

Mary Hall
Miller Arts Scholars Minigrant Proposal
Spring 2024

Building an Actor's Presence & Professionalism

Project Summary

As I continue to market myself as an actor and playwright, in addition to beginning to look at applying to MFA programs in the next year, I'm beginning to understand the importance of having all of my best work in a publicly available forum: a personal website.

A personal website is crucial to building an online presence, especially in the entertainment industry. So, as I continue to update my resume with projects that I both lead, write, and act in, I want to put those on a larger portfolio style website. This would also give me the opportunity to connect with professionals in the film and theatre industries beyond forums such as LinkedIn. Therefore, I would hope to use this spring minigrant to create a website using Wix, due to its fully customizable features and reasonable price point, so I can create a public portfolio that truly captures who I am as a person, activist, and artist.

At the time I'm writing this, Wix is having a 50% off sale for premium plans. It is said that Wix holds these promotions semi-frequently, so I would be able to purchase this website with the domain of MaryLoganHall.com for one to three years. If I were to receive the minigrant in time to use this active promotion, I would be able to pay for three years of website maintenance for only \$30 more than the original one year price. This would be \$378 for three years versus \$348 for only one year. I'd like to take advantage of this opportunity if at all possible, but am also more than happy to have funding for one year to start off.

Furthermore, in terms of building professionalism, I'd like to propose using mini grant funding towards purchasing the full version of FadeIn, a scriptwriting software recommended by Doug Grissom. The free version has been tremendously helpful for writing plays and getting my visions on the page. However, as I continue to write and consider sending in plays for contests, festivals, and graduate schools, I'd like to upgrade my software. Purchasing the full version will remove the watermark and give me access to the full array of tools, plus free updates. This will ultimately give my scripts a polished look that will be attractive to readers and graduate school admissions boards.

Finally, I'd like to use the remaining funds to purchase a subscription to Backstage. This will allow me to seek audition and casting opportunities in various cities around the United States, including those in which I plan on applying to graduate school (i.e. New York City, Boston, Chicago, and Los Angeles, among others.) Having access to these materials will be monumental in aiding my career in the dramatic arts.

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With the assistance of a Miller Arts Scholars minigrant, I'll be able to further increase my professionalism and therefore broaden my opportunities as an actor and artist. I am beyond grateful for this potential opportunity, and thank you so much for your consideration!

Budget

<u>Expense</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Wix Premium Core Plan	Fully customizable website builder with free domain for 1 year, second tier plan (1-3 year subscription)	\$348-378
FadeIn Full Version	Full version of playwriting software (no time limit)	\$79.95
Backstage Subscription	1 year subscription	\$83.45

Total: \$511.40 - \$541.40*

*Note: I am aware that the minigrant only covers up to \$500. The additional \$11.40-41.40 will be covered out of pocket by me.

Timeline:

Mid-to-Late March:

- Purchase Wix plan, domain name, and procure materials to set up website
- Purchase FadeIn

Early April:

- Purchase Backstage Subscription

Mid-to-Late April:

- Finish development of website and launch
- Submit to casting calls around the U.S.