

Performing Arts Japan Program Guidelines 2011-2012

INTRODUCTION

The Japan Foundation (*Kokusai Kōryū Kikin*), established in 1972, is Japan's principal agency for international cultural relations under the auspices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It became an Independent Administrative Institution in October 2003. The mission of the Japan Foundation is to promote international cultural and mutual understanding between Japan and other countries. Through its headquarters in Tokyo and 23 overseas offices in 21 countries, the Japan Foundation conducts a wide range of programs concerning arts and cultural exchange, Japanese-language education, Japanese studies and intellectual exchange. The Foundation operates on the income from an endowment, annual subsidies from the Japanese government, and donations from the private sector.

The **Performing Arts Japan (PAJ)** program was started by the Japan Foundation in 1994 with the mission to establish a system for promoting Japanese performing arts in North America. The PAJ program supports the initiatives taken by nonprofit organizations in the United States and Canada to provide geographically diverse audiences with greater exposure to Japanese performing arts. PAJ also encourages collaborations between Japanese and American/Canadian artists, which will further an appreciation of Japanese culture when presented to audiences in the United States and Canada.

To date, PAJ has funded 211 projects (including 104 touring, 97 collaborative, and 10 special projects) of Japanese performing arts in both traditional and contemporary art forms. In the fiscal 2010-2011, 14 projects (7 touring and 7 collaborative) were funded under the program, for a total amount of US\$285,000 (please see the **List of Awardees**). PAJ is advised by an annually appointed panel composed of approximately ten performing arts specialists from throughout the United States.

The Japan Foundation is now accepting proposals for projects to receive PAJ touring and collaboration grants for the 2011-2012 fiscal year. To apply for the program, please read the following guidelines carefully, complete the Application Form and submit it along with other necessary materials to the Japan Foundation, New York (for U.S. organizations) or the Japan Foundation, Toronto (for Canadian organizations) no later than **October 25, 2010**.

OBJECTIVES

The primary objectives of PAJ are:

- 1) to increase access to the Japanese performing arts in the United States and Canada, especially outside major metropolitan areas;
- 2) to foster an understanding of the Japanese performing arts by providing educational programs for artists and audiences in each touring location apart from public performances; and
- 3) to support collaborative projects between Japanese and American/Canadian performing artists.

CATEGORIES

To realize the above objectives, the PAJ program offers two types of support:

- 1) The **TOURING GRANT** assists with the presentation of Japanese performing arts at multiple locations in the United States and/or Canada, with emphasis on locations outside major metropolitan areas where there is little exposure to the Japanese performing arts.
- 2) The **COLLABORATION GRANT** facilitates the collaboration of Japanese and American/Canadian artists so that they may create a new work with the potential to develop into a touring project and further an appreciation of Japanese culture when presented to audiences in the United States and Canada.

ELIGIBILITY

- 1) The purpose of the proposed project must be to present Japanese performing arts and/or to conduct a performing arts collaboration between Japanese and American/Canadian artists.
- 2) The proposed project must explicitly include educational and/or community outreach activities that enhance the audience's appreciation of Japanese culture.
- 3) The proposed project must be undertaken by professional artists. Non-professional members can be included only if the objective of the project is to present performing arts of high quality, not to train or educate the members.
- 4) Grants are awarded only to U.S.-based or Canada-based, nonprofit organizations and are subject to the relevant laws and regulations of the Japan Foundation.
- 5) The proposed project must commence between **July 1, 2011 and June 30, 2012**. The project may continue after July 2012 as long as the major part or core of the project is completed by June 30, 2012.
- 6) The proposed project must not be used for religious or political purposes.
- 7) **For tours**, the proposed project must tour to at least two locations outside New York and Los Angeles. Multiple venues in the same city are considered to be one location.
- 8) **For collaborations**, the proposed project must be a new work jointly explored by Japanese and American/Canadian artists. If the proposed project involves a commission, please be advised that the overall project must maintain an essentially collaborative nature.
- 9) **For collaborations**, revivals of existing pieces and the creation of recorded products are ineligible for this program.

GRANT COVERAGE

- 1) Grants are made on a cost-sharing basis. PAJ will not fund more than 50% of the project costs, nor will it fund the overhead and/or administrative costs of the applicant organization.
- 2) A project that receives a grant from the Japan Foundation's other programs, such as the Grant Program for Overseas Performances, the JFNY Grant for Arts & Culture, or JF Toronto Local Grant cannot be funded through PAJ at the same time.

REVIEW CRITERIA

1) TOURING GRANT

Below is a list of criteria by which each project will be evaluated:

- ◆ Artistic quality of the project
- ◆ Impact on audiences and the performing arts scene in the United States/Canada
- ◆ Geographical scope
- ◆ Strength of educational and outreach activities
- ◆ Feasibility of project implementation
- ◆ Capacity for future sustainability
- ◆ Cost effectiveness

In addition, priority will be given to projects that meet the following criteria:

- projects involving Japanese artists based in Japan
- projects created through PAJ collaboration grants
- projects that will tour to such locations as the South, Midwest, Mountain and Alaska, where there is little exposure to the Japanese performing arts
- projects relating to major international festivals
- projects that relate to Japanese pop culture
- projects that include cooperative frameworks through performing arts towards post-disaster/conflict restoration

2) COLLABORATION GRANT

Below is a list of criteria by which each project will be evaluated:

- ◆ Artistic quality of the newly created work
- ◆ Anticipated impact on audiences and the performing arts scene
- ◆ Dynamism between Japanese and American/Canadian artists
- ◆ Strength of educational and outreach activities
- ◆ Feasibility of project implementation
- ◆ Potential to develop into a touring project
- ◆ Cost effectiveness

In addition, priority will be given to projects that meet the following criteria:

- projects involving Japanese artists based in Japan
- projects relating to important international festivals
- projects that include cooperative frameworks through performing arts, to post-disaster/conflict restoration
- projects that relate to Japanese pop culture

Applicants who have already received PAJ grants for the past three consecutive years will be given extremely lower priority. This is a measure to enable the Japan Foundation to extend its support to as many applicants as possible by avoiding long-term funding relationships with the same recipients.

APPLICATION

Applicants must send one (1) original and three (3) sets of copies of the following materials:

- **Completed Application Form** (The form is available at www.jfnny.org/arts_and_culture/paj.html)
- **IRS 501(c)3 (for US) or CRA Charitable Status (for Canada) determination letter of the applicant organization***
- **List of grants and donations received by the applicant organization within the past three years***
- **Annual report of the applicant organization for the most recent fiscal year***
- **Biographies and press reviews of the principal artists involved in the project**
- **Recent work samples****
- **Any printed materials regarding the applicant organization and/or the proposed project****
- **Letters of commitment from the principal artists who are involved in the proposed projects**
- **Letters of intent from the presenters who are planning to present the project, expressing their level of interest and providing possible performance dates**
- **For projects that have already been funded by PAJ and are currently seeking further support, a report clarifying the progress made since the previous stage**

* One copy required

** Two sets required.

Work samples are a critical element of your application. Given the large amount of material and the limited amount of time available for the panel review, applicants should prepare a well-organized work samples that best represents their proposed projects. Each work sample must be labeled with the artist's name and the title of the work. Please be sure to cue the DVD/CD to a segment which best represents the work and describe the context of the segment in the Work Sample Sheet provided with the Application Form. Work samples will not be returned. Please do not submit promotional materials.

Please submit one (1) original and three (3) sets of copies of the above materials, with the exception of the materials marked with asterisks. All photocopies must be single sided sheets of 8 1/2" x 11" paper. Please use paper clips only; do not staple, bind, or package written materials.

DEADLINE

Applications must be received by the Japan Foundation, New York (for U.S. applicants) or the Japan Foundation, Toronto (for Canadian applicants) no later than **5:00 p.m. EST, October 25, 2010**. Late or incomplete applications, as well as applications submitted by fax or email, will not be accepted. The Foundation will not be held responsible for applications lost or damaged in transit.

REVIEW AND NOTIFICATION SCHEDULE

The Japan Foundation PAJ Advisory Committee will review applications in December 2010. Based on the recommendations of the Committee, the final selection of awardees is made by the Foundation's Headquarters. Written notification of awards will be mailed in April 2011.

INFORMATION HANDLING POLICY

For projects the Japan Foundation decides to support, information such as the name of the applicant and project descriptions will be made public in *Detailed Annual Report of the Japan Foundation Activities* and other public relations materials of the Foundation, including its website.

When the Foundation receives a request for information based on the Law Concerning the Disclosure of Information Held by Independent Administrative Institutions, etc. (Law No. 140 of December 5, 2001), submitted application forms and related materials will be released, except for information stipulated by said law not to be disclosed.

The Japan Foundation handles personal information appropriately in accordance with the Law Concerning Access to Personal Information Held by Independent Administrative Institutions (Law No. 59 of May 30, 2003). There may be cases in which the Foundation uses the addresses written on the Application Form to inform the applicant of other Foundation activities or to send public relations materials.

CONTACT

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We highly recommend that you check our website, **Performing Arts Network Japan** at www.performingarts.jp. Updated every month, this English website provides the most up-to-date information about the impressive range of expression and creativity of Japanese performing arts including music, dance and theater as well as international presenters and festivals/markets that incorporate Japanese performing arts. You can also register to receive monthly email updates.