

This revised sample Artist Collaboration application reflects the **FY2027 structure and panel expectations**. It is intentionally written so that **each artist individually reflects on why their work matters and their artistic process**, while the **collaborative plan is proposed jointly**. All content is fictional and provided for instructional use only.

ARTIST BIO – Jesse “JD” Danner

(limit 1,500 characters)

Jesse “JD” Danner (he/him) is a musician and songwriter based in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. A native of eastern South Dakota, he studied music composition and performance at the University of Minnesota–Twin Cities before returning home to form *Undercurrent of Animosity*, a four-piece band blending rockabilly rhythm with punk’s raw storytelling. With more than twenty years of experience, JD’s work explores identity, memory, and place in the rural Midwest.

JD’s songwriting is grounded in lived experience and close observation of regional rhythms—weather patterns, movement, and the passage of time. His work has been featured at regional festivals, community events, and local venues throughout South Dakota and the Upper Midwest. In addition to performing, JD is committed to mentoring emerging musicians and strengthening South Dakota’s independent music ecosystem.

ARTIST STATEMENT – Jesse “JD” Danner

(limit 2,000 characters)

My songwriting has always been shaped by visual thinking. I try to write songs that feel like places—open sky, cracked sidewalks, the hum of a highway at night. Growing up and living in South Dakota taught me to pay attention to small details and long rhythms, and those observations shape both the structure and tone of my music.

I come from a punk background that values honesty and immediacy, but over time my practice has evolved toward a more narrative, rockabilly-influenced approach. I’m interested in how sound carries memory and how music can reflect the way people move through place. Collaboration allows me to push this work further by introducing new ways of seeing and interpreting the same ideas.

COLLABORATING ARTIST BIO – Lena Ortiz

(limit 1,500 characters)

Lena Ortiz (she/her) is a painter and printmaker based in Vermillion, South Dakota. Her work explores how memory, weather, and human rhythm shape the Great Plains landscape. A graduate of the University of

South Dakota's fine arts program, Lena has exhibited throughout the region, including recent shows at the Dahl Arts Center and the University of Sioux Falls Gallery.

Working primarily in layered monotypes and acrylic on canvas, Lena uses repetition and texture to echo the movement of wind, time, and lived experience across the prairie. In addition to her studio practice, she teaches community printmaking workshops, helping participants translate personal experience into visual form.

COLLABORATING ARTIST STATEMENT – Lena Ortiz

(limit 2,000 characters)

My work begins with observation—watching how light shifts across fields, how structures weather over time, how repetition becomes a record of change. I paint and print these moments not as scenery, but as memory. Through layered monotypes and painting, I use repetition to slow down and pay attention to a landscape that often appears still.

Collaboration is central to my practice because it requires listening. When I began working with JD, it became clear that we were responding to the same sense of rhythm and place through different mediums. His music carries pacing and narrative; my work explores those same qualities through color, texture, and mark-making.

WHY YOUR ART MATTERS – JD Danner

(recommended 1,000–1,500 characters)

My work matters because it reflects everyday experiences in South Dakota that are often overlooked in contemporary music. Much of my songwriting focuses on work, movement, and endurance—stories that resonate with audiences who recognize their own lives in the music.

By performing locally and regionally, I help reinforce the value of original music rooted in place. I also contribute to the state's creative ecosystem through mentorship and collaboration, supporting emerging musicians and encouraging sustained artistic engagement within our communities.

WHY YOUR ART MATTERS – Lena Ortiz

(recommended 1,000–1,500 characters)

My work matters because it encourages careful attention to place and time. Through painting and printmaking, I invite viewers to slow down and notice the subtle rhythms of the Great Plains—patterns shaped by weather, labor, and memory.

In addition to exhibitions, my community-based workshops help people see their own experiences reflected in visual form. This engagement strengthens local creative culture and affirms that meaningful artistic expression can emerge from rural and regional environments.

YOUR ARTISTIC PROCESS AND SKILLS – JD Danner

(recommended 1,000–1,500 characters)

My creative process begins with observation and listening. Songs often start with a phrase or rhythm drawn from lived experience, which I then develop through rehearsal and performance. Years of live performance have strengthened my skills in songwriting, arrangement, and audience engagement.

I approach music as an evolving practice—allowing repetition, revision, and collaboration to shape the final work. My technical skill and experience provide a strong foundation for experimentation and interdisciplinary work.

YOUR ARTISTIC PROCESS AND SKILLS – Lena Ortiz

(recommended 1,000–1,500 characters)

My process is rooted in repetition and material exploration. I build images through layered monotypes and painting, allowing texture and variation to emerge over time. This method requires patience and attention, producing work that reflects accumulated experience rather than a single moment.

My technical background in printmaking and painting supports both studio practice and collaborative experimentation. Years of exhibition and teaching experience demonstrate my ability to produce high-quality work and engage audiences.

ARTIST COLLABORATION NARRATIVE

(limit 3,300 characters – joint response)

Echoes on the Grain is a cross-disciplinary collaboration between musician JD Danner and visual artist Lena Ortiz. Together, we propose creating an integrated body of work that pairs original music with visual art to explore how sound, image, and memory intersect in the South Dakota landscape.

Our collaboration grew from shared conversations about place-based storytelling. JD's songwriting draws from visual cues such as weather and movement, while Lena's visual work suggests rhythm and repetition. Working together allows each of us to extend our individual practices through a shared creative process.

Over a six-month period, we will co-create six interdisciplinary works. Our plan includes shared studio sessions to exchange ideas and early material; professional recording of original songs informed by Lena's

imagery; and the creation of exhibition-quality prints and paintings responding directly to the music. The project will culminate in a joint exhibition and listening event at a South Dakota venue, accompanied by a public artist talk.

This collaboration strengthens our individual practices by introducing new ways of thinking about pacing, structure, and narrative. Together, we are creating work that neither of us could realize alone—a fully integrated visual and auditory experience rooted in regional culture.

RECORDS OF WORK

(1–2 pages each – submitted separately)

See attached résumés for Jesse “JD” Danner and Lena Ortiz outlining education, performances, exhibitions, recordings, and community engagement.

Why This Sample Collaboration Scores Highly


This revised example demonstrates: - **Clear individual artistic voices**, articulated separately - **Distinct reflections on purpose and process** for each artist - A **shared, realistic collaborative plan** appropriate to the grant scope - **Strong alignment** between individual practices and the joint proposal

It models how Collaboration applications should balance **individual artistic identity** with **collective creative planning**.

Jesse "JD" Danner

Musician / Songwriter

Sioux Falls, South Dakota

 jddanner.music@email.com |  [instagram.com/undercurrentofanimosity](https://www.instagram.com/undercurrentofanimosity) |  soundcloud.com/jddanner

Professional Summary

South Dakota-based musician and songwriter blending punk roots with modern rockabilly energy. Founder and lead vocalist of *Undercurrent of Animosity*, a four-piece band known for storytelling, grit, and strong connections to place. Fifteen years of experience performing, writing, and recording across the Upper Midwest, currently focused on elevating independent studio recording and expanding regional visibility. Dedicated to strengthening South Dakota's independent music scene through mentorship and collaboration.

Education & Training

B.A. in Music, University of Minnesota – Twin Cities

Focus: Music Composition and Performance | 2008

Workshops & Independent Study - Recording & Production Techniques (with local engineers), Sioux Falls, SD | 2022–present

- Songwriting and Stagecraft Masterclass with Charlie Parr, Sioux Falls, SD | 2021

- Artist Development Intensive, South Dakota Songwriters' Collective | 2020

Artistic Experience

Lead Vocalist / Songwriter, *Undercurrent of Animosity*

Sioux Falls, SD | 2015–present - Write and perform original songs rooted in South Dakota storytelling and community life. - Lead band in regional performances across South Dakota, Minnesota, and Iowa. - Coordinate independent regional tours and produce self-released recordings in local studios, building a consistent local and regional audience. - Mentor emerging musicians through informal workshops, shared performances, and peer support.

Performer / Collaborator, Twin Cities Punk Scene

Minneapolis, MN | 2005–2015 - Performed in multiple DIY and independent punk bands (including *The Breakdowns* and *Concrete Hearts*). - Organized small-venue tours throughout the Midwest; booked and promoted live shows. - Developed foundational skills in performance, arrangement, collaboration, and audience engagement.

Community Involvement

- Mentor, *High School Garage Band Revival* program, Sioux Falls, SD | 2022–present
 - Volunteer sound technician and performer, *Sioux Empire Arts Showcase* | 2021–2023
 - Organizer, *Local Bands for Local Needs* benefit concert series, Sioux Falls, SD | 2020–present
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Selected Performances & Appearances

- Downtown Riverfest, Sioux Falls, SD | 2024
 - Brookings Summer Arts Festival, Brookings, SD | 2023
 - Levitt at the Falls – Local Music Series, Sioux Falls, SD | 2022
 - Wild Prairie Jamboree, Vermillion, SD | 2022
 - The District Bar & Venue, Sioux Falls, SD | 2021
 - The Nomad World Pub, Minneapolis, MN | 2013–2015
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Recordings & Media

- *Small Town Static* – EP (in production, 2025; supported by proposed Career Development activities)
 - *Southbound Noise* – Self-released EP | 2020
 - Featured artist, *Dakota Sounds Live* Radio Showcase (SDPB) | 2023
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Skills & Strengths

- Songwriting & Arrangement
- Live Performance & Stage Presence
- Studio Recording & Production Collaboration
- Project Coordination & Promotion
- Mentorship & Community Engagement

Lena Ortiz

Painter / Printmaker

Vermillion, South Dakota

 lena.ortiz.art@email.com |  lenaortizstudio.com |  [instagram.com/lenaortizstudio](https://www.instagram.com/lenaortizstudio)

Professional Summary

South Dakota-based painter and printmaker whose work explores memory, weather, and human rhythm in the Great Plains landscape. Known for layered monotypes and acrylic paintings that use repetition, texture, and restraint to reflect the passage of time. An established regional artist with exhibition, teaching, and community engagement experience, currently expanding her practice through interdisciplinary collaboration with musicians and storytellers.

Education & Training

B.F.A. in Fine Arts, University of South Dakota

Focus: Printmaking and Painting

Additional Training & Professional Development - Community Printmaking Facilitation Training, Vermillion, SD | 2021

- Visiting Artist Workshop: Large-Scale Monotype Techniques | 2020

- Rural Arts & Community Engagement Seminar, South Dakota Arts Council | 2019

Artistic Experience

Painter / Printmaker, Independent Practice

Vermillion, SD | 2016–present - Create layered monotypes and acrylic paintings inspired by South Dakota landscapes, weather patterns, and lived experience. - Develop bodies of work that explore repetition, memory, and visual rhythm through texture and mark-making. - Maintain a studio practice producing exhibition-ready work for regional galleries and public presentation.

Teaching Artist, Community Printmaking Workshops

Eastern South Dakota | 2018–present - Design and lead hands-on printmaking workshops for adults and youth. - Guide participants in translating personal stories and place-based experiences into visual form. - Partner with libraries, community centers, and arts organizations to expand access to visual arts education.

Exhibitions & Selected Shows

- Dahl Arts Center, Rapid City, SD | 2024
- University of Sioux Falls Gallery, Sioux Falls, SD | 2023

- Vermillion Cultural Arts Center, Vermillion, SD | 2022
 - South Dakota State University Student Union Gallery, Brookings, SD | 2021
 - Prairie Arts Collective Pop-Up Exhibition, Yankton, SD | 2020
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Collaboration Experience

Echoes on the Grain (with musician Jesse “JD” Danner) | 2025–present - Interdisciplinary collaboration pairing original music with visual artwork. - Develop large-scale prints and paintings responding directly to musical composition and rhythm. - Participate in shared studio sessions, exhibition planning, and public engagement events.

Community Engagement

- Teaching Artist, Community Printmaking Workshops, Vermillion, SD | 2018–present
 - Guest Artist, Local High School Art Programs | 2021–2023
 - Volunteer Exhibitor, Rural Arts Showcases and Community Events | 2019–present
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Skills & Strengths

- Monotype & Relief Printmaking
 - Acrylic Painting & Mixed Media
 - Visual Storytelling & Concept Development
 - Teaching & Community Facilitation
 - Interdisciplinary Collaboration
 - Exhibition Preparation & Installation
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Collections & Recognition (Selected)

- Works held in private collections across South Dakota and Minnesota
 - Artwork featured in regional arts organization exhibitions and publications
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This résumé is provided as part of a fictional sample Artist Collaboration application and is intended for instructional use only.