



### **Obstacles and Objectives**

13.8 billion years ago after the Big Bang, the materials from supernovae formed the “golden age” of musical theatre. We are now in the “uranium age” where musical theatre must tell stories that are heavy yet natural. Often that is the problem with plays that explore scientific themes. Their text sound heavy, but they do not feel natural. Developmental opportunities are slim, with these plays set aside as “experimental.” However, the opera community has been at the forefront in making space for everything out-of-the-world.

Channeling my astrophysics and theatre background, I am developing a musical that personifies the entire history and hypothetical future of our Universe: ELLIPSES. The Galaxy family will have the audience laughing and relating to the struggles of puberty and growing up. The struggle of our first concert reading is fundraising with a mostly out-of-pocket production. The event was late in the pandemic, so there was little room to market how fresh and unique the virtual reading was. There will be challenges for the prospective physical reading with no worldwide audiences. However, there are benefits to our musical being one of the first physical readings.

The IDEA Opera Grant will enhance the musical’s appeal in its celestial depiction of the human condition by backing the rehearsals and talkback of the concert reading in a theatre space.

### **Project Timeline**





ELLIPSES – Developing the Musical that Connects the Humanities to Galaxies  
David Quang Pham, Working Title Playwrights, Michigan State University

### **Proposed Budget**

No other sources of funding are available for us in this developmental reading process.

The grant will cover the theatre venue rental for two rehearsals and the reading. It will generally compensate 16 team members (dramaturg, stage manager, music director, stage director, ten vocalists, and two understudies), and cover the cost of travel and housing for the creative team (dramaturg and author).

### **Possible Resources**

- Atlanta Musical Theatre Festival [Submission opens in October]
  - Cover:
    - Venue
    - Sound and lighting equipment
    - Marketing and press