

2018-2019 HARP Residency Program Application Guidelines:

Thank you for your interest in HARP! We'd like to encourage you to review these guidelines thoroughly before beginning your application. Watch our Video Info Session on Facebook.

HERE Artist Residency Program (HARP)

One of the most robust residency programs of this nature in the country and serving as a national model, HARP provides a commission, developmental support, career planning, and a full production to cross-genre artists, within a collaborative environment of peers working across disparate art forms – including theatre, dance, music, puppetry, visual art, and new media. HARP provides significant long-term support, as well as at least \$50,000 in cash and \$50,000 in space, equipment, and services over 2-3 years to tailor each residency to each artist's individual needs. Through significant investment of time and resources, dynamic work within a strong community is created.

"In these times, it's become increasingly hard for artists to find a place to take risks, a safe haven where they can develop daring new work. One theater has regularly bucked the trend, making its mission to ensure that artists have a home for their R&D, and that theatergoers can sample the exciting results." - OBIE Committee, on the Ross Wetzsteon Award to HERE

About HERE:

"HERE still manages to be the forum for fresh talents" - Ben Brantley, NY Times

From our home in Lower Manhattan, HERE builds an artist-centric community that nurtures emerging and career artists as they create innovative cross-genre live performance in theatre, dance, music, puppetry, media and visual art. Over 25 years, HERE has come to occupy a unique and essential place in the landscape of downtown theatre, and to be known as a destination for audiences who are passionate about groundbreaking contemporary work and the creative process behind it. Since 1993, HERE has been one of New York's most prolific producing organizations and today stands at the forefront of the city's presenters of daring new work.

"Best Off-Off Broadway venue" - The Village Voice

About HARP:

Since HARP's founding, HERE has supported the work and career development of 165 lead artists and hundreds of their collaborators. Through HARP, HERE has developed such highly acclaimed works as Eve Ensler's *The Vagina Monologues*, Basil Twist's *Symphonie Fantastique*, Trey Lyford and Geoff Sobelle's *All Wear Bowlers*, James Scruggs' *Disposable Men*, Young Jean Lee's *Songs of the Dragons Flying to Heaven*, and Taylor Mac's *The Lily's Revenge*. Over the years, HERE's artists have received 18 Obie Awards/Grants, 2 Bessies, 5 Drama Desk Nominations, 2 Pulitzer Prizes, 4 Doris Duke Awards, and 2 MacArthur Fellowships.

Created 20 years ago to address a compelling need in the field—the void of artistic, administrative, and financial support for artists with certain professional

accomplishments, but without breakthrough recognition—HARP assists artists who are developing distinct artistic voices and experimenting with new approaches that expand the parameters of performance work. HARP is unique in that it offers a meeting ground where artists from varied disciplines share diverse perspectives, and where works developed represent a multi-genre performance aesthetic.

HARP nurtures the development of 9 –11 multi-genre artists and their audiences, through cross-disciplinary exchange, monthly meetings, workshops, and panel discussions. As the works being developed are complex multi-genre projects, each residency lasts 2-to-3 years, renewed annually. At the end of each residency year, the artist and HERE mutually decide whether to continue the residency.

Note: It is unlikely that any project accepted in 2019 will go to production before 2021.

Resources for HARP Artists:

- **Artistic Development:**

Throughout their residencies, HARP artists participate in group meetings and public showings.

- Monthly Meetings: artists show work, give feedback to other artists, and contribute with individual artistic skill sharing.
- Public and Private Showing Opportunities: Artists are also encouraged to show work at each stage of development. A number of Works-In-Progress (WIP) showings, both public and private, allow members of HARP to contribute to the growth of their peers. Through this component, we create a balance of practical and theoretical work that exposes the whole group to a comprehensive experience. Each season, we present 8-10 public showings of HARP WIP and provide HARP artists with a more formal opportunity to present stages of their work in CULTUREMART, our annual winter festival of workshop productions.
- Retreat: Each year, HARP artists also participate in a one-week artist retreat in which they are able to dedicate all of their energy to the creative process without the distractions of daily life. HERE provides food, lodging, and space for every artist. At times, when possible, we offer one- and two-week project-specific intensive retreats for second- and third-year HARP artists.
- Production Opportunities: Two to four projects that are in development are selected for production each year. Each selected artist participates in all development activities and collaborates with HERE to raise funds and develop appropriate resources and support for their production. Projects are produced at the scale appropriate to the work – there is no set formula for producing in the season – chamber or mainstage, four performances or twenty, one performer or twenty-five. It is our expectation that the works being developed in the program are being scaled to fit and will be produced in one of our spaces. Most works developed through HARP are fully produced by HERE.

- **Career Development:**

- Career Work Sessions: We believe that in order for artists to stay in the field today, they must have the necessary skills to function as viable creative enterprises. Therefore, HARP also includes hands-on administrative sessions to supplement our already strong artistic development process.

At these monthly work sessions, artists share career skills and learn from each other, as well as from HERE staff and outside experts on topics ranging from grant writing to touring to budgeting to work samples to nonprofit incorporation. Administrative sessions are led either by a HARP artist with the necessary skill, a HARP alum, an appropriate HERE staff member, or an outside expert.

- Online Career Resources: HARP artists have access to an online resource managed by HERE that fosters these skills and asks the artists to participate in an online community discussion by posting work and responding to others' work between meetings and presentations.
- 1-on-1 Strategic Sessions: Through regular individual meetings, each member of the HERE staff dedicates significant one-on-one time with each HARP artist to articulate the vision for the project in terms of producing strategy, audience development, marketing, fundraising, grant-writing, budgeting, contracting and production.

- **Facilities and Equipment:**

HERE offers resident artists limited rehearsal space and equipment on an as-needed, as-available basis in our theatres. Due to the lack of on-site rehearsal space and the heavy use of our theatre spaces, HARP should not be thought of primarily a space residency.

- The Mainstage Theatre: A flexible black box theatre with a sprung wood floor which measures 46' x 46'. It can seat up to 150 (depending on the configuration of the seating platforms), and usually seats 99. The theatre has a complete lighting package including 92 dimmers and a complete sound system.
- The Dorothy B. Williams Theatre: A charming proscenium theatre with a 14' x 38' stage or transform into a flexible 32' x 38' black box space. It has a fixed grid, a state-of-the-art lighting package including 75 dimmers and a complete sound system. The theatre has 63 seats and 8 stools.
- Rehearsal Space: HERE also actively develops partnerships with other organizations and landlords to offer dedicated rehearsal space to our resident artists.
- HERE Lounge: a home base for the artists where they can have meetings with their team or just come and work independently anytime.

HERE also has an extensive inventory of high-quality equipment available for our artists' use.

- **Funding:**

In addition to the extensive range of community, development, and production resources listed above, HERE offers each resident artist a developmental commission, work-in-progress (WIP) showing and workshop fees in order to develop their project.

- The Developmental Commission: a minimum of \$4,000, up to \$5,400 total over a 3-year residency. HERE also provides each artist with an annual WIP fund of \$2,000, as well as a fee of \$2,000-\$3,000 for each workshop in our annual CULTUREMART festival. All of these funds may be used as each artist deems fit for their individual project.
- Final Production: There are fees for creators and their collaborators in the budget for the final production: a world premiere produced by HERE in one of our two theatre spaces. The budget is developed jointly by HERE and the artist. In addition to the space and staff costs of upward of \$50,000, HERE allocates at least \$25,000 towards artist fees for the final production in addition to partnering with the artist to raise project-specific funding.

Over a 3-year residency, HERE invests over \$50,000 in cash in each project and \$50,000 in space, staff and other services.

HARP Residency Expectations:

While in residence, the artist or team's residency is linked to a specific project in development and an exploration of ideas and processes intrinsic to their artistic growth. HERE believes that artists must be in control of the work that they create. This control goes hand in hand with a responsibility to participate in all phases of their artistic projects from inception through all development stages to full production. HARP is designed to respond to the ideas and needs of its artists. The artists themselves must be proactive in bringing those ideas and needs to HARP and to each other; they shape workshop and discussion offerings, create performances, and work with HERE staff to publicize and promote HARP events. We expect our artists to be both good citizens of the HERE community as well as ambassadors to the public.

Artists retain ownership of all work initiated, developed, or workshopped during their residency. For the projects that go to full production, HERE and the artists will negotiate a separate ownership and rights agreement. However, in all public materials about the artist or team the following must appear: "(Name of Artist or Team) was/is a member of the HERE Artist Residency Program (HARP), 20__ - 20__, NYC", and in all public materials relating to the work's development, the following line shall appear: "Development of (Name of Work) was made possible through the HERE Artist Residency Program (HARP), 20_ - 20_, NYC." For works that go to full production the following line shall appear: "(Name of Work) was commissioned, developed, and produced through the HERE Artist Residency Program (HARP), 20_ - 20_, NYC."

Selection Criteria:

HARP is designed to assist individual artists or collaborative teams (writers, performers, composers, directors, designers, dramaturgs, puppeteers, choreographers, singers)

working in a multi-genre form in live performance. Multi-genre form refers to the full integration (not just as backdrop) of two or more genres (theatre, dance, music, puppetry, media, and visual art) in the work.

We define an appropriate artist for our program as one who has:

- (1) completed their education within the last 8-15 years
- (2) had at least a few significant residency or commissioning opportunities,
- (3) created a body of work over at least 5 years and at least one full evening-length work, and
- (4) earns some income from their art practice.
- (5) never been selected as a HARP artist.

Artists must also meet the following criteria:

- The artist or team are residents of the NY metro area
- The artist or team find themselves at a point in their career where they are developing a distinctive form/style/content of work, or are interested in stretching the previously accepted boundaries of their work by experimentation with form/style/content.
- The artist or team is interested in actively participating both in the community of HERE and in a peer-based program aimed at exchanging resources, ideas, critique, and support.
- The artist or team are proposing a project that is very early in its development process, meaning at its inception and has not been previously workshopped, and any underlying rights for pre-existing material for the project have already been

Additionally, we believe that diversity is extremely important within the makeup of our residency program and actively pursue this diversity both from the work itself in terms of genre and content, and in the background of the artists.

We strive to create an equitable, diverse and inclusive home in which all people have fair access to the resources they need to realize their visions. We acknowledge structural inequities that exclude individuals and communities from opportunities based on race, gender, disability, sexual orientation, class, age, and geography, and seek to counter those inequities in our work.

The selection panel includes HERE curatorial staff and nominated panelists by applicants.

Timeline:

Application Due Date: February 1, 2019, 12 noon

Final Decisions Announced: March 15, 2019

Residencies Begin: April 1, 2019

The residence year extends annually from April 1 to March 31, with the exception of when a project is heading into final production.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS AND INSTRUCTIONS:

Please note:

Our online application needs to be completed in one session. Therefore, we suggest you prepare your answers offline and paste into the online form (as opposed to answering online).

Name/Address:

Please provide full name and address of applicant. Only residents of the New York Metro area will be considered.

Project Summary (200 words):

Please provide a summary of your project.

Project Description (800 words):

In the description, please explicate the following: who, what, when, where, why, how. Why does your project need the time our residency offers? How does your project reflect cultural and/or aesthetic diversity? What do you envision on stage and what will the audience experience be?

Because of the long-term development process that we offer, we look for proposals that are in the very early stages of their growth - the seeds of an idea or an outline. A project that has already been workshopped is probably too far along to benefit from the multi-year development process that the program offers. Please feel free to use bullet points if space demands are too limiting.

Artist Statement (1000 words):

Please briefly tell the panel about your passion and sense of urgency for this project: why this residency is a good fit at this particular moment, how you see yourself as a mid-career artist, and how you hope to develop over your residency. How does this project push your aesthetic boundaries?

If more than one primary artist is included in this application, each primary artist should provide a statement in the space provided. If an ensemble is applying, one shared statement is appropriate.

Project Timeline (100 words):

This should be a 2-3 year timeline of how you will develop the work during the residency, indicating potential works and key benchmarks in progress.

This obviously will change and adapt over time, but it is helpful for the panel to see how you might use the flexible opportunities offered by the residency.

Short narrative bio of the lead artist(s) (1000 words):

Please provide a narrative bio outlining your professional experiences.

Collaborators (1000 words):

Please list other collaborators on the project. If you don't know your collaborators yet, please indicate what kind of collaborators you envision bringing onto the project.

Work Sample & description:

Please pay close attention to work sample instructions listed below on the form and then share how this work sample is relevant to the proposed project. Please include year, performers, and contributing artists. Accepted file types include: pdf, docx, doc, mp3, m4a, wav, mp4, mov.

Is there anything you did not get to express about your process or project that you would like to share? (1000 words)

Feel free to address any information you think is relevant to your application, but could not express through the questions above.

OPTIONAL: Panelist Nomination:

This year's HARP selection panel will include panelists who are nominated and selected by you, the applicants. Please nominate up to 3 individuals for the panel by providing their names and contact information below. HERE will then contact each nominee to assess availability and subsequently invite you and the other applicants to vote on available nominees. Nominees with the highest number of votes will then be invited to join the panel and review process.

Nominees must be:

- Experienced in cross-genre form of live performance or in one or more of the following fields: theatre, dance, music, puppetry, visual art, and new media.
- Capable of reading applications and actively participate in the selection process.
- Able to effectively evaluate each application, based on the criteria set by HERE, their experience in the arts, and knowledge of the art form.

Conflict of Interest:

- Artists who apply for HARP program in this round are not eligible as panelists.

Submission Review Process:

After applications are reviewed by the panel, finalists will be interviewed by Kristin Marting, Artistic Director.

Application DEADLINE: February 1, 2019, at 12 noon. Final decisions will be announced by March 15, 2019.

Questions can be addressed to programming@here.org or 212-647-0202 x320.