique workshopping space to advance projects that will expand the scope of operatic storytelling. Over the course of a season (September – May), a Latinx composer and collaborator will have the opportunity to work with the Austin Opera artistic staff on the development of an operatic project, including monthly meetings via zoom and an intensive 7-10 day period in Austin TX to work in-person with up to 10 artists selected from the Austin Opera Orchestra, Austin Opera Teaching Artists, and Austin Opera Chorus. Each residency will be tailored to fit the needs of the creative team and their project, which may be a completely new work or a work already in progress.

The ultimate goal of **The Opera ATX Residency for Latinx Creatives** is to broaden the storytelling of the operatic canon to better include the experiences and perspectives of the Latinx community, which for the purposes of this program includes individuals with heritage from Latin America, South America, Puerto Rico, and the Caribbean. For the inaugural season of the residency (September 2023 – May 2024) Austin Opera is seeking applications from composers who identify as Latinx and one additional collaborator who also identifies as Latinx. The second collaborator may be a librettist/writer, filmmaker, or other creative partner. Both creatives should have a demonstrated interest in opera as a storytelling medium.

Both members of the creative team will receive a \$5,000 honorarium* and travel/housing expenses for the Austin residency. Artists who participate in the workshop process will be selected and compensated by Austin Opera. The Austin Opera Digital Media Studio may be available to document and share the workshop experience if desired.

Timeline for the 2023-2024 Season Residency:

- March 15, 2023: Applications released
- June 1, 2023: Application deadline
- August 15, 2023: 2023-2024 Creative Team announced
- September 2023 – May 2024: residency period, including an onsite workshop

*To receive the honorarium applicants must be eligible to work in the United States

Submitting Materials

After completing this application, please submit the form to atxresidency@austinopera.org. When your submission is received you will receive an email confirmation with a dropbox link where you can upload your work samples.

Required Uploads

Composer:

Please submit two work samples that best represent your compositional style and demonstrate your ability to compose for the operatic voice. Each work sample should include a score and recording, and at least one of the recordings must feature a non-digitally generated voice/instrument example. The combined length of the two samples should not exceed 20 minutes.

Collaborator:

Please submit a work sample that exemplifies your creative contribution for this project. Written samples should not exceed 5,000 words and video submissions should not exceed 20 minutes in length.

Optional Uploads

- Resume or CV for each creative team member
- Selections from the project if already in progress



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Composer Information

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Email Address: _____ Phone Number: (____) _____ - _____

Mailing Address: _____

Are you eligible to work and receive payment in the United States? YES NO

Please describe your Latinx heritage:

Please provide a bio or personal statement. Please tell us about your background and experience as a composer, especially your interest in and any experience with the operatic medium. (400 word limit)



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Collaborator Information

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Email Address: _____ Phone Number: (____) _____ - _____

Mailing Address: _____

Are you eligible to work and receive payment in the United States? YES NO

Please describe your Latinx heritage:

Please provide a bio or personal statement. Please tell us about your background and experience, especially your interest in and any experience with the operatic medium. (400 word limit)

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Project Information

Describe the project you would like to advance as part of the Opera ATX Residency for Latinx Creatives, addressing the following (1,500 word limit):

- Describe the partnership of the two applicants. How did this project idea come about?
- What, if any, progress has already been made on the work?
- What language will the project be in? (All languages welcome, but the creative team should be comfortable working in English to take advantage of the workshop process.)
- Do you have a vision for what a fully realized produced version of this project could look like? (i.e. size of orchestra, number of principal roles, chorus, etc.)
- Why do you think this particular story is well-suited to the operatic medium?
- How do you think the residency could help advance this work?

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Do I need a composition degree to apply for this residency?

A: *While completing a degree in composition is not a requirement, having equivalent experience and/or training will be necessary to maximize the resources of the program.*

Q: What qualifies as an operatic project?

A: *While we don't want to put a lot of parameters on the types of projects we will consider, we feel strongly that it must exemplify powerful story-telling that features the operatic voice.*

Q: Does the project have to be in Spanish?

A: *No. This is a program intended to for creatives that identify as Latinx and all languages are welcome. Please provide some context in your narrative as to why your project is in a particular language.*

Q: Do both members of the creative team have to identify as Latinx?

A: *Yes. While requirements for The Opera ATX Residency for Latinx Creatives may change over time, the 2023-2024 residency will require that both the composer and collaborator identify as Latinx.*

Q: I'm a composer. Do I need a collaborator?

A: *Yes. Part of the value of this particular residency will be the experience to work amongst champions and collaborators to advance a project, and we ask that you establish a key partner in the development of this project at the outset.*