

YAC Summer 2025 Call for Submissions

Blindspot Collective, a theatre company in San Diego dedicated to radically inclusive new work and diverse emerging artists, seeks original, new musicals to be produced in Summer 2025 in conjunction with UCSD Art Power and our Young Artist Collective.

This project aims to expand the musical theatre canon by supporting the development of musicals that uplift historically excluded or marginalized voices and communities. Specifically, we wish to support the production of musicals that meet the needs of contemporary high school and collegiate programs by exploring meaningful themes, flexible casting, age-appropriate characters, and strong ensemble involvement. One musical will be selected to be presented by the Young Artist Collective, an ensemble of young performers ages 15-25 that provides hands-on professional experience to emerging artists. In 2024, Blindspot piloted this program produced *Chasing Fear* with music by composer Truth Future Bachman at UCSD's Epstein Amphitheatre.

Blindspot Collective seeks new full-length musical submissions that meet the following criteria:

- Has not been professionally produced
- Must include a large, engaged ensemble
- The majority of characters should be between the ages of 15 and 25
- Flexible casting that allows for some variation of ethnicity and gender (where feasible) as well as key adjustments as needed to support trans or non-binary performers
- Must be an original story and music or have copyright clearances secured

In addition to the criteria above we recommend the following:

- Subject matter should be PG or PG-13 (e.g. some cursing and mature themes are acceptable but there should be no nudity or excessive profanity)
- Themes and technical requirements should be approachable and feasible within the budgets of typical academic programs
- Narratives and characters that challenge expectations or exist outside dominant culture will be favored

One musical will be workshopped and then produced as part of the 2025 Young Artist Collective. It will receive a staged production at the Epstein Family Amphitheater on the campus of UCSD in August 2025. The writer or writing team whose work is selected will also receive an honorarium of \$2,000. Blindspot Collective and the project's creative team will provide dramaturgical support and the selected writer or writing team must be open to considering feedback and revisions. However, the writers retain total ownership of the work and are not required to make changes. A director, music director, choreographer, creative team and performers will be selected by Blindspot Collective with input from the writers as desired. Due to the scope of the project, it is anticipated that the creative team must be local to San Diego. Writers and composers are not expected to be physically present at rehearsals (but may choose to do so). **While a license to use the work for the exclusive purposes of this program will**

be granted to Blindspot Collective, artists retain sole ownership and copyright of their original work.

To apply for this opportunity, please provide the following:

- A cover page with your name, phone number, and email address
- A resume (please include a resume for each artist if submitting as a writing team)
- Demo or scratch recordings of 3 songs
- A synopsis or plot summary that is no more than 2 pages
- A character breakdown

Please note: you will not be assessed based on the quality of the song recordings. We encourage you to keep it simple. A recording of the composer singing while playing piano that was captured with a phone is absolutely acceptable.

Application Timeline

- Complete applications must be submitted by **6pm on Sunday, February 8, 2025**.
- Select applicants will be asked to submit additional materials including sheet music and a draft of the script or libretto by February 21st.
- Interviews with all finalists will be scheduled in March so that a final selection may be announced by April 2025. Because each show and writing team will have specific skills and challenges, additional developmental support will be determined based on the needs of the selected project. Additional readings, script development, and orchestration support may be available based on the unique collaboration that emerges.

All questions and submissions should be sent to submissions@blindspotcollective.org

As an organization, Blindspot Collective is committed to radical inclusivity. As our name suggests, we prioritize the experience and perspective of underrepresented communities and individuals that have been historically excluded -- including people of color, immigrants, women, and individuals with disabilities. Therefore we strongly encourage submissions written by or featuring characters who are members of these or other marginalized communities.