

[The Democracy Cycle Application Questions for 2026 open call](#) - for reference only

NOTE: these questions live on Submittable; pay no attention to formatting here.

***Lead Artist Personal Info**

- First Name
- Last Name
- Gender pronouns [drop down]
- Discipline: I primarily identify as a [drop down w/ discipline jobs and roles such as playwright, choreographer, composer, librettist, multi-discipline deviser etc]
- Name of company or organization (if applicable)
- Email Address
- Cell Phone Number
- Other Phone Number (if applicable)
- Location / Address

***Title of the proposed Project (100 characters max)**

***One Sentence Project Summary (200 characters max)**

***One Sentence on how your proposed project will address democracy. Be specific about which aspect of democracy: (300 characters max)**

***Project Narrative (3500 characters max)**

Describe your proposed project, its form and goals, and the link between your project and The Democracy Cycle's commissioning criteria as described in the submission guidelines, with as much detail as possible.

Please address these questions in your Project Narrative:

- What is the project, and its form as you see it? What will the audience see and experience, as you currently conceive the project?
- What are the questions at the core of this project? How will your piece address, expand, critique or celebrate democracy?
- How do you intend your project to stimulate meaningful reflection, discussions, and debate around the current state of democracy, particularly as it is experienced in the United States?
 - (Note: While the primary focus of The Democracy Cycle will be on democracy as it is currently being practiced in the United States, projects may include references to democracies worldwide provided they have potential for informing and deepening our understanding of American democracy. This is a national and international open call.)
- What is your approach to creating this work? How will you collaborate with others to realize this work?

- What other support do you currently have to create this project? (This is not a prerequisite for this commission)

Your Project Narrative may be submitted in the text box below as a Written Narrative (3500 characters max)

OR a link to a Video or Audio Spoken Narrative (Max 4 min), including any passwords. The panel will not read/watch/listen beyond these limits. Note: this is intended as an accessibility feature.

*What do you see as your greatest artistic influences, or your artistic lineage?
(1000 characters max)

*Is there anything else you would like us to know about your work? (500 characters max)

* Developmental Timeline of your Project (1000 characters max)

This timeline should outline the projected major milestones in your project's conception, development, funding, and presentation.

Note: though this commission specifically supports the creation and development of the project (not the presentation), we would still like to know when you estimate you'll be ready to premiere the piece.

Note: We understand that milestones are subjective, and that there are likely many of them inside your project. Please include no fewer than 7 and no more than 15 milestones from beginning to completion of the project.

*Itemized Project Budget

Please submit an itemized project budget **for the creation and development of your proposed project** in the provided form (not for the premiere costs or running costs).

A budget must include two sections: projected income and projected expenses. Income should equal (or exceed) expenses. Simply designate any un-raised funds as "pending" or "to be raised". We understand that these are projected costs at this point and that your budget will change.

Note: We have pre-loaded the \$60,000 of The Democracy Cycle funds for you into the budget as "pending" income, broken up into the \$30,000 commission and \$30,000 development funds

Note: Only put numbers into the right-hand Column C ("Amount"). If you put any letters or symbols into Column C, the budget will not auto-compute. Put all text into either Column A ("Item Name / Description") or Column B ("Notes").

Note: There are resources in the [Submission Guidelines](#) to help you, including sample line items.

TO UPLOAD:

*Artistic Resume or CV

Please upload your Artistic Resume or CV (maximum 2 pages) detailing your artistic and/or professional experience. For collaborative proposals, please provide resumes or CVs for each participating artist (up to 2 main collaborators besides Lead Artist). Collectives should provide a resume for the group's activities as well.

*Bio

Please provide a short bio for yourself (approx 200 words). For collaborative proposals, please provide short bios below for each participating artist. Collectives should provide a bio for the group's activities as well.

*Work Samples

You may submit up to 2 recent relevant work samples in the form of videos, audio, pdf document and/or links. These must be examples of previous live performance work you have created, completed, and premiered.

Note: This year we require that these work samples be production video or audio. Images or pdf docs may be supplemental to that video or audio.

Note: This year we have added an optional 3rd work sample specifically for (if such exists) a work-in-progress excerpt of the proposed project. Either 10-15 pages of the draft script, or video of up to 5 minutes of a work-in-progress showing of the proposed work.

For all samples submitted, please include a short description and context for your work samples, including title, your generative role year completed, and a short description. (up to 100 words)

OPTIONAL SECTION:

*Demographic info - all optional questions at the end of the application, not listed here

[end]