



Thanks for your interest in the Minnesota Lawyers for the Arts (MnLA) program. Our programming exists because of talented, and dedicated professionals such as you.

Please feel free to contact Andy Sturdevant, Artist Resources Director with any questions, concerns or ideas at legal@springboardforthearts.org

There are three ways you can help us serve the legal needs of the artist community through MnLA. You're welcome to participate in one, some or all of them:

Phone consultations

- Provide up to 30 minutes of free phone consultations
- If representation continues, offer representation at a reduced rate

Phone consultations are the heart of the MnLA program. Having an attorney to speak to has proven to be an invaluable resource for artists. In the case of 75% of our requests, it's the first time the artist has ever spoken to an attorney on a matter related to their work.



Our office will connect artists to attorneys with a background in the legal matter or question involved, based on your area of expertise and when you were most recently contacted. Artists are provided with phone numbers for two attorney contacts, so you may be the second attorney called. We ask artists to identify themselves when they contact your office as a Springboard for the Arts referral, so you know who you're speaking to. We also let artists know they may not be able to speak to you immediately, and may need to schedule time with you or with an assistant.

We receive approximately 170 phone consultation requests per year. We try to limit your consultation requests to no more than once a month, though if you work in a field that receives more requests (copyright, business organization), you may receive two per month.

It's up to you how you'd like to schedule those calls, and how you'd like to structure them, as long as they don't exceed 30 minutes and they're offered free of charge. The hope is that artists don't simply receive a free service and move on, but to potentially become a client, and continue to work with you on a non-volunteer, ongoing basis in the future. We ask that you consider the economic limitations of some of our artists when determining a fee schedule.

Example Reduced Rate Policies

- 80% off of regular hourly rate
- 25% off of regular hourly rate
- Reduced flat fee
- 1 free hour

Legal clinics

- Volunteer to answer legal questions at our pop-up legal clinic

Artists can meet with an arts and entertainment attorney for 30-45 minutes in-person at one of our pop-up clinics. Beginning in 2019, we will be offering clinics **eight times a year** at community sites around the Twin Cities and Greater Minnesota, and at our Lowertown and University Avenue offices in conjunction with attorneys from Legal Corps. If you volunteer to do a legal clinic, you'll be matched with your artists beforehand based on your areas of expertise. At the moment, we don't offer drop-in services, though we're experimenting with that format.

Workshops

- Lead a 1.5 hour workshop for artists in any discipline in a legal area you find interesting or in which you have special knowledge

We typically hold several workshops throughout the year. Past workshops have included copyright and music, tax law, nonprofit organization, negotiating, intro to contract law, and co-operatives. These workshops can be directed to a general audience, or be geared towards artist working in a specific discipline.

We welcome pitches for workshops from our volunteer attorneys on any legal topic that artists and arts organizations might like to know about! Send your ideas to legal@springboardforthearts.org.

Get involved!

If you're not already a volunteer attorney, you can sign up at <http://www.springboardforthearts.org/volunteerattorney>, or contact Andy at legal@springboardforthearts.org.