

# SOUND OFF!



## **RULES AND REGULATIONS**

For more information on how to make the strongest application to Sound Off!, check out our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) and [Resources for Readiness](#)

### **ELIGIBILITY**

- All participants must be 21 years of age or under as of March 8, 2020. This means all band members must have been born on or after March 8, 1998.
- All bands/artists must be from the Northwest. This is defined as: at least 50% of band members have permanent residence in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, or British Columbia Province.
- Employees of Museum of Pop Culture (MoPOP), Sound Off! judges, sponsors of MoPOP, the officers, shareholders, directors, employees, agents, representatives, and subsidiary companies of each such corporation; and the members of their immediate families are not eligible to participate in or win MoPOP's Sound Off! 2020.
- If an applicant submits multiple projects with over half of the same members or same front person, only one of the applicants will be considered for Sound Off!.
- Because Sound Off! is a professional development opportunity for young musicians, bands or artists that are selected to play will be required to communicate directly with MoPOP staff. Managers or other personnel retained by the artists may not be used as intermediaries.

### **SUBMISSIONS**

- Contestants must submit four audio tracks of original music and the Sound Off! application, which will be available online from July 11, 2019 to October 14, 2019. All genres of music are accepted.
- Original music is required. Bands may not submit or perform in concert any cover songs or plagiarized material. Plagiarism is defined as the act of copying someone else's artistic or written work and claiming it as your own. Sampling is discouraged, requires documented authorization of license rights for use in recordings and live performance, and must be fully disclosed to MoPOP. MoPOP will determine acceptability of materials containing samples, if properly documented and authorized, on a case by case basis
- All entries must be completed and submitted by 11:59pm on Monday, October 14, 2019.
- Any band/artist giving false, unsubstantiated, or misleading information on the application form will be disqualified. The panel of judges will have access to all information provided on each band's entry form.

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## SELECTION

- Band/artist selection is made at the panels' sole discretion. The panels' decision is final in all matters regarding the selection process.
- Though a total of four songs is required on the application, note that only the first two songs will be screened during early stages of the selection process. The full four songs will be screened as the panels get closer to final selection.
- Submissions will be judged on content and a demonstration of the potential for a compelling live performance, not on the audio quality of recordings or on the quality of photos or video production.
- 12 selected semifinalists will be announced mid-December, 2019.
- All selected band members will be required to attend a two-day Sound Off! orientation meeting on Saturday, January 11 and Sunday, January 12, 2020. All band members must be in attendance for both days and will forfeit their participation if not in attendance.
- Alternate bands/artists may be selected at any time to prevent any unfilled billings on any date.
- Sound Off! Finalist alumni bands/artists are ineligible to reapply to Sound Off!
- Bands/artists that have not been selected to participate in Sound Off! 2020 are encouraged to reapply next year with new material. All rules and regulations still apply.

## CONCERTS

- Three semifinal concerts consisting of four bands each will take place on three dates in February 2020: Fridays February 15, 22, and 29 at 8:00pm. The winners of these three semifinal concerts and one wild card selection will be scheduled for performance in Sound Off! Finals on Saturday, March 7, 2020 (Time TBA). All concerts take place at Museum of Pop Culture (MoPOP) in Seattle, WA. Soundchecks will occur the afternoon of each concert.
- The wild card winner will be selected by MoPOP's Youth Advisory Board from the pool of bands/artists who place second in their semifinal round. This wild card winner will advance to Sound Off! Finals on Saturday, March 7, 2020.
- In any stage of the competition, any band that is offered a concert date and time slot must accept that concert date and time slot or be disqualified.
- Bands/artists selected to participate in Sound Off! will be required to perform a 20-minute set at the semifinal concert. Bands that advance to the finals will be required to perform a 27-minute set and finals will be broadcasted live on KEXP. MoPOP will provide standard backline equipment for the performances.

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- A panel of judges will be present for each Sound Off! concert and will score the bands on several criteria, including: composition and arrangement, creativity, technical ability and musicianship, and stage presence. The judges' scores are confidential; however, feedback from the judges will be available to the artists.
- Sound Off! prizes are non-transferable. Prizes may not be substituted or redeemed for cash.
- Failure to comply with the Sound Off! rules and regulations may result in disqualification.

Questions? Contact [soundoff@MoPOPmuseum.org](mailto:soundoff@MoPOPmuseum.org)