



PERFORMING ARTS READINESS

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The Art of Mass Gatherings for Performing Arts *Festivals as Classrooms for Emergency Preparedness* 2020-22 Host Organization Interest Form – Background Information

The Performing Arts Readiness (PAR) project is looking for seven hosts for a day-long symposium around emergency preparedness for festivals and other outdoor events featuring the performing arts, including live music, dance, etc. The symposia would occur before, during, and after your event, using your event as a means to teach up to 50 participants. PAR will provide financial support for the symposia. Additional information is provided below.

The PAR project, funded by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, seeks to improve emergency preparedness among performing arts organizations through advocacy and outreach. The national PAR team works to raise awareness, increase resources, and provide training that addresses the unique needs of the performing arts industry. PAR also is developing tools to assist with planning and advocacy and is providing grants to support emergency response networks and develop institutional preparedness plans. As part of this project, PAR is working with Majestic Collaborations (MC) as an emergency preparedness consultancy to develop a curriculum and coordinate a series of symposia for the performing arts industry. Collaboration between the symposium sponsors and host organization will allow each host to highlight their approach and expertise, and the event curriculum will be dynamic with relevance to individuals, organizations, and businesses interested in the topics below (hosts may select some topics to suit their anticipated audience):

- Life safety, health, and public welfare
- Event waste reduction and management as part of emergency preparedness
- Cultural placekeeping
- Climate change resilience
- Legal concerns and emergency plans
- Mental and physical health first aid
- Crowd management
- Entertainment and emergency systems (waste, water, weather, power, interactive content/innovative audience communications to enhance safety)
- Enhancing accessibility - physical and other
- Transportation and tactical urbanism
- Harm reduction, gender safety, and trauma-informed practices
- Emergency planning for non-traditional venues, and immersive events



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Gatherings like festivals, concerts, and other special events are simultaneously powerful and vulnerable. Embracing a whole community approach to safety and preparedness means helping event producers master the art of mass gatherings. The symposia feature indoor panels, presentations, and learning tours through the hosting festival led by recognized experts. PAR and MC staff work directly with local agencies, businesses, and organizations to co-develop a symposium that is intended to be locally relevant while attracting thinkers and doers who may travel in from other locales.

Seven performing arts festivals will be selected to host a day-long symposium, free of charge for up to 50 attendees. PAR will provide:

- Symposium registration, set-up, presentation, and clean-up
- Curriculum Framework
- Food and beverages for all attendees.
- 4 visiting presenters/experts
- An honorarium for culture bearers for a Native Land Recognition and translation support when needed.

Expectations from Host:

- Facility for hosting portions of the symposium indoors that can accommodate 50 seated participants.
- Contribution of two event security staff and one police or sheriff officer (diversity is appreciated) committed to AOMG on the day of the symposium, 8am-5pm
- Participation in phone conferences as needed for planning prior to the event
- Assistance in coordinating with key local partnerships and stakeholders to attend a ½ day planning meeting to occur approximately 6 months prior to the event. We will work collaboratively to generate the symposium's agenda, presenting line-up and ideas for integrating audience, creatives, and community into the AOMG activities



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Collaborators:

Tom Claeson – (Program Director | Performing Arts Readiness)

Tom.Claeson@lyrasis.org “There are myriad concerns that event producers need to consider; this experiential and immersive model is the first of its’ kind to use festivals as classrooms to activate an arts-focused approach to resilience. PAR has worked with [Majestic Collaborations](#) to convene a diverse cadre of experts in this surprisingly positive and inspiring roadshow of emergency and disaster preparedness. This is an opportunity for those skilled in mass gatherings to share knowledge, join networks, and prepare to assist their own communities if impacted by emergency, disaster, or long-term changes in climate.

Lisa Gedgudas (Denver Arts & Venues | Create Denver)

lisa.gedgudas@denvergov.org – “Denver Arts & Venues in partnership with Colorado Creative Industries, has hosted Matthew Ché Kowal with Majestic Collaborations since 2018 as an emergency preparedness consultant for Performing Arts Readiness. We were proud to collaborate and co-present the first [Art of Mass Gatherings](#) at the [2019 Denver PrideFest](#) and McNichols Civic Center Building, which included:

- [Entertainment and Emergency Electrics Workshop](#)
- [Disaster Plan and Clinic: Emergency Planning to Protect Life, Facilities, Events and Collections](#)
- A Colorado regional hub for resources and preparedness survey: [Arts & Cultural Network for Emergency Preparedness](#)

Working with Performing Arts Readiness has catalyzed the implementation of emergency and disaster planning locally and regionally, a goal of our [Denver Music Strategy](#).”



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**The Art of Mass Gatherings: Festivals as Classrooms for Emergency Preparedness
2020-22 Host Organization Interest Form**

If you want to host an AOMG symposium in your community and have a well-established event in which it could occur, please complete the following form. Submissions will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Thank you for your interest. Please complete and email a copy of this form to: Matthew Kowal matthew@majesticcollaborations.com and Tom Claeson Tom.Claeson@lyrasis.org

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Event: _____

Contact Person Name (Last, First) Title

Web Site Social Media

Primary phone number | Other phone number Email address

Please attach a brief description (about 2 pages) of your event for the items listed below. If information is publicly available, provision of relevant URLs will be acceptable in place of written descriptions.

- What emergency planning efforts do you currently have in place for your festival/event? Include key features of your event’s life-safety program and plan.
- List of key community partnerships, i.e. city or state agencies, emergency management, creatives, event producers, community groups and leaders in accessibility & sustainability, and programming with these organizations.
- Number of estimated event attendees and their demographics.
- Key features of accessibility and sustainability programs for your event.



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Questions? Feel free to contact Matthew Ché Kowal: (303) 351-2172 or matthew@majesticcollaborations.com. Majestic Collaborations and Performing Arts Readiness staff will schedule a conference call to discuss your organization's interest and the process for hosting once this form is received.

Please visit www.PerformingArtsReadiness.org for more information about the Performing Arts Readiness project and all of the emergency planning and network grants available through the program, or contact PAR@lyrasis.org with any questions.