

**Kate Bollinger - Creative Writing  
Miller Arts Scholars  
Rising Fourth Year Grant Proposal**

Summer 2019 in Two Parts: A Space to Create & On the Road

With summer break fast approaching, I have high hopes of spending my time focusing entirely on music. School, work, and other involvements often have me expending energy that would ideally be put toward writing, recording, and playing shows; I am often daydreaming of time devoted solely to creating. For my Miller Arts rising fourth year grant, I am proposing a summer with less of these obstacles and therefore with more time to write, record, tour, and collaborate with other artists.

The past year has been really exciting for my music. In March of 2018, I released my first songs to Spotify: a two-song EP called "Dreams Before." Following that release, I uploaded a handful of singles to Spotify. Upon my return home from Lyon, where I studied for six weeks thanks to the Millers Arts Scholars program, I started to explore different songwriting techniques. In both French and English, I wrote songs collaboratively with my producer, singing and writing to his beats. This newfound writing technique provoked songs of a different, more R&B style that have transformed my sound. Teetering between my indie-folk roots and this newfound beats-oriented R&B, I found that my songs were resonating more with people in the streaming world. My most recent single, "Tests," with nearly half a million streams, was featured on multiple Spotify editorial playlists and landed me on *Atwood Magazine's* "Artists to Watch in 2019" list, as well as in *The New York Times* article "12 Pop, Rock and Jazz Concerts to Check Out in N.Y.C. This Weekend." My single, "do u go out together?" reached number 10 on the R&B charts in Switzerland and number 32 on the charts in Norway. This past winter break, my band and I played twice in New York City, the first night for Sofar Sounds NYC and the following night headlining in Queens. Since the recent releases, I have made a plethora of A&R connections and have landed a publishing deal. Later this month, I will be opening for Kendall Street Company at the Jefferson and recording an in-studio session for 106.1 The Corner. I am so eager to work more on my music and see where it goes this year.

The first part of my project will be the creation period. I will lease an apartment in Charlottesville for the second half of May, June and July. During this time, I will work a low maintenance part time job to afford food and utilities and will spend the remainder of my time writing songs, recording, playing shows locally, and collaborating with contacts I have made since the release of my latest single on Spotify.

The second part of my project will be on the road. I will play in various locations, mostly on the East Coast with my band. I plan on playing in New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and a handful of other states, depending in part on where the bulk of my listeners are located. Using my Spotify Artist statistics, I can see that I have 1.5k listeners in Los Angeles, 1.1k in New York City, 1.1k in San Francisco, 1k in Chicago, and so on. Knowing that these statistics could easily change upon the upcoming release of two singles in the coming months, I will plan the tour with them in mind.

After the tour, I will return home to Charlottesville to continue working on my music and pursuing any unforeseen musical opportunities that may come about before or during the tour. Given a free weekend, I am overcome with song idea after song idea, with little time to properly piece them together. It is tantalizing to imagine a whole summer devoted to carrying out these ideas and creating new

ones. With the help of Miller Arts, I know that my music would benefit and grow this summer in ways that I cannot even imagine.

### Timeline

May - July: Spend time writing and making music independently and with my producer, release singles and longer projects as they come about

End of July: leave for East coast tour

August: Return home, continue to write, work on music, and pursue any unforeseen musical opportunities that may arise during the tour

Tour plan (in chronological order - locations subject to change + some may be added depending on fanbase and reaction to released music)

First, my band and I will drive to New York City, where the tour will commence.

- New York City, NY: 3 nights
- Philadelphia, PA: 2 nights
- Washington, D.C.: 2 night(s)
- Harrisonburg, VA: 1 night
- Charlottesville, VA: 1 night
- Richmond, VA: 1 night
- Potentially play shows in NC and SC: 3 nights
- Return to Charlottesville

### Budget

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| Rent: 2 months (June and July) -- \$700/month | \$1,400 total  |
| Gas mileage on tour:                          | \$250 total    |
| Lodging and necessities on tour:              | \$350 total    |
| <b>Total</b>                                  | <b>\$3,000</b> |