

State Matters

Creative Collective : Artist FAQ

State Matters is looking for filmmakers, animators, illustrators, designers, composers, musicians, writers, comedians, and visual artists. We are building an ever-expanding roster of passionate creators who can pick up this work on a regular or one-time basis; who will bring their own style and vision to the creation of this educational content; who will contribute to a diverse and expanding arsenal of educational content. We want to allow artists and arts organizations to utilize their own aesthetic and bring fresh perspective and ideas to the work.

Q : What the heck IS State Matters?

State Matters is a new 501(c)3 non-profit that creates high quality, engaging videos and graphics that (a) explain the most impactful state legislation being proposed in Springfield, (b) explain the legislative process and how state and local government works, (c) help Illinoisians engage with their representatives and advocate for their interests.

Our focus on creative presentation makes this information appealing and enjoyable for folks who want to care, but didn't get a good civics education and don't have the time or energy to unravel in-depth journalism or complicated legislative lingo. We're creating content that will be informative and interesting - content that will make learning about civics a viable and pleasurable part of everyday life.

Q : Are you recruiting individuals or groups of artists?

Both! We'll have a variety of projects and hope to recruit individuals, groups, collectives, teams, and organizations to take them on.

Q : Who is a part of this collective?

Artists with a passion for good government. In terms of style or medium, we want to engage artists working in a variety of ways. Parody music video series? Interactive data visualization? Fantasy congress podcast? Animated videos? Live action videos? Drunk history Illinois-style? Comic books? Art installations? We're into it. Let's make something.

Q : Do these projects pay?

Yes! Compensation will vary depending on the scope of each project. This will be determined and shared prior to any commitments being made.

Q : How often will I be offered work?

*State Matters will be contracting artists in two different ways: 1. We will have projects available pertaining to specific topics, will notify our creative collective when these projects arise, and begin working directly with the specific artist or organization who is interested in that project, 2. We are also hoping that our creative collective will come to **US** with topics and ideas for content that State Matters can facilitate research on, and provide budget and resources for that artist to bring that idea to life.*

Q : Can I recommend other artists for these projects?

OF COURSE WE WOULD LOVE IT!

We would LOVE all of your recommendations for other Artists! The goal is to have this Creative Collective constantly growing, and to have content that represents a variety of aesthetics and visions.

Q : How much freedom do I have in these projects?

Once hired for a specific project, artists will have considerable freedom aesthetically and creatively. Because State Matters is a non-partisan educational tool, we will review all projects to make sure that the content maintains political neutrality (but that doesn't mean it doesn't have a voice!) and is factually accurate. The hope is that the revisions process will be heaviest during a first time collaboration with an artist, after we've worked together once - we will need check-ins less frequently!

Q : What is the timeline for each project? How much time will I have to complete it?

Timeline will vary depending on the project, and we will together come up with reasonable deadlines prior to making any commitments!

Q : Who will own the content that I create?

State Matters will own the content, and it will first live on the State Matters website and be distributed through our organizations' channels. We will credit artists VERY VISIBLY (or as much as you'd like!) anywhere the content is featured and direct audiences back to your website/social media/wherever-you-want-new-fans+audiences-to-go. After a grace period that we are still determining, the content can also live on your website/social media etc!

Q : What resources will State Matters provide?

What resources would you need? Let's have a conversation.

Q : What perks come with being an individual or organizational member of State Matters' Creative Collective?

- Democratically elected representative on the board of directors of State Matters*
- Artistic autonomy to create work in your own aesthetic*
- Ability to pitch topics/projects and receive funding from State Matters*
- Bing a part of an artistic community working to change the civic culture in Illinois*