Guidelines for U.S. Applications to New Visions/New Voices 2018

U.S. proposals must be submitted by a professional or university theater. Any individual unsolicited scripts will not be accepted. Proposals must include both a playwright and a director, who may not be the same person, as well as a composer if the project is a musical or opera. All Creative Team members (defined as playwright, director, and composer/librettist of a musical or opera) must be present in Washington, DC from April 22- April 29, 2018.

Proposals must not have had a full production, though the work may have had staged or rehearsed readings as part of the developmental process. These are defined as “book in hand” readings that do not require memorization, and with no technical elements. A play that had a college or university production as part of a student playwright’s program of study will be evaluated separately.

Proposals must be in future plans for production at the submitting theater and must be created for young audiences, ranging from theater for the very young through high school and family productions.

Proposals may be at any stage of development ranging from an idea to a completed script. If a draft script has not been written, a detailed description, scenario, or treatment must be submitted with the application. Since the adjudicators are judging completed scripts as well as scenarios, it is to your benefit to provide as much detail as possible about a project in development.

In addition to considering text-based work, the New Visions/New Voices selection committee is accepting applications for devised work and pieces whose narrative is not solely text-based. To better accommodate such productions, applicants will be given the opportunity to submit video and audio materials along with their script/treatment if desired. Any questions regarding the application and submission process can be directed to kctya@kennedy-center.org. Proposals will be screened and final selections will be made by the Kennedy Center.

New Visions/New Voices 2018 will include six U.S. rehearsed readings.

All rehearsals, readings, and discussions will be conducted in English.

Questions: please email kctya@kennedy-center.org.
Information and Production Requirements for Selected Projects

If your proposal is selected to be a part of New Visions/New Voices 2018, the first draft of the script must be sent to the Kennedy Center no later than November 13, 2017. This is a critical, non-negotiable date; in order to secure the best possible performers, casting is completed by mid-December.

If, after acceptance to New Visions/New Voices, the scope of the selected project deviates significantly from the application (including, but not limited to: change of director, or change from a non-musical to a musical), the change must be communicated to the Kennedy Center in a timely manner. In the event of such change, the Kennedy Center reserves the right to put another project in its place.

Readings are held in the Kennedy Center’s Family Theater, with the time span for each reading ranging from 45 to 75 minutes. After the play is selected, the New Visions/New Voices staff will determine the allowable time for the reading in consultation with the project’s director.

The Kennedy Center provides actors, stage managers, and limited dramaturgical and production support. For musicals and operas, we will provide a music director, as well as a piano or electric keyboard.

The Kennedy Center practices non-traditional casting and, in consultation with the project’s director, casts the projects from local Washington, D.C. area actors. Once finalized, casting will not change.

New Visions/New Voices staff schedules rehearsals, taking into account Actor’s Equity Association (AEA), Theater for Young Audiences guidelines, availability of rehearsal space, and the schedules of actors. Projects are assigned to rehearse morning, afternoons, or early evening time slots. The overall time allotted to the rehearsal and reading is a total of 15 to 20 hours, with three to four hours of rehearsal per day for five days. The AEA and Kennedy Center guidelines for New Visions/New Voices readings specify that performers must remain on book with only minimal staging and no technical elements, such as props and light cues.

The Kennedy Center will provide round-trip travel to and from Washington, D.C. for the playwright, director, and composer (if the project is a musical or opera), and housing within walking distance of the Kennedy Center. Creative Team members are responsible for their own meals and incidentals, as well as their own transportation to and from the airport in Washington, D.C.

Please note that the U.S. application for New Visions/New Voices is only available online. The application can be found at https://newvisionsnewvoices.submittable.com/submit/80650/new-visions-new-voices-2018-application-form. The application deadline is July 28, 2017. Registration for the culminating showcase at the Kennedy Center April 27–29, 2018 will open in early 2018.