



## Community Arts Organizations

Community arts organizations such as community theaters, community symphonies, and choral groups can apply in the Program Support category for projects or residencies involving professional artists. We define a community arts organization as one in which actors, musicians, or vocalists are all volunteer (unpaid) participants, while artistic directors, music directors, and technical production staff typically are paid.

The Program Support category supports fees to hire professional artists who enhance a project in a manner similar to an artist-in-residence. Successful applicants will clearly describe how the professional artist will give the participating volunteers of the organization, as well as community members, a deeper experience or stronger connection with the work.

Typical strategies to build stronger connections with your participating volunteers include master classes or workshops with the professional artist on specific topics or techniques such as diction classes, fight choreography, or special sectional work. Professional artists can also be resources for the broader community to help make the performances more meaningful and accessible through open rehearsals, lectures, or pre-show discussions.

Applications must include a work sample and résumé from the proposed professional artist(s) as well as a work sample from the organization that is applying. Remember, the more “unknowns” associated with a project—the artists involved, samples of their work, letters of commitment—the more difficult it will be for the panel to recommend funding.