



2026 MEDAL Program Application

ASI's MEDAL (Molding Executives and Directors into Arts Leaders) program is forging the next generation of WNY arts leaders.

This six (6) month training program will offer participants, known as MEDALists, monthly workshops and presentations, along with resources, networking, and mentorship opportunities related to managing nonprofit arts or culture organizations.

This program is uniquely designed to support administrative leaders at nonprofit arts and culture organizations. The topics that will be presented are focused on the administrative and management aspects of running a nonprofit and not the artistic or creative areas. Selected participants will represent a wide range of backgrounds, perspectives, experiences, and geographic locations.

PLEASE READ BEFORE BEGINNING YOUR APPLICATION

Applicants must meet all of the following criteria to be considered for this program:

- Must be in an executive-level leadership* role.
- Must be employed at a nonprofit arts or culture organization.
- Must be based in Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, or Niagara counties or the Native nations that share this geography.
- Must be able to commit to participating in person for all of the listed program dates.
- Cannot be a board member, volunteer, or independent contractor of the organization.

**For the purposes of this program, we consider leadership positions any director-level administrative position, including CEO, Executive Director, Managing Director, Operations Director, etc. Depending on the size and structure of your organization, positions with the title of "manager" may also be considered.*

Preference will be given to applicants who demonstrate a desire to continue in their nonprofit arts/culture leadership work and who have an innate desire to learn and grow. Applicants should demonstrate strong personal initiative and motivation, and the ability to work well on teams that include varying viewpoints.

Participation in the program requires approximately 35 hours of commitment over a six-month period.

Sessions will be held the third Thursday of the month between April and September of 2026.

A cohort of 10 to 12 individuals will be selected to participate. Selected participants will be expected to attend every session.

This application will take approximately 20 minutes and consists of contact information, organization information, two narrative questions, resume/CV upload, optional demographic questions, and an attendance policy agreement.

Contact and Organization Information

Name *

First Name

Last Name

Preferred Name

Preferred Pronouns

Email *

example@example.com

Cell Phone Number *

Please enter a valid phone number.

Business Phone Number

Please enter a valid phone number.

Organization Name *

Title or Position *

What year did you start in your position?

Organization Address *

Street Address

Street Address Line 2

Organization County / Region *

Allegany

Cattaraugus

Chautauqua

Erie

Niagara

Seneca Nation

Tonawanda Seneca Nation

Tuscarora Nation

Application and Resume

Please let us know a little more about why you want to participate in this program. These answers will help the review panel make the difficult decision about who will be accepted into the 2026 cohort.

Why are you interested in participating in the MEDAL Program? *

0/5000

What are you hoping to gain from the MEDAL Program? *

0/5000

Demographic Information (optional)

Please note that your answers to these questions will not be used in the consideration of your application. ASI firmly believes that the arts belong to everyone and everyone should have access to our resources. This data will help us learn who we are not currently reaching and discover how we can support all members of the WNY arts community in the future. We do not share or sell anyone's personal information. If you have any questions or would to learn more about how we use your information, please contact Holly Grant at holly@asiwny.org.

Gender

- Female
- Male
- Non-binary
- Prefer not to answer
- Other

Age Range

- 18-30 years
- 31-40 years
- 41-50 years
- 51-60 years
- 60+ years
- Prefer not to answer

Which of the follow best reflects your race/ethnicity?

- African or Caribbean Descent
- Arab or Middle Eastern
- Asian or Pacific Islander
- Black or African American
- Hispanic or Latino/a/x
- Indigenous or First Nations
- White, Caucasian, or European American
- More than one race or ethnicity
- Prefer not to answer
- Other

Do you identify with any of the following populations?

- Immigrant or newly arrived
- LGBTQ+
- Person with a disability
- Neurodiverse
- Refugee
- Veteran

- None of the above
- Prefer not to answer
- Other

MEDAL Attendance Policy

This six-month program includes an extended orientation in April 2026 and five (5) program sessions (approximately six hours each).

Program dates:

- Thursday, April 16, 2026 from 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
- Thursday, May 21, 2026 from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm
- Thursday, June 18, 2026 from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm
- Thursday, July 16, 2026 from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm
- Thursday, August 20, 2026 from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm
- Thursday, September 17, 2026 from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

The success of this program depends on the full commitment of each participant to attend all program sessions, arrive on time, and participate fully. While we recognize that emergencies do arise, any unexcused absences may result in dismissal from the program.

Monthly session locations are chosen after program participants are selected to ensure equitable access to nearby venues. Since this program is open to leaders in the five (5) counties of WNY, there may be driving required to any of the five counties that our leaders come from. Reliable transportation and/or the ability and willingness to carpool is a must.

By submitting this application, I understand and agree to devote the time and resources necessary to complete the program. I understand that full participation is expected for all sessions and events.

I have read the above statement and I (and my employer, if applicable) am willing to make this commitment. *

Agree

Date *

Month Day Year