Supplemental Materials for Performing Artists
What are Supplemental Materials?

• **Work Samples** - (primary) video of live performance, (secondary) film stills or photographs of performance

• **Support Materials** – Not examples of artwork or performances, rather documents that support your experience such as letters of recommendation, critical reviews, printed programs, etc.
Uses for documentation

• Professional documentation of your work can be used for many things:
  ✓ Marketing
  ✓ Personal/Professional archives
  ✓ CV/Resume
  ✓ Auditions
  ✓ Employment
  ✓ Teaching roles
  ✓ Grant and fellowship applications
Work Samples – Performing Artists

• **Videos** – Having video documentation of your work is critical.
  – Live, professionally shot performances are ideal, but if unavailable, dress rehearsals are acceptable.
  – If union contracts prevent filming of live performances, get creative and film a monologue OR create a video that includes still photographs of live performances with an audio performance of a monologue.

• **Photographs** – Photos are great as additional work samples but should never take the place of video documentation
  – Professional headshots
  – Professional live performance photographs

• Never submit student work or unfinished/unpolished work*
• Always include an appropriate description
• Start with strongest video examples followed by a few photographs

* See the Arts Council’s Artist Resources Blog Vendors List to learn about videographers and photographers who can help document your work.
Work Samples - Actors

- A headshot is NOT a work sample.
- Video of performance is essential. Still photos will not suffice.
- Show range while keeping focus – within the last 3 years is best.
- Adequate descriptions if submitting still photos or individual video excerpts.

Tip: You can create a video that shows brief clips from past performances along with narration or an interview with you talking about your career, a past show, etc.
Work Samples: Musicians

- Audio files of studio recordings are preferred
- Audio files of live recordings are acceptable
- Video samples of live performances are acceptable
- Video of performance rehearsal are acceptable
- Samples of solo work is critical if musician is part of a band or orchestra but is applying for individual funding
- Show variety and range including contrasting styles without losing focus.
- Adequate descriptions: soloist, composer, vocalist, etc.

Suggestion: If high quality video of performance is not available, create a slideshow of performance stills with a background of the vocal/musical accompaniment.

* See the Arts Council’s Artist Blog for references to local studios that can record your music
Technology requirements

• Each grant or application will have its own requirements so you will need to be flexible and make sure you can submit within stated guidelines

• Having options available in multiple file types and media is always helpful
Support Materials

Should be recent (within 3-5 years or as specified by the guidelines)

• Critical reviews
• Feature stories about you and your work
• Letters of support
• Brochures, postcards, programs, etc.
Tips for a successful grant proposal.

• FOCUS!
• Know your audience.
• Know the process of the review panel.
• Ask how the panel will view the submissions.
• Supplemental materials are not a last minute task.
• Turn in two weeks early if possible.
• Read the guidelines – if unclear, call and ask.
• Label all materials (don’t include anything you need back)
• Test your links, CD and/or DVD on multiple systems before you submit.
• If you don’t receive the grant, talk to the organization and apply again next time. The panel likely changes each round as does the pool of applicants.
For more information, contact us at artistservices@indyarts.org

www.indyarts.org