2. What Kinds of Arts Groups Exist on Campus?

In this section, you will find information on various Emory University arts groups. The first section contains faculty-directed groups – those that are run by a department on campus. The second section contains groups that are student-directed; while they may work closely with a department or departments, they are autonomous and completely student-organized. The third section contains a letter from a past Student Government Association (SGA) president that will answer the question, “How do I start my own arts group?,” as well as the SGA bylaws for chartering an on-campus group.

C. How do I Start my Own Arts Group?

If you are only planning on creating a one-time event, there are already many groups available with which you could collaborate.. You could also apply for a grant from the Center for Creativity & Arts. However, if you are really serious about launching a new group that does not fit into any of the groups already listed, here’s how.

i. Becoming a Chartered Group

*Letter from the Attorney General:*

“Starting a student organization is among the most rewarding and challenging endeavors an Emory student can pursue. It requires initiative, hard work, and a serious time commitment. However, it may be easier than you think. Due largely to the hard work and sound planning of the Emory SGA and other student councils, the process of starting a new organization requires little more than a compelling and original idea, a dedicated friend or two, and some planning to ensure compliance with the appropriate council and, ultimately, SGA requirements.

The most important criterion is, of course, the originality, viability and appeal of your idea. To this end, both common sense and regulatory requirements necessitate that your new organization not directly overlap with pre-existing student groups at Emory. So you can start by surveying the current group roster for ideas and opportunities for innovation. *(Should a group which encompasses your interest already be in existence, I would strongly urge you to become a*
part of it. There are already many clubs at Emory; unfortunately, most have far fewer members than they would like. In other words, don't limit your involvement to starting your own group, many excellent ones that would love your participation already exist.)

Next, you should consider if you have any friends who might be interested in contributing. In my experience having good help from the start can make all the difference in getting your idea off the ground.

The infrastructure of chartering and funding student organizations is well established at Emory and immensely helpful. However, to get the most out of it you will need to fulfill the requirements fully and every step of the way. Get the chartering forms early and start planning on completing them. This, of course, requires you to determine which council you will apply for your charter through. These bodies include the College Council, Media Council, and Sports Council, among others. Each council is meant for different types of organizations and has different requirements; you'll need to learn about them to determine which council is the appropriate body for your group.

**Another important measure to take in starting your group at Emory is the creation of a Learnlink conference for your organization. The electronic forms and instructions for doing this are available in the Learnlink information conferences on your Learnlink desktop. Making an effective conference is vital in getting your group established and recognized.**

Once the outlines of your new organization are established, you'll need a great group of officers, prudent planning, effective publicity and many other measures in order to see your group through to becoming a perpetually chartered, successful student organization.

I hope that this provides a basic framework for how to go about starting a student organization at Emory. The process is challenging, creative, and highly rewarding. As the founder of two student groups, I can say that this is a process which has greatly enhanced my Emory experience; I hope it will enrich yours as well. Should you have any questions about starting your student organization which this guide does not adequately address please feel free to contact me.” - J.B. Tarter, Former SGA Attorney General
Chartering Information
Visit [http://www.students.emory.edu/collegecouncil/](http://www.students.emory.edu/collegecouncil/) to find all appropriate information regarding founding a chartered student group. For bylaws, click on “Governing Documents” and scroll to “Chartering Bylaws”. This information will help you start your student arts organization.

Budgets and Funding
In order to receive allocated funds for the following fiscal year, each organization must apply for a budget. Your organization MUST have a perpetual charter to be eligible for Student Activity Fee funds. You MUST complete the appropriate and correct process in order to receive an allocated budget. To download the appropriate forms, as well as to find additional information, visit [http://students.emory.edu/SGA/budgeting.html](http://students.emory.edu/SGA/budgeting.html).

ii. A Note on Non-Chartered Groups:

Sometimes students opt against chartering their groups, for a variety of reasons. Often, a group organized around a single, specific event (such as a play or gallery) will take this route, as will groups that are focused on small, exclusive events (such as a music ensemble or a reading group that has no interest in opening up to the larger campus). Also, a group that wants to begin working right away and avoid the red tape of becoming chartered may take this route. Whatever the purpose of your group, you may want to consider carefully your reasons for becoming or not becoming chartered.

Non-chartered groups have very limited resources by comparison to chartered groups. If you are not chartered, you cannot reserve some spaces on campus, and you cannot request a budget from SGA. You can still, however:

- **Start a Learnlink conference.** This small act can work wonders for your group, giving you an online space for easy communication and organization. You can make it as inclusive or exclusive as you want, and the cost is free.
- **Ask a department for money.** Most academic departments have small amounts of money that they can give to upstart groups. This will occur on a case-by-case basis, and you will have to show that the money will be spent wisely.
- Organize and plan events. There is nothing stopping you from forming a group or organizing events; you just may have to be extra creative in how you do so. Promotion can include approved paper fliers, Emory Wheel Ads, sandwich boards, approved table tents, Learnlink ads, and word of mouth. Just be creative!

If you need any assistance, advice, or encouragement, don’t hesitate to contact Emma Yarbrough or your professors.