



What is the NEA Musical Theater Songwriting Challenge?

The Seattle Office of Arts & Culture (ARTS) and The 5th Avenue Theatre are partnering with the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) for the Seattle **NEA Musical Theater Songwriting Challenge** for 2016. The contest is for all high school (grades 9-12) students in King County and will focus on musical theater composition that includes both music and lyrics.

The Seattle Office of Arts & Culture (ARTS) and 5th Avenue Theatre are partnering with the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) for the Seattle pilot program of the inaugural NEA Musical Theater Songwriting Challenge for 2016. In celebration of its [50th anniversary](#) the [NEA](#) and Playbill, Inc., are joining forces with support from Disney Theatrical Group to highlight and nurture the next generation of songwriting talent with the Musical Theater Songwriting Challenge. The pilot program is available to high school students residing in Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN; Dallas County, TX; and Seattle and King County, WA

Contest winners from each of these locations will travel with chaperones to New York City in July 2016 to participate in a program of artist workshops, recording sessions with professional musicians and performances of the selected works. The national winner will receive a \$5,000 scholarship award, and each national runner-up will receive \$2,500. Scholarships are provided by the National Music Publishers' Association Supporting Our Next Generation of Songwriters (S.O.N.G.S.) Foundation. In addition, the national winner's song will be published by Sony/ATV.

Submissions may be written in any style or genre, including but not limited to rock, electronic/pop, soul, folk, punk, rap, jazz and opera. To honor our rich tradition of songwriting collaborations, two students may apply as a songwriting team, or one student may create both the lyrics/backstory and the music.

Application

Online application **opens February 17** at <https://www.5thavenue.org/education/youth#nea-songwriting-challenge> or at www.arts.gov/songwriting.

Deadline

11 p.m., Monday, April 4, 2016 (Pacific Standard Time)

Workshops

Workshops are available with local professionals on writing narrative music and lyrics for the stage. Attendees will be taught classic effective songwriting techniques and creative best practices, and will be given active feedback on in-progress works.

Workshop dates

- Tuesday, March 1, 2016, 4 – 6 p.m.
5th Avenue Theatre
1308 5th Ave, Seattle, WA 98101
- Tuesday, March 8, 2016; 4 – 6 p.m.
Langston Hughes Performing Arts Institute
104 17th Ave S, Seattle, WA 98144
- Tuesday, March 15, 2016; 4 – 6 p.m.
Kentridge High School
12430 SE 208th St, Kent, WA 98031
- Tuesday, March 22, 2016; 4 – 6 p.m.
Ingraham High School
1819 N 135th St, Seattle, WA 98133

Eligibility

- All students in grades 9-12 attending high school in King County are eligible. This includes public, private, homeschool, post-secondary enrollment options, and charter school students
- All applicants must be citizens or permanent residents of the United States.
- If under 18, applicants must have permission from their parent or guardian by providing their parent or legal guardian's email, phone number, and address.
- Relatives of those working for the NEA, local partners and national partners (Playbill, Inc. and Disney Theatrical Group) or affiliated contractors and sponsors may not compete past the local/state level.