



River Cow Orchestra, a Music listing

FY2020 Performer Application Guidelines for the Missouri Touring Performers Directory

About the Missouri Touring Performers Directory

Missouri Arts Council is dedicated to providing performance arts experiences for audiences throughout the state to nurture appreciation for Missouri's diverse cultural resources. The Missouri Touring Performers Directory is produced to support communities seeking performing artists as well as to promote the performers themselves. Participants currently include 224 dancers, musicians, theatrical performers, storytellers, and folk artists.

Each listing includes:

- Brief description of the performing artist's program(s) (minimum 75 words, ideally 100-125, maximum 150)
- Biographical information
- Contact information
- Website
- Performance fees
- Technical requirements
- Available times
- Photo

The performance fee indicates the cost of presenting a program an average distance of 50 miles from the artist's home area and includes transportation and lodging, unless otherwise noted. Factors affecting the performance fee include number and type of performances at a specific location, size and type of audience expected, actual distance traveled, block booking arrangements, and equipment required. All fees listed are negotiable and subject to change.

The Missouri Arts Council does not serve as a booking agent for artists listed. Nor does a listing guarantee employment. The most successful artists use the Directory as a tool to help promote themselves to potential booking agents. Eligible organizations may request funding from the Missouri Arts Council to present artists in this directory to their community.

Eligibility

To be included as a Missouri Touring Performer, artists must be:

- Legal residents of Missouri, 18 years of age or older, for at least one year prior to the application deadline (individual artists). If an artist group, the majority must reside in Missouri. Nonprofit status is not required.
- Professional artist(s) with at least two years of touring experience.
- Available to tour to a minimum of two Missouri communities at least 50 miles outside of the artist's home base annually.

Before You Apply

Contact Jason Vasser, Missouri Touring Artist Program Specialist, at jason.vasser@ded.mo.gov or 314-340-6858. Some types of performances may not be eligible.

Annual Deadline

The Missouri Touring Performers Directory Application is due by the last Monday in February. Applications that are incomplete (missing questions and support material) will not be considered.

Evaluation Criteria

A successful Performer will demonstrate all of the following criteria:

- **High-quality artistic excellence**

We seek high-quality artists who are fine arts performers. This is the primary consideration for inclusion in the directory. The panel will determine this by observation of a live or recorded performance. At a minimum, the artist should provide a quality recording (CD, DVD, or online version) of all the artistic components of their performance.

- **Performance and touring experience**

Presenters expect an experienced and reliable touring performer. Past and future schedules of performances, venues, and presenters will be reviewed.

- **Professionalism in management, marketing/promotion, etc.**

Support materials should be professional and assist the presenter in producing the program.

- **Willingness to tour at least two Missouri communities outside of the artist's home base**

- **Contribution to a well-rounded Touring Directory**

The panel will consider that the artist's program, genre, location or style add to the Directory.

Application Submission

Applications are completed [online](#). Acceptance to the Missouri Touring Performer Directory is a prerequisite for participating in the Missouri Arts Council School Touring Roster and Mid-America Art Alliance Regional Touring Program.

School Touring Qualified

If you wish to be considered for the School Touring Roster at the same time, include a study guide in your support materials. For more information, contact the Arts Education Program Specialist, Julie Hale, at julie.hale@ded.mo.gov or 314-340-6853.

Support Materials

All support materials must be submitted as an electronic attachment within the online application. Applicants for performers applying to be on the Missouri Touring Performers Directory must provide supporting video with their application. You will be able to upload media and documents (.mp3, .wma, .doc, .txt, and .pdf). All electronic files must be clearly labeled with the artist/artist group's name and content (e.g., smith-music.mp3). Alternatively you may provide a link to materials online that support your application (website, YouTube, Vimeo, etc.) Support materials are limited to a maximum of **10 files or links**:

- Website
- Performances: Panelists will limit their review to three- to five-minute segments. Video of a staged performance is preferred to a video production.
- Marketing: brochure, sample program, sample news release, reviews, artist/presenter contract, reviews, previous presenters, audience, and noteworthy individuals (cite source)
- Resume(s) of artists/touring manager (two pages maximum per person)
- Letters of Recommendation (three maximum)

Review Process

Applications will be reviewed by panelists who are knowledgeable in a particular art form, arts presenters, and community arts representatives. The panel recommendations are presented to the Missouri Arts Council board for approval at the June meeting. Performers will be notified of the board's decision in July when the directory is revised.

Reevaluation

Missouri Touring Roster artists do *not* reapply each year although they are subject to reevaluation on request. Artists are evaluated by presenters to ensure that performers continue to meet program requirements.