



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Performance and Outreach Opportunity at the 2024 Minnesota State Fair for Minnesota performing arts organizations and individual performing artists

Opportunity: The Minnesota State Fair's Arts A'Fair program strives to showcase the best of the rich performing arts community throughout the state of Minnesota and aims to present a wide and exemplary range of genres, cultures, ages and expertise. Participating in this program allows you to promote your work with "Pop Up Performances" on the fairgrounds. Your act/number/vignette will be performed up to four times daily for two consecutive days. Each organization will be paid \$1200 for the two day run. In addition, your organization will receive the opportunity to connect with your audiences before and after your performances at your performance location and will be promoted through various means by the fair's marketing department.

Performance Dates, Times & Locations: Two consecutive days from August 22 through September 2, 2024 (exact two days and performances times to be determined) on the Minnesota State Fairgrounds (West End Market & East Grandstand Plaza).

INFORMATION

General:

- Organizations/artists who were selected in the past are welcome to reapply with the same material or with something new.
- Performers will have a designated outdoor performance area but should keep in mind the general atmosphere of the Fair.
- Audiences are drawn to interactive, visually bold or acoustically dynamic performances.
- Approximately 2 million visitors attend the Minnesota State Fair each year! Expect all ages, cultures and tastes.

Requirements for Performance Participation:

- Each performance should be 10-20 minutes; set up/strike times should be kept to a minimum.
- For ease of execution, only minimal props can be used and should be able to be easily transported in a small wagon or hand cart.
- Performers should be prepared to perform on concrete, without an elevated stage or proscenium.

Provided for performers:

- Dressing room space (to be shared with other performers).
- Sound system with wireless microphones and audio playback.
- Gate admission to the fair on days of performance.
- \$10 worth of State Fair food vouchers per performer per day.
- Per diem reimbursement for performers who are located outside of the Twin Cities metro area.

PROPOSAL PROCESS:**Organizations/artists wishing to perform please provide:**

- Your organization's name and mailing address, as well as a contact person and his/her phone number and email address. If applying as an individual artist, please provide your contact information, as well as an arts organization and contact person at that organization that will act as a reference for your work.
- A description of the performance that you wish to submit for consideration, including props and/or wardrobe, if applicable. The application may be in the form of a written proposal (via email). You are encouraged to send photos, DVD, or video clips.
- A description of your technical requirements, such as sound, performance surface, etc.
- Performance dates that present a significant conflict for your organization (August 22 – September 2, 2024).

Selection criteria:

- Audience enjoyment (must be family-friendly)
- Uniqueness
- Ease of presentation at event
- Diverse representation of genres, cultures and geography

Application Deadline: April 12, 2024

The proposals will be reviewed and selections made by the Minnesota State Fair. The organizations chosen to perform will be notified no later than May 16 and issued a letter of agreement.

Please send proposals to:

artsafair@mnstatefair.org

OR

Minnesota State Fair – Arts A'Fair
1265 Snelling Ave N
St. Paul, MN 55108

Minnesota State Fair Mission: To educate and involve our guests by providing a world-class showcase that is innovative, entertaining and fun.

We strive to:

- Showcase Minnesota's finest agriculture, art and industry.
- Present an unparalleled forum for knowledge and ideas.
- Provide outstanding customer service.
- Offer exceptional value.
- Provide a safe, clean environment that is accessible to all.
- Create unique experiences.

Questions/More Information:

For general information: artsafair@mnstatefair.org

Dudley Voigt, Arts A'Fair Program Manager, dudleyvoigt@gmail.com

Shannon Buchda, Minnesota State Fair, shannon.buchda@mnstatefair.org, (651) 288-4395