

western arts alliance



Native Launchpad 2019 – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q: Can I apply for this program if I don't have a live performance sample? Can I apply for this program if I don't have a video work sample and only have audio recordings?

A: This program is focused on building professional capacity for touring. Video of live performances is strongly preferred to evaluate readiness for the program. If you do not have live video you may submit your application with a non-live set or with a music video performance. Applications without any video cannot be considered at this time.

Q: I won't be able to commit to all three years; can I still apply?

A: The purpose of the program is to build capacity over time, through mentorship, networking and promotion of your work. If you have concerns about the amount of time that it would take to complete this program, please contact the Program Manager, Ed Bourgeois at aipp_mgr@westarts.org.

Q: I have a question about who qualifies in terms of Tribal enrollment, do you have more extensive guidelines on this?

A: WAA uses the following language regarding Native identity: *Member or descendant of a Native American, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian nation or community, including U.S.-based Native/First Peoples of Canada, Mexico, and U.S. Territories of American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. This includes individuals without official tribal status who are members of Native communities, and tribal members or descendants not living in their homelands or home community.* Still, Native identity can be a complicated issue. Please contact Ed Bourgeois at aipp_mgr@westarts.org with your specific questions.

Q: I have never toured before; can I still apply?

A: Yes. The Advancing Indigenous Performance program is designed to accommodate Native performing artists at all stages of their careers. We will work with the individual awardees to identify appropriate resources, mentors and map a path forward together.

Q: I have a mentor in mind already, could I use her/him/them?

A: We are open to considering mentors that you nominate. The program is adaptive and we recognize the value of using established relationships for mentors. Program participants may work with multiple mentors over the span of the program and allocate the mentor stipend accordingly.

Q: How do you define a professional artist?

A: We would like to see applications from artists who have at least three years of paid performance experience before live audiences and have press reviews or audience responses that can be shared.

Q: How do you define a performing artist? Does it matter if my work is traditional or contemporary?

A: We do not ask that your work conform to Western labels or constructs. If your art is performed and has a live audience, regardless of discipline(s) or category, you meet the qualification criteria.