

THE APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

Piccolo Spoleto was launched in 1979 by Mayor Joseph P. Riley, Jr. under the aegis of the City of Charleston Office of Cultural Affairs in a collaborative partnership with an engaged group of volunteers from the Charleston arts community. Decades later, this working group of arts professionals serving as volunteer program coordinators for the Piccolo Spoleto Festival now numbers nearly forty, with each coordinator specializing in a particular discipline, genre or period. These arts professionals devote significant time, energy, and expertise to help curate and plan the various series and presentations which comprise the Piccolo Spoleto Festival. Their input and guidance is essential to framing the comprehensive multi-disciplinary arts festival program that is produced and presented each year by the City of Charleston Office of Cultural Affairs.

When you submit your application for Piccolo Spoleto 2019 to the Office of Cultural Affairs, it will be registered, reviewed for completeness, and subsequently shared with an appropriate coordinator for consideration as part of a given series on the festival program. In the course of this review, coordinators may contact applicants to request clarifications or to discuss their proposals with them directly. Equally, the staff of the Office of Cultural Affairs might initiate contact with applicants during the review process in order to confirm details or logistical items.

Applicants should plan to be available to answer specific questions and, if recommended for the 2019 festival, enter into a contractual agreement for participation in the Festival during the first quarter of calendar year 2019. Announcement of Piccolo Spoleto's program is held until the second quarter as part of a coordinated marketing and publicity effort for the Festival in April/May/June.

Applicants may request to be a part of a particular series and may identify specific venues and performance dates in their proposals, although we do not guarantee we will be able to meet such requests. As such, no assumptions should be made about venue, performance schedule, or other specifics until a contract has been generated by the Office of Cultural Affairs.

Successful applicants for past Festivals have used the application process not only to present their credentials and performance history, but also to frame a compelling and clear proposal for their participation in Piccolo Spoleto. Before starting your application, we encourage you to review a past program guide for reference about the scale and nature of offerings at Piccolo Spoleto, and then to articulate specifically what you would propose for the 2019 Festival.

We utilize a variety of venues from theatres and galleries to churches and public parks, as well as local schools, restaurants, and coffee shops. We work with self-producing participants who need a performance space to secure a venue after an applicant has been recommended for inclusion in the festival.

Piccolo Spoleto performers are responsible for their own travel and lodging arrangements and all related expenses. Presentation fees can only be paid to artists following their performance, and producing companies should anticipate a turn-around time of fifteen (15) business days from the close of their engagement for agreeing a box office settlement, and then an additional twenty (20) business days for payment of net box office proceeds. Please anticipate these standard terms as you budget and plan for your proposed participation in the Piccolo Spoleto Festival.

[Contact culturalaffairs@charleston-sc.gov with questions.](mailto:culturalaffairs@charleston-sc.gov)