



The Cabaret Sessions

Call for Artists/RFP

Performances December 2026 - May 2027 | Taliesin West, Scottsdale, Arizona

About Taliesin West

Taliesin West is the winter camp and desert laboratory that Frank Lloyd Wright built beginning in 1937 in the Sonoran Desert foothills north of Scottsdale, Arizona. A UNESCO World Heritage Site and the living headquarters of the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, it remains an active center of architecture, education, and the arts.

The property's intimate, organically integrated spaces – built from desert masonry, California Redwood, Douglas Fir and canvas panels – create a performance environment unlike any other in the world. Sound, light, and landscape converge here in ways that reward adventurous artists and curious audiences alike.

In 1932, Frank Lloyd Wright and his wife, Olgivanna, created the Taliesin Fellowship, a community of apprentices and their families who lived, worked and studied with Wright first at Taliesin in Wisconsin and later also at Taliesin West in Arizona. The program provided a total learning environment integrating all aspects of the apprentices' lives with the intent of educating responsible, creative and cultured human beings.

The Taliesin Festival of Music and Dance was an annual performance series (c. 1953-1970s) featuring original music, dance, and drama created by the Taliesin Fellowship, an apprenticeship community led by Frank Lloyd Wright and Olgivanna Lloyd Wright. The performances highlighted the Fellowship's artistic collaboration, featuring choreography by Olgivanna Lloyd Wright and music by Olgivanna Lloyd Wright.

Learn more:

franklloydwright.org

The Venue: The Cabaret

Performances in The Cabaret Performance Series take place in the Cabaret Theatre, an intimate performance space nestled within the Taliesin West complex.

Completed in 1950, the Cabaret Theatre at Taliesin West in Scottsdale, Arizona, is an intimate, 50-seat subterranean and acoustically renowned venue constructed from desert masonry. The unique slope and shape of the room allow for unimpeded views of the small stage below and carry sound perfectly through the space. Designed by Frank Lloyd Wright as a "cave-like" space, it features angled seating with perfect sightlines to a small stage and is used for films, performances, and intimate events.



Photos by Andrew Pielage

The Series

The Cabaret Sessions presents six performances across the 2026–2027 season, running December through May on select Saturday nights. Each event is an evening with a single performer or act in the Cabaret, surrounded by the architecture and landscape of Taliesin West.

We are seeking artists whose work connects meaningfully to the themes of this season. The selected theme will be Nature, Environment and Landscape; applicants should address this connection directly in their written submission.

We are looking for artists who want to make something happen – who see Taliesin West as a creative partner, not just a venue. With regards to this, The Cabaret Sessions will also include an overnight stay and mini residency for inspiration and alignment.

Compensation & Logistics

Stipend	\$1,500 per performance. Paid from prior submitted invoice at conclusion of performance.
Overnight Accommodation	Provided on the night of the performance
Pre-Performance Visit	One site inspirational mini-residency visit prior to the performance date, with accommodation for up to 2 nights
Tickets	\$35 per seat
Marketing	Shared responsibility between artists and Taliesin West for social media and promotional outreach

Eligibility

We welcome proposals from artists across all music genres and performance types. Eligible applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Performs acoustically or with self-contained, self-supplied equipment (the Cabaret does not provide a house PA or backline)
- All performing artists must be 21 years of age or older

Requirements

Artists selected for The Cabaret Sessions agree to the following:

- Perform one evening show at the Taliesin West Cabaret as part of the series
- Participate in shared social media and marketing efforts in advance of and following the performance
- Complete one pre-performance inspirational site visit to Taliesin West, up to 2 nights. (dates coordinated with the Foundation)

Timeline

June 26	RFP open – submissions requested.
July 24	Deadline for submission. Selection decisions made.
July 27	Notifications sent to all applicants.
August 1	Acceptance of offer due from selected artists.
August 17	Public announcement of the 2026-2027 series lineup; tickets go on sale.
December-May	Six performances take place at Taliesin West Dec 5, Jan 2, Feb 6, Mar 6, April 3, May 1

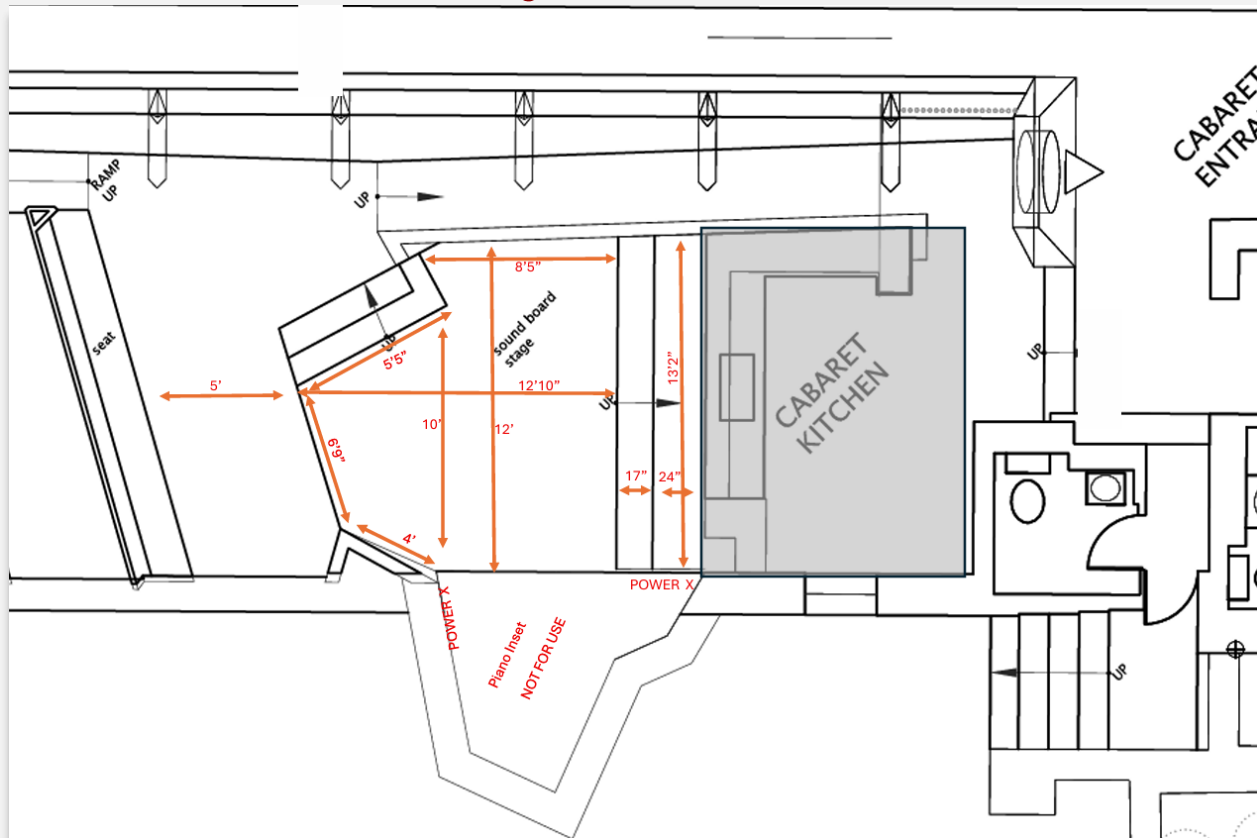
Notes for Applicants

Selected artists will be provided with complete details upon acceptance:

- Merchandise sales at the venue
- Taliesin West holds an active ASCAP license if other than original works are performed.

We encourage artists with specific questions about any of these items to reach out before submitting.

The Cabaret Theatre Stage Dimensions:





Applicant Notes: