

2026 Risk/Reward Festival - "EVERYTHING ELSE" APPLICATION (installation, durational, site-specific)

PLEASE NOTE: THIS APPLICATION IS FOR PROPOSALS THAT DO NOT FIT WITHIN OUR FESTIVAL MAINSTAGE.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO APPLY TO THE MAINSTAGE, PLEASE SEE OUR WEBSITE, HERE:

<https://risk-reward.org/event/1554/>

* Indicates required question

1. Email *

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

2026 RISK/REWARD FESTIVAL OF NEW PERFORMANCE

JUNE 11th-14th, 2026 in PORTLAND, OREGON, USA

Applications open: Friday, January 2nd, 2026

Applications close: Saturday, January 31st, 2026, at 10:00pm

Risk/Reward

is soliciting proposals for performative installations, site-specific work, and other non-traditional pieces to be featured in our 2026 Festival of New Performance.

In addition to works presented in the Annex Theatre at the Portland Institute for Contemporary Arts (PICA), we also plan to produce 2 to 4 pieces in PICA's large warehouse space, resource room, or patio. More information on the non-theatrical spaces at PICA can be found at their [rentals page](#).

The festival is dedicated to the presentation of new work that pushes the boundaries of the contemporary performance arts. Preference is given to:

- works that are currently in development or that have not been produced fully in the past in Portland, OR
- pieces that doesn't fit neatly into other, genre-specific festivals or presentations
- local (Portland) and regional (Pacific Northwest) performance groups

All works must be appropriate for production as part of a festival and include some element of performance, whether that be live, reactive, or interactive. Risk/Reward will provide as much technical support, equipment, and expertise as we are able; however, the burden of technical execution will fall to the artist. Artists will receive a stipend.

Any

artist may apply, although preference will be given to artists residing in WA, OR, CA, ID, MT, and AK. We cannot assist with any international performance visas at this time; applicants will need to be able to legally show work in the United States.

Applicants will be notified in mid-March. More information about the Festival and past iterations can be found on our [website](#) and [YouTube channel](#).

To ensure that your application is as competitive as it can be, we strongly suggest that you:

- Include work samples of past completed work as well as materials related to your proposed work.
- Include biographical information and a work sample from all key collaborators. (If key collaborators are TBD, indicate the roles you are hoping to

fill.)

- If you have not attended the festival in past years, browse the Risk/Reward [blog archives](#) and [YouTube](#) for a sample of the artists and projects we've supported, as well as the information in our [Mission](#).

If selected, the information you provide may be used for marketing purposes.

Questions: Contact our staff - info@risk-reward.org

*****THIS FORM MUST BE COMPLETED IN ONE SESSION.**

MAKE SURE TO FILL OUT ALL REQUIRED FIELDS BEFORE PUSHING SUBMIT. (Otherwise, it may not save your responses.)

YOU MAY DOWNLOAD A REFERENCE COPY OF THIS FORM FOR EDITING OFFLINE AT:
(link to be added)

CONTACT INFORMATION

2. ARTIST / GROUP NAME: *

3. CONTACT PERSON: *

4. CONTACT MAILING ADDRESS: *

5. CONTACT PHONE: *

6. CONTACT EMAIL: *

PROJECT SUMMARY

7. TITLE: *

8. GENRE(S): *

How do you describe the artistic practice of this piece? i.e. dance, music, theatre, visual art, installation, clown, film literature performance art, comedy, puppetry, drag, multimedia, improv, vogue, etc.

Feel free to use multiple descriptors, i.e. physical drag comedy, or dance/film/multimedia, or theatre/puppetry/animation/video, etc. This is to help us contextualize your proposal, not to put you in a box.

9. SHORT DESCRIPTION: *

Please describe the project in a short summary of 50 words or less. This section may be used for marketing purposes.

10. LENGTH (however that is applicable): *

11. NUMBER OF PERFORMERS (if applicable): *

12. HAS THIS WORK BEEN PRESENTED ELSEWHERE? *

If so, where and when?

13. IS IT BEING CONSIDERED FOR ANY OTHER PRESENTATIONS OR PERFORMANCES? *

If so, where and when?

14. COMMITMENTS AND CONFLICTS: *

Please list any major schedule commitments/conflicts in the range of June 1st to June 22nd of 2026

15. KEY COLLABORATORS: *

Please list all key collaborators including yourself – first and last name, role/position (e.g. composer, video artist, set designer, dancer)

PROJECT DETAILS

16. PROJECT NARRATIVE: *

Please provide a clear description of the proposed project and how your participation in the festival would affect the development of this project.

- How do you envision the project?
- How will it look and feel to an audience?
- How will this work fit within a festival context?
- What are your artistic goals with this project?
- What do you hope to gain by participating in the Risk/Reward Festival?

Be concise and specific. Along with Work Samples, the Project Narrative is the most heavily weighted part of your application.

SUGGESTED WORD COUNT: 300 - 500 words

17. BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION: *

Please include short biographies of the key artists/groups/collaborators.

Please keep the TOTAL word count of this section under 500 words, if possible. Links to websites and/or press is welcome.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS:

The following section includes questions about the physical and technical format of your piece, to the best of your current knowledge.

This application is for pieces intended for the Warehouse or other spaces around PICA. To propose a Festival Mainstage piece, please use the other application on our website: <https://risk-reward.org/event/1554/>

For more information on the other spaces around PICA, please refer to pica.org/rentals.

PLEASE NOTE: All proposals must contain some element of live performance or reference performance.

Because

of the open-ended nature of this call for proposals, it is difficult for us to provide specifications for what equipment, expertise, and assistance we can provide. That said, we will generally be able to provide some theatrical lighting, amplified sound, and video projection equipment. Scenic elements may be able to be hung from the ceiling of the Warehouse space (no humans, though, sorry). We will work with pieces that are selected to ensure that their plans are executable with the resources available, but **the burden of technical execution must fall to the artist**. Please get in touch if you have questions: info@risk-reward.org.

18. VENUE / FORMAT:

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In the simplest terms possible, please outline where your piece will take place in the Festival and how an audience will experience it.

19. Are you working with any designers (e.g. lighting, video, etc)? If so, are they planning on being present at the Festival?

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20. Do you need any specific equipment, specific stage lay-outs or set-ups, or any particular physical elements for your piece? If so, please describe them.

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21. Are you planning on making a mess? Any food? Does your piece have extensive clean-up, strike, or set-up requirements? *

Do you plan to utilize fire, glitter, or children? (These are insurance / venue-rental flags. They are not immediately disqualifying.)

22. Does your piece rely on being at a specific time in the program? (e.g. only after dark, before 7am, etc.) *

23. Do you have any special technical requests or needs not covered by these other questions? *

WORK SAMPLES:

24. PRIMARY WORK SAMPLES: *

Please include: Link to Vimeo or YouTube, with any applicable password.

For each sample please provide:

- 1) Title/Date/Location of work sample.
- 2) A brief description of each clip/track.

You may include up to 5 minutes of video with your submission. Include a timestamp to start/stop at if you'd like us to view a section of a longer video.

See below for more information on what we're looking for. While video is ideal for primary work samples, if it is not applicable to your proposal, please feel free to submit what you do have that will give R/R the best possible sense for what your proposal is about.

25. OPTIONAL SUPPLEMENTAL WORK SAMPLES:

Provide web links to audio files, sketches, text/script of proposed project. Please include time codes for each sample. Depending on the length of work samples, if applicable; we may only spend one or two minutes reviewing this material.

For each sample please provide:

- 1) Title/Date/Location of work sample.
- 2) A brief description of each work sample.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT WORK SAMPLES

The work sample that is included with your application should be a thoughtful representation of your past work, both individually and collaboratively, if applicable. Be sure to choose documentation that best spotlights your work in the context of what you are proposing for the festival. A rough sample of both the proposed work and completed past work is typically very helpful in assessing your application.

If

your proposal includes multiple collaborators coming together specifically for this project, you may include one work sample per collaborator. If it is a group that has worked together before, a work sample of your past joint efforts is preferred.

We are looking for up to 5 minutes of high quality primary work samples.

Please provide a time code for longer videos, as we have a limited amount of time to review each application. Providing clear instructions for exactly what you would like reviewed is the best way to help ensure your samples are reviewed fully. It is often very difficult for us to assess applications with no visual representation of past or proposed work. Links to Vimeo or YouTube tend to work best.

We may not get to all of the work

samples provided, so think about what is most important for the panel to review and arrange things in order accordingly. **Along with your Project Narrative, Work Samples are typically the most heavily weighted portions of the application.**

If

you have any questions or difficulties in presenting links, videos, images, or setting time-stamps, please reach out at info@risk-reward.org.

DEMOGRAPHICS / FEEDBACK

These questions are important for us to know who we're reaching, and also as we seek support from government grants and foundations.

26. Age(s) of Artist(s):

27. Ethnicity & Race

Please self-identify, include all artists in proposal

28. Gender Identity -

Please self-identify, include all artists in proposal

29. Do you have any accessibility requirements you would like for us to be aware of?

30. How did you find out about Risk/Reward and our 2026 Festival?

31. How long did it take you to prepare your application materials? Is there anything on our end that would've made it easier for you to complete?

32. Anything else? THANK YOU FOR APPLYING!

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