



NEXT STAGE GRANTS

Application guidelines

2022

*“Triggering change and recovery in the opera and dance sector
through sustainability, inclusivity, and digital transformation”*

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ABOUT FEDORA & THE NEXT STAGE GRANTS

FEDORA – The European Circle of Philanthropists of Opera and Ballet is a non-profit organisation that was created in Paris in 2013 under the presidency of Jérôme-François Zieseniss. Paying tribute to Rolf Liebermann, the well-known composer and former opera house director, FEDORA is committed to supporting and contributing to the renewal of opera and dance, supporting the artists of today and reaching out to younger and more diverse audiences.

We experiment with and build new complementary funding models to support innovative and artistic opera and dance co-creations led by emerging artists and staged by opera houses, dance companies and festivals across Europe and beyond. As the only European ecosystem enabler in the opera and dance sector, FEDORA brings together all of the actors of the industry: emerging artists and their new works, cultural institutions, the European philanthropic community and diverse audiences. Over the last seven years, FEDORA invested €1.5 million of private funding in 17 new opera and dance projects, involving 67 co-producing cultural institutions, with performances attended by over 500,000 people, and hosted by 20 countries.

In 2021, FEDORA and Opera Europa launched the **Next Stage Initiative** to trigger change and recovery in the opera and dance sector. This initiative provides financial support and skills development to boost innovation through sustainability, inclusivity, and digital transformation. The Next Stage Grants will financially support the projects that help create new industry standards and opportunities. The jury will evaluate how innovative, collaborative, transformative, feasible and scalable the projects are. Moreover, through the Next Stage Forums, professional development and training will be given to the management and artistic teams to boost knowledge sharing and peer-learning in the fields.



AREAS OF IMPACT



Sustainability

Grants will reward projects that implement:

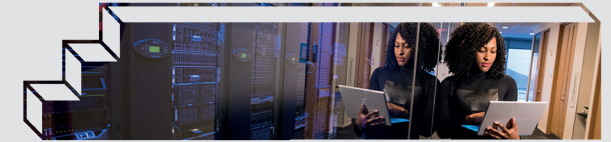
- Green initiatives **increasing** eco responsibility
- **Decreasing** carbon footprint
- Practises **encouraging** circular economy



Inclusivity

Grants will reward projects that implement:

- Inclusive initiatives **encouraging** equal opportunities
- **Showcasing and promoting** diversity and inclusion
- **Improving** accessibility at diverse levels



Digital Transformation

Grants will reward projects that implement:

- Digital initiatives **driving** efficiency
- Creative opportunities through **smart tech innovation**
- Revenue generation and cost **savings** through new technology

WHY APPLY?



INTERNATIONAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- **Grant money:** FEDORA makes €250,000 available for distribution among the best projects
- **Transnational Giving Europe:** FEDORA also provides guidance on how to access and benefit the new online Transnational Giving Europe Platform to receive tax-deductible donations from donors across Europe



INTERNATIONAL VISIBILITY

- **Dedicated project page on the FEDORA Platform:** Pre-selected projects will have a dedicated page on the Platform
- **Quality label:** Once pre-selected, the projects are allowed to use the NEXT Stage quality label in their communications
- **On/offline visibility & PR:** Communication about your activities through a dedicated newsletter and on social media
- **FEDORA trophy for the Next Stage Grant recipients** as a major recognition for innovative work



BEING A PART OF FEDORA'S NETWORK

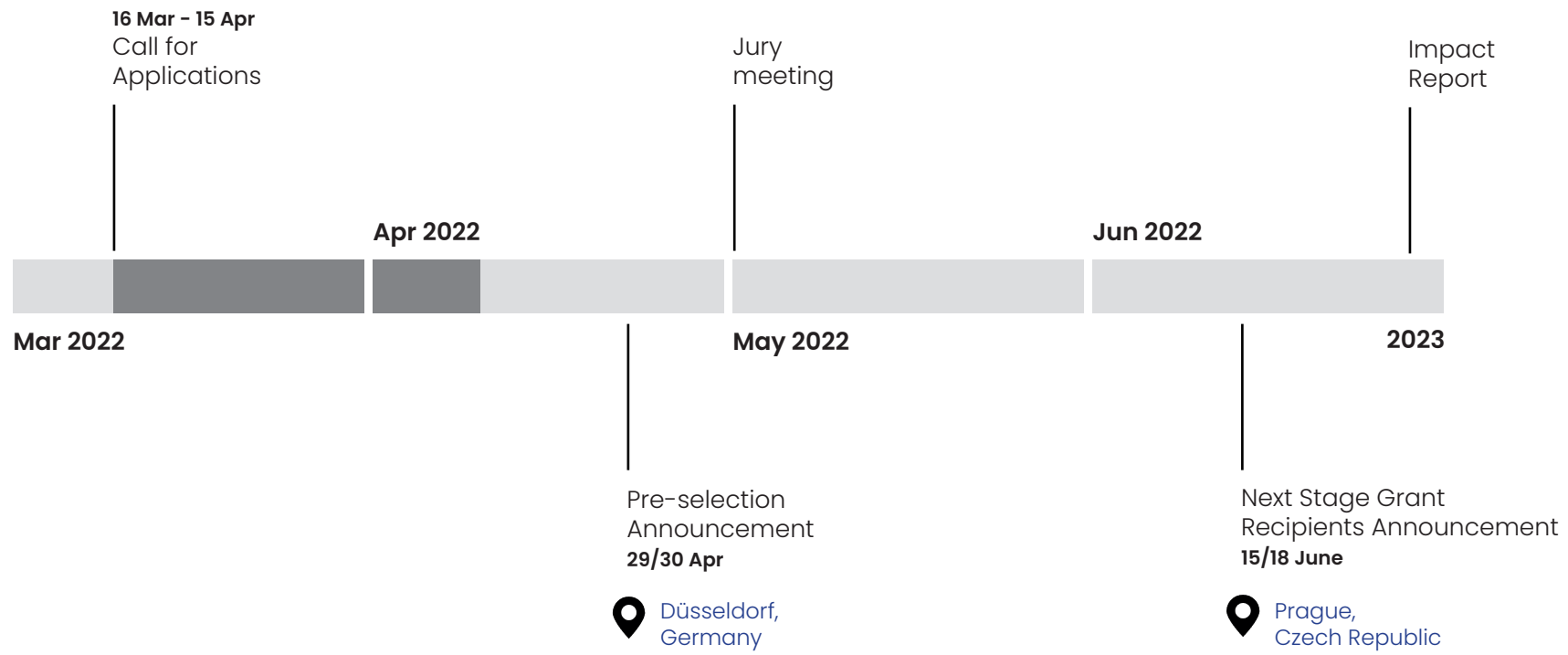
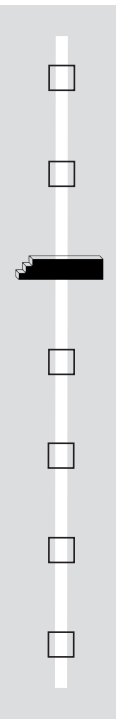
- **Introduction to the international philanthropic community**
- **Events:** Access to FEDORA's announcement events
- **Webinars with members or our corporate philanthropists**



CAPACITY BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES

- Access to online and in-person **Next Stage Forums** in partnership with Opera Europa and our sponsors

DATES & DEADLINES



DATES & DEADLINES

**16 MARCH -
15 APRIL 2022**

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Opera houses, festivals and dance companies or other performing arts companies can apply online until 15 April, noon CET.

**21 MARCH (3 pm CET) &
23 MARCH (3 pm CET) 2022**

WORKSHOPS: HOW TO APPLY? – [online](#)

Online workshop on eligibility, online platform and process.

29/30 APRIL 2022

ANNOUNCEMENT OF PRE-SELECTED PROJECTS – [Düsseldorf, Germany](#)

A pre-selection of projects will be made in collaboration with expert partner Opera Europa and will be announced on the occasion of the Next Stage Event in Düsseldorf, Germany. Pre-selected projects will have the occasion to pitch their project during this event.

MAY 2022

JURY EVALUATION

Jury Members choose Next Stage Grant recipients based on the applications submitted and following the evaluation criteria while taking into consideration the analysis made by the 2021 Opera Management Course participants of Opera Europa.

15/18 JUNE 2022

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT STAGE GRANT RECIPIENTS – [Prague, Czech Republic](#)

Next Stage Grant recipients will be publicly announced and celebrated on the occasion of the Opera Europa Spring Conference in Prague.

2022/2023

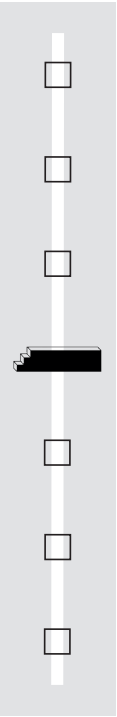
IMPACT REPORTING

Next Stage Grant recipients will provide FEDORA with reports about their project advancement and achieved impact.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- There is no application fee when applying for the Next Stage Grants. However, the lead company applying must be a FEDORA Member ([Affiliate membership](#) starts at €500 per year) and/or an Opera Europa member. If the project is selected by the jury as winner of the Next Stage Grant, all project partners who are cultural organisations within the performing arts and who are mentioned in the original application are requested to join FEDORA.
- Applications can only be submitted in English online on the official website www.fedora-platform.com before the deadline on 15 April 2022 at noon CET. No application sent by email or mail will be accepted.
- If selected as a Next Stage Grant recipient by the jury, the lead company is in charge of managing the FEDORA funds and is responsible for submitting activity reports about the actual fund investment to FEDORA. The winner of the Grant signs a contract on behalf of the project partners with FEDORA. This agreement document outlines the terms and conditions of the transfer of the FEDORA funds, FEDORA membership of the partners and visibility in communications.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- 
1. Applying company needs to be an **organisation working in performing arts production**, entitled to receive funds.
 2. The applying company needs to be an **organisational member** of the FEDORA and/or Opera Europa network.
 3. Projects can be entirely **new or represent the next scaling step** of an already initiated project that tackles one or multiple areas around sustainability, inclusivity or digital transformation.
 4. The impact of the project must be **measurable** and realistic.
 5. The project should involve **at least one partner** from the sector (opera or dance company).

LIST OF REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

1. In order to submit the application:

- ☐ Collaboration agreement or signed letter of intent (collaboration contract drafts or signed letters of intent are accepted. However, if the project is selected as a Next Stage Grant recipients, the lead company needs to provide the signed collaboration contract to FEDORA.)
- ☐ Short bio or CV of each member of the project team.
- ☐ HD image representing the project and copyright with international right to use in FEDORA's on- and offline communications as this image will represent your project throughout the competition.

Non-mandatory documents:

- ☐ Letters of recommendation
- ☐ Examples of past projects

2. Once being pre-selected by the jury, projects will be required to provide the following information for the final selection of the winner:

- ☐ Presentation Pitch of the project during the Düsseldorf event or provide a max. 2 min project pitch video by project team representative(s) (obligatory)

EVALUATION CRITERIA



Innovation

What is the genuinely innovative quality of the project in its chosen field?



Feasibility

How achievable is your project in terms of expertise, budget planning and risk management?



Scalability

What is the potential for further development of the project within the partnership? How replicable within the sector?



Collaborative

To what extent is this project collaborative and involving partners?



Transformative

How impactful is the initiative to renew operations on, behind and beyond the stage within the sector?

F.A.Q.

Frequently asked questions

Who can apply for the Next Stage Grant?

Any opera house, dance company, festival, or non-profit organisation or organisation entitled to receive funds working in the performing arts sector can apply. Individuals and/or companies outside of the performing arts sector cannot lead an application for the Grants.

How long does it take to prepare an application?

It depends on your own organisation's speed in gathering documents. As the application is interdisciplinary, many elements will have to be coordinated with the other departments of your institution. We recommend that you start requesting letters of intent from your partners as early as possible. Before you start to fill in the online application form, feel free to directly contact Müge Naz Altay, Funding Programmes Manager, at muge.altay@fedora-circle.com for guidance on the application.

How do I submit an application on behalf of my institution?

You can submit an application online by creating your own personal account on www.fedora-platform.com. When you will start your application, the first section will ask you to fill in information about the lead company applying, your institution.

Once you submit your application, you will not have the possibility to modify your application anymore. You will receive an automatic email confirming your submission with a recap PDF of your application.

What are the technical requirements to submit an application?

You will only need a computer with stable internet access to submit your application online. We recommend using Google Chrome as your browser for a smoother user experience. Applications sent via email or mail are not accepted.

Can I start my application and continue it later?

Yes, once you start an application, you can save it as you progress by clicking on the button "Save and Next". Please note that to click on this button and save its elements, the entire section must be filled out. To come back to your application, simply log back in to the FEDORA Platform, click on "Hello YOUR NAME", and then on "My Applications". You will then be redirected to your personal account, in which you can continue or delete any application you have started. After 15 April 2022, noon, no additional documents are accepted to add to the applications.

Can I start multiple applications at the same time?

Yes, you can start as many applications as you wish, if your organisation is a member of FEDORA. Learn how to become a member [here](#).

Do we need to send an original copy of the partners' letters of intent?

Only digital copies are needed, however, the letter of intent must be on official letterhead and with a signature of the legal representative. Emails are not accepted as valid proofs of partner involvement.

Some elements of my application are highly confidential. How does FEDORA deal with the confidentiality of the information submitted?

The online application system signals which elements will be featured by the comment "If pre-selected or pre-selected, this information will be used in FEDORA's communications". If your application is pre-selected, your project will have its own page on our platform. Before this page is published, we will send it to you for validation. Some of these elements will be featured on our press release and brochures. Any additional information featured on your application is treated with the utmost confidentiality. This application will only be shared with our expert partners, members of the jury, participants of the 2021 Opera Management Course of Opera Europa, and our grant sponsors who all sign a confidentiality agreement before receiving your application.

Who selects the Next Stage Grant recipients?

An independent jury panel selects the Next Stage Grant recipients, who will receive the grant money. This jury bases its decision solely on the application submitted during the call for applications while taking into consideration the analysis made by the 2021 Opera Management Course participants of Opera Europa, and the pitch delivered during the Pre-selection Announcement Event in Düsseldorf.

What happens if my project's team or concept is modified after I submit my application?

If, for some reason, there is a major change in the project's team or concept, please inform us immediately by email, please inform us immediately by email: muge.altay@fedora-circle.com.

What are the evaluation steps?

1. The pre-selection is made by FEDORA's Expert Partner Opera Europa and jury chair.
2. Each jury member evaluates each project following a precise scoring system.
3. The jury members gather to select the number of Next Stage Grant recipients and grant amounts.

CONTACT

Do you need assistance? Any questions?

Please feel free to contact:



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