



Membership & Participation Guide

Alternate ROOTS is a nonprofit [501(c)3] organization of artists and activists who support ROOTS' mission:

Alternate ROOTS is an organization based in the Southern USA whose mission is to support the creation and presentation of original art, in all its forms, which is rooted in a particular community of place, tradition or spirit. As a coalition of cultural workers we strive to be allies in the elimination of all forms of oppression. ROOTS is committed to social and economic justice and the protection of the natural world and addresses these concerns through its programs and services.*

**Alternate ROOTS' service region is the geographic area of the U.S. often referred to as "The South": Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia, and Washington, D.C.*

We recognize that becoming part of a community such as Alternate ROOTS involves a commitment of time and a commitment to other people. As a community, we strongly value the concept of self-determination. Consequently, the membership structure is organized so that people can, if desired, participate at different levels of commitment as a Voting Member, a General Member, an Organizational Member, or as a Friend of ROOTS. Members engage in the work of ROOTS through work groups and innovation ensembles, regional rhizome events and activities, our ROOTS Week annual artist retreat, the annual business meeting, service on the Executive Committee and other opportunities that arise in alignment with our mission and strategic plan. The LUMINARIES CHART, developed by Ariston Jacks provides an image of different ways and levels at which people can engage with ROOTS.

MEMBERSHIP & PARTICIPATION

There are three categories of membership within ROOTS including Voting Membership, General Membership and Organizational Membership. ROOTS also has a way for people who are not members to affiliate as “Friends” and supporters of ROOTS work. The responsibilities, benefits, application and criteria for each of these categories are detailed below.

1. VOTING MEMBERSHIP

Voting members assume trusteeship for the organization and play a role in governing the organization.

Voting Member Responsibilities

- ▶ As the Board of Directors, voting members are fiscally and legally responsible for the organization as defined by law.
- ▶ Vote to approve new voting members and appoint the Executive Committee as well as approve changes to the by-laws, membership policy, and mission statement.
- ▶ Actively participate in the work of the organization through Work Groups, Innovation Ensembles, regional organizing activities, and/or the Annual Business Meeting.
- ▶ Pay annual dues of \$40/year due on the anniversary of your membership application.
- ▶ Maintain a current member profile on the ROOTS website.

Voting members are also encouraged to support and strengthen the ROOTS network by serving as a liaison between ROOTS and compatible organizations, supporting the work of other members, sharing information and resources within the network, recruiting potential new members and listing affiliation with ROOTS in your artist materials.

Voting Member Benefits

- ▶ May vote at the Annual Business Meeting and at other times when an organizational decision is required from the voting membership
- ▶ Receive regular ROOTS publications, including member-specific information
- ▶ May list activities in ROOTS publications
- ▶ Receive fee discounts for ROOTS' programs
- ▶ Post a member profile on ROOTS website
- ▶ In order to qualify broadly to apply for programs and services of Alternate ROOTS, you must be a current general member or voting member. Per grant and program guidelines, additional requirements may apply. Staff may make exceptions to this practice as needed to serve the mission and the strategic plan.

Voting Member Criteria

- Live in the U.S. South (defined as AL, AR, FL, GA, KY, LA, MD, MS, NC, SC, TN, TX, VA, WV and Washington D.C.)
- Create or present original work that is of, by, for, or together with a community of place, tradition, or spirit
- Committed to social and economic justice and/or the protection of the natural world

Voting Member Application

Applications for voting membership are accepted at any time. Applications can be found online at alternateroots.org or by contacting the ROOTS office. The Membership Work Group will review applications for voting membership and hold a virtual election at least once a year outside of the annual business meeting as necessary.. Voting members who leave the region will automatically become general members. In order to maintain membership status, dues must be paid annually on the date of first application.

2. GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

General members are encouraged to be active in ROOTS programs and committees at whatever level they choose. General members have the same benefits as Voting Members except that general members do not play a formal governance role in the organization.

General Member Responsibilities

- ▶ Maintain a current member profile on the Alternate ROOTS website.
- ▶ Pay annual dues of \$40/year due on the anniversary of your membership application.

General members are also encouraged to support and strengthen the ROOTS network by serving as a liaison between ROOTS and compatible organizations, supporting the work of other members, sharing information and resources within the network, recruiting potential new members and listing affiliation with ROOTS in your artist materials.

General Member Benefits

- ▶ Receive regular ROOTS publications, including member specific information
- ▶ May list activities in ROOTS publications
- ▶ Receive fee discounts for ROOTS' programs
- ▶ Post a member profile on ROOTS website
- ▶ In order to qualify broadly to apply for programs and services of Alternate ROOTS, you must be a current general member or voting member. Per grant and program guidelines, additional requirements may apply. Staff may make exceptions to this practice as needed to serve the mission and the strategic plan.

General Member Criteria

- ▶ Create or present original work that is of, by, for, or together with a community of place, tradition, or spirit
- ▶ Committed to social and economic justice and/or the protection of the natural world

General Member Application

Applications for general membership are accepted at any time. Applications can be found online at alternateroots.org or by contacting the ROOTS office. Alternate ROOTS staff process applications on a rolling basis. In order to maintain membership status, dues must be paid annually on the date of first application.

3. ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIP

Alternate ROOTS recognizes the importance and value of organizing groups of individuals around a common purpose and shared goals. Organizations — human structures for working together — are essential elements for community making. The companies, ensembles, co-operatives, community centers, and other organizational structures that ROOTS members engage in are themselves potential allies. Recognizing these organizations as ROOTS Member Organizations acknowledges an aspect of our collective strength.

Organizational Member Responsibilities

- ▶ Maintain a current organization profile on the Alternate ROOTS website.
- ▶ Pay annual dues of \$40/year due on the anniversary of your membership application.

Organizational Member Benefits

- ▶ Receive regular ROOTS publications (main contact person)
- ▶ May list activities in ROOTS publications (main contact person)
- ▶ Post an Organizational Member profile on ROOTS website

Note that organizational membership does not convey membership benefits to individuals.

Organizational Member Criteria

- ▶ Alignment with and support of ROOTS mission

Application

Applications for organizational membership may be accepted at any time. Applications can be found online at alternateroots.org or by contacting the ROOTS office. Alternate ROOTS staff processes applications for organizational membership on a rolling basis. In order to maintain membership status, dues must be paid annually on the date of first application.

AND FRIENDS!

Friends of ROOTS is an affiliate program for everyone who believes in the power of artists working for social change and social justice. It's for people who would like to show their support of ROOTS, who may or may not be an artist, who may or may not be a ROOTS member but love what this work is about and recognize how important it is in the U.S. South. For more information or to become a friend of Alternate ROOTS, visit alternateroots.org. Multiple levels of Friendship are available with a range of perks!