



Tips for Professional Development Program Applicants

Below are some tips to consider when filling out your application

- **Be specific.** The best applications contain information about how this opportunity will improve your craft and why the particular opportunity speaks to you as an individual artist. We want to know why *you* are applying to this opportunity *right now*. We want to hear about the ways in which you believe that this production, at this time in your career, with this mentor, will make an impact on your artistic life.
- **Articulate who you are.** The strongest applications are those that give us insight we cannot glean from a resume. We want to learn more about who you are through your application materials. Listing information already included in your resume or adding an overabundance of factual information or history about the mentor will weaken your application.
- **Proofreading is key.** Double check spelling and grammar. Ensure you have the correct mentor and opportunity names. Ask someone who you trust to give you honest feedback about your submission.
- **Application length.** You are welcome to use as much or as little of the word count as long as you can articulate what is being asked of you.
- **Follow the guidelines.** Make sure your resume does not exceed one page and you do not exceed the given word count for your answers. Be sure to check the formatting before uploading your PDF.
- **Update your resume EVERY time you apply.** You are asked to include your resume every time you apply—make sure it is up to date with your recent work and reflects your experience in direction and choreography.
- **Apply only to the opportunities you feel particularly passionate about.** Because there are many opportunities to apply for – and there will continue to be more cycles in the future – we encourage you to apply only to those opportunities for which you feel most excited and well suited. This will allow you to best use your time and effort on a particularly strong application.
- **Just because you were not chosen for a Professional Development Program opportunity does not mean your application was not strong.** We received over 250 applications during the first cycle of the 2022-2023 season, so we encourage you to continue applying to the opportunities you are interested in as each cycle opens up. Given the volume of applicants, we are not able to provide individual feedback at this time.