

Jakob H. Cansler

Artists Minigrant Application - Spring 2020 (ADDENDUM)

Given the current state of COVID-19 and its spread across the globe, many countries have issued strict travel restrictions. As a result of this, I don't even know the state of my study abroad in Singapore. In addition, many theatre performances have been cancelled for the next month or so in order to prevent community spread of the virus. There is always a possibility that the situation will improve by the time I need to use this minigrant, but seeing as it is unlikely, I have decided to propose a back-up plan for how I would use my minigrant if I cannot use it for its original purposes.

In a similar vein to, and for the same reasons as listed in, my original proposal, I would like to use this minigrant to see theatre. So, if I can't use this minigrant to see theatre in Singapore and Australia, I would like to use the full \$500 to see theatre productions in the US this summer. Obviously, because of the virus, it is impossible to make plans to go to a specific city to see these productions or even pick specific shows to see, but hopefully the virus will have been mitigated enough by this summer that I could use the minigrant to see theatre in New York City or Washington, DC. Below, I have outlined my proposed plan to see five theatrical productions in NYC this summer. However, I should note that as the current situation changes, the timeline and exact details may change.

Thank you for being understanding and allowing me to submit this addition in light of this situation.

Budget

Item	Cost	Details and More Info
Show Tickets		
Hangmen	\$60	https://hangmenbroadway.com/
Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?	\$50	https://virginiawoolfonbroadway.com/
West Side Story	\$80	https://westsidestorybway.com/
To Kill a Mockingbird	\$50	https://tokillamockingbirdbroadway.com/
Moulin Rouge	\$100	https://moulinrougemusical.com/new-york/home/
Subtotal	\$340	
Lodging (4 nights)	\$300	
Food	\$200	
Travel		
Train Ticket (Round-Trip)	\$122	Amtrak - Charlottesville to NYC
Subway tickets	\$25	
Subtotal	\$147	
Total*	\$983	

Anticipated Income		
Miller Arts Scholar Minigrant	\$500	
Remaining Cost*	\$483	

*Because the total cost is greater than this minigrant will cover, I intend to use personal funds to cover the remaining cost.

Back-Up Timeline

May/June 2020

- Book train and show tickets for July

July 15th (Wednesday)

- Take train from Charlottesville to New York City
- See show #1

July 16th (Thursday)

- See show #2

July 17th (Friday)

- See show #3

July 18th (Saturday)

- See show #4 (matinee)
- See show #5 (night)

July 19th (Sunday)

- Return to Charlottesville by train

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A Study in Singaporean and Australian Theatre

For the past three years, I have been studying and practicing theatrical directing. So far at UVA, I have taken Directing I and Directing II. I have directed productions of *A View from the Bridge* for Spectrum Theatre and *Constellations* for Virginia Players, as well as staged reading of *Collected Stories* for Spectrum Theatre. I have also assistant directed for Heritage Theatre Festival and for the Department of Drama.

Now, I would like to continue my studies of theatre directing this semester. Unfortunately, I am unable to take on a new project since I am currently studying abroad at Yale-NUS College in Singapore. However, because I am literally halfway around the world, I have access to many theatrical productions that I would not have access to in Virginia (and for a much cheaper price). In that vein, I am proposing to use the Artist's Minigrant provided by Miller Arts Scholars to see five theatrical productions in both Singapore and Australia in April and May, respectively.

Project Description

My intention for this project will be to see two shows in Singapore, where I am currently studying, and three shows in Australia, where I plan on travelling to in May. I believe that seeing these productions will give me a good insight into the differences between professional Singaporean theatre and more Western shows, like the ones in Australia. For the productions in Singapore, I specifically chose original works by playwrights from Southeast Asia in order to gain a new perspective on theatrical storytelling. Both are by Singaporean theatre companies and therefore should give me an idea about how theatrical directing and storytelling techniques in a culture that is very different from mine. While Singapore is a modern country, its arts are rooted in Chinese and Malaysian culture, rather than European culture, like I am used to, so original Singaporean theatre will give me a new perspective on theatre that is not available in the US. Then, I plan on seeing three productions in Australia which are more Western in nature, but nevertheless will help me study directing techniques used in professional theatre. Australia has a rapidly growing theatre industry, particularly in Sydney and Melbourne, where I plan on seeing these productions. These shows will help me see the directing techniques that I have been learning about used in action.

In conclusion, I believe that this project will give me a better understanding of the different kinds of professional theatre in two different cultures. Once I have seen all five productions, I'll be able to compare different directing and storytelling techniques and see which ones I found the most effective. I'll also be able to reflect on how Singaporean theatre differed from Western theatre and how those differences affect the production. Then, as I embark on new projects my fourth-year, I'll be able to apply these techniques to my own projects.

Budget

All prices have already been converted to US Dollars.

Item	Cost	Details and More Info
Show Tickets		
<i>Punggah</i>	\$15	Price of a student ticket.
<i>Grandmother Tongue</i>	\$28.73	
<i>Home, I'm Darling</i>	\$33.38	Price of "Under 30" ticket.
<i>Harry Potter and the Cursed Child, Parts 1 and 2</i>	\$86.79	
<i>Six</i>	\$53.08	
Subtotal	\$216.98	
Lodging in Australia	~\$150	I plan on staying in youth hostels, which is why this price may seem low.
Food (while traveling)	~\$150	
Travel		
Flights	\$350	Here is a sample itinerary .
Transportation in Australia	~\$40	
Subtotal	\$390	
Total	\$906.98	
Anticipated Income		
Miller Arts Scholar Minigrant	\$500	
Remaining Cost	\$406.98*	

*Since the overall cost exceeds \$500, I plan on using the full amount of the minigrant to pay for show tickets and to help curb the cost of flights. All other expenses will come from my own personal funds. That being said, this experience would be impossible without the financial support of the Miller Arts Scholars.

Timeline

March

- Purchase airline tickets, show tickets, and hostel bookings
- Complete requirements of the International Studies Office for travelling abroad for research

April 9 (Thur.)

- Attend performance of *Grandmother Tongue*

April 16 (Thur.)

- Attend performance of *Punggah*

May 5 (Tue.)

- Fly from Singapore to Sydney

May 6 (Wed.)

- Attend performance of *Home, I'm Darling*

May 7 (Thur.)

- Fly from Sydney to Melbourne
- Attend Part 1 of *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*

May 8 (Fri.)

- Attend Part 2 of *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*

May 9 (Sat.)

- Attend performance of *Six*

May 10 (Sun.)

- Fly from Melbourne to Singapore