**Off-Leash Area's Off-Kilter Cabaret**
Program Description and Application Form
# SUBMISSIONS DUE FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2026

## INTRODUCTION

**About the Off-Kilter Cabaret**
**Off-Kilter** is Off-Leash Area's performance program designed to highlight and support artists with disabilities, and which makes space for and gives voice to artists with disabilities in the design and leadership of the program. The inaugural **Off-Kilter Cabaret** was produced in 2022. The Cabarets have featured original works of dance, puppetry, music, audio and film performance, theater, spoken word, stand-up comedy, and storytelling, and represented a wide diversity of voices within the disability community.

The 2027 Off-Kilter Cabaret theme is "Location! Location! Location!", and will be a 75-minute cabaret-style production presented for three performances at the Playwrights' Center on **February 26-28, 2027.**

**About Off-Leash Area**
**Off-Leash Area** is a Minneapolis-based dance and theater company with 27 years of creating original interdisciplinary performance works, including the Ivey Award winning ***Psst!***, and designing unique community programs. Off-Leash Area champions independent, diverse, and distinct voices in local performing arts, artist-creators of original works, and conducts its collaborations with integrity, respect, and a commitment to high quality production.

Throughout our history, Off-Leash Area has built strong, organic relationships within the disability community. From our most recent production with dancers who move with and without wheels, ***Swallowed By Sea***, to our collaboration with Blind Inc on the production, ***Now Eye See You Now Eye Don't,*** to having created a fully accessible venue with the Off-Leash Art Box, Off-Leash Area has put individuals and organizations among the disability community at the center of its creative and organizational work.

**COVID Policy & Precautions**
Audience will be required to wear masks as they are able at ONE of the performances TBD. KN95 masks will be available for the audience and artists at all performances.

**Off-Kilter Leadership Team**
Amy Salloway, Sam Jasmine, Gabriel Rodreick, and the Off-Leash Area co-artistic directors, Jennifer Ilse and Paul Herwig. 80% of the leadership team are persons with disabilities.

## PRODUCTION/PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

**2027 Off-Kilter Cabaret Theme**
Artists are asked to create a performance piece that is 5-10 minutes in length that speaks to the theme of this year's Off-Kilter Cabaret - "Location! Location! Location!".

When you think of seminal places in your life, what's the first memory that arises?
What happened there, or what do you hope will happen?

When you want to escape, do you prefer your imagination or your closet?
Do you have a connection to a specific place when you ate your favorite food, had a revealing conversation, or an uncomfortable date?

Where is your happy place? Where is your sad place?
Is it a bathroom? A rooftop? Another planet?

Where have you felt the most free? Most seen? Most inspired? Most enraged?

Where do you thrive and where do you struggle?

*These are just some ideas of how you could play with the theme "Location! Location! Location!", please feel free to run with your own interpretation and allow it to inspire your proposal!*

**Artist Proposals**
We are looking for live performances (not films), 5-10 minutes in length, original and unique, challenging and provoking. The Application consists of:

1. Contact/Biographical Form
2. Performance/Project Artistic & Technical Information
3. Accessibility Questionnaire
4. Work Sample Form
5. Resume Form

**Additional Information**
**ALL Artists must perform at all 3 evenings of the Off-Kilter Cabaret, and be in attendance for all the other artists' performances.** Please review the following to make sure you are available for these dates and times in the tech and performance schedule:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Wednesday February 24:** | Tech Rehearsal 2:00 – 10:00pm (45 min per artist/group)<br>*(Individual time slots TBD)* |
| **Thursday February 25:** | Tech Rehearsal 1:00 – 5:30 pm (45 min per artist/group)<br>*(Individual time slots TBD)*<br>Call, Dress Rehearsal, Notes 6:00 – 9:00pm** |
| **Friday February 26:** | Artist Call 6:00pm. Show 7:00 – 8:30pm** |
| **Saturday February 27:** | Artist Call 6:00pm. Show 7:00 – 8:30pm** |
| **Sunday February 28:** | Artist Call 1:00pm. Show 2:00 – 3:30pm** |

***Off-Leash Area and its project staff value creating community outside of and within the project. We expect all artists to attend the entirety of each performance to support their peers in the performance of their works.*

**Artist Selection**
The Off-Kilter Leadership Team will select the artists for the 2027 Off-Kilter Cabaret. Selected artists will be announced by **Friday, November 20, 2026**. Criteria that are considered include the quality/conceptual level and the uniqueness of the proposed work, and how it relates to the theme "Location! Location! Location!". The Leadership Team also strongly considers diversity in all its forms, including artistic genres and styles, past Off-Kilter artists and new Off-Kilter artists, abilities/disabilities, sensory experience for the audience (aural, non-verbal, visual), race and ethnicity, and LGBTQIA identity. There are also mentorship opportunities available!

If you have questions, thoughts, reservations, or needs at any point in the process from getting your application together to presenting your work on stage, we want to be in conversation with you to support your creative work. Please contact us! offleash@offleasharea.org or 612-724-7372

**Compensation for Artists**
Each Artist or Artist Group will be paid **$500** for their participation in Off-Kilter. Contract agreements will be distributed. A **Transportation Subsidy** will be available to participating artists.

**Photo and Video Documentation**
Each Artist will be provided with photos in .jpg format, and a video file of a single stationary camera documentary of their performance, both taken during Dress Rehearsal.

**Basic Logistic and Technical FAQ answers for the Off-Kilter Project:**

- There is Metro Mobility access to the Playwrights' Center and the Playwrights' Center is a fully accessible venue
- There will be ADA restroom access for performers, and there will be shared greenrooms for artists
- There will be Audio Description, ASL services, and captioning provided for the performances
- The Technical Director will contact each artist to work out your lighting, sound, and projection needs

**Off-Kilter Cabaret – ARTIST APPLICATION**

**Application information is preferred to be submitted as a Word doc (.docx). If you would like to provide information in another format, or would like assistance with this application, or have questions about anything, please contact us!**
**offleash@offleasharea.org**
**612-724-7372**

**Submissions due by Friday, October 23, 2026**
**Selected artists will be announced by Friday, November 20, 2026**

## 1. Contact/Biographical Form

A. Biographical & Contact Info

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Stage Name (if different) _____

Pronouns _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Indicate the best way to reach you, phone or email: _____

B. Diversity

Off-Leash Area and its Off-Kilter Advisory Team want to create a diverse line-up of performers and performances. To that end, please indicate to us the following biographical information:

Gender _____ Race/Ethnicity _____ Age _____

My disability can be described as _____

C. Confirmation of Availability

Are you available for ALL the dates and times below?* Yes _____ No _____
*(* general availability required on Wednesday, February 24 or Thursday, February 25)*

| | |
|---|---|
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# 2. Performance/Project

**A. Artistic Information**

1. Title or working title of piece to be performed is:

2. What is your primary art form/discipline?

3. What is/are your role/s in this piece? (singer, choreographer, writer, performer, etc.)

4. Please give us a brief 75-word description of the piece you're proposing. What exactly happens on stage? What will the audience experience be? Be as specific and concrete as possible.

5. How does the piece you're submitting relate to “Location! Location! Location!”, the theme of this year’s Off-Kilter Cabaret?

6. Is this piece new? If not, where has it been performed previously?

7. Are you interested in a mentorship for your project?

**B. Technical Information** *(answer as best you are able at this point)*

1. What are your very general lighting needs?

2. Will your piece include sound cues, and/or music? If yes, is it Pre-Recorded or Live?

3. Will you require amplification (microphone, monitor, mixer, etc)?

4. Will you require Projection/Video?

5. How many performers are on stage in your piece?

6. How long do you expect your piece to be? (pieces must be 5-10 minutes in length)

7. Describe any specific technical access or assistance needs you and/or your team require to execute your Performance/Project:

## 3. Accessibility Questionnaire

*The Off Kilter Cabaret is designed to be an annual performance series focusing on and giving space and voice to artists with disabilities. As noted, the goal of the program is to be accessible and inclusive to as many artists and audience members as possible. Please review the program description for full details.*

1. What accommodation would you need as a participant, if any, for this show to be accessible?

2. What would the space need to be accessible for you and your piece?

3. In your past experience, what accessibility provision has been lacking in other performing arts situations which you would like to see provided at the Off-Kilter Cabaret?

# 4. Work Sample Form

## Please Submit 1 or 2 Work Samples

Use the following work sample formats that best represent your work:

- Text (using Word, Pages, or in an email)
- Video (a weblink like Vimeo or YouTube of no more than 3 minutes)
- Sound (a weblink)

Contact us if you need other format options to submit your work samples.

**1) Text**

- Attach/Send 1 Page of Written Script/Text for each work sample. (using Word, Pages, or in an email)

Please include a description of up to 40-words:

Title:

My Role:

Date Performed:

**2) Video**

- Attach or Send: 1 Web Link (such as Vimeo or YouTube) with a Password (if needed) to view a maximum of 3 minutes of Video for each work sample:

Web Link:
Password (if necessary):

Please include a description of up to 40-words:

Title:

My Role:

Date Performed:

**3) Music/Sound**

- Attach or Send: 1 Web Links with a Password (if needed) to listen to a maximum of 3 minutes for each work sample:

Web Link:
Password (if necessary):

Please include a description of up to 40-words:

Title:

My Role:

Date Performed:

## 5. Bio/Resume

Please provide a 1 to 2 page Bio/Resume, emphasizing your creative and artistic background, achievements, and education. Please indicate the location, year, and your role for each artistic/performance credit. Please copy and paste into this form, submit a link to a web page, or submit a Word doc with your proposal. Please contact us if you need other format options.