

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS: STATEWIDE SERVICES

Engaging Under-Resourced and/or Under-Represented Artists, Organizations and Communities (2022-2023)

DUE DATE: February 8, 2022, 5 p.m. EST
PLEASE NOTE THAT NO EXTENSIONS WILL BE GRANTED

Agency Mission

To strengthen the cultural, educational, and economic vitality of Pennsylvania's communities through the arts.

Overarching Value:

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Promote equitable access for all Pennsylvanians to participate fully in a creative life and in the diverse forms of arts and culture in the commonwealth.

arts.pa.gov

Overview

In March 2019, the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts (PCA) adopted a new strategic plan focused on the role of the arts in community development.

In connection with its planning process, Council heard observations and concerns from numerous individuals and organizations across the commonwealth ranging from issues related to DEI to addressing the needs of many remote and rural communities, former industrial communities that are striving to recover from economic loss, artists, and urban and suburban communities with large groups of under-served citizens which include people of color and people with disabilities.

The PCA revised its mission for the first time in decades and identified a cross-cutting value for the agency. The new mission is to *strengthen the cultural, educational, and economic vitality of Pennsylvania communities through the arts*, and the cross-cutting value is *diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI)*. DEI is central and cross-cutting to achieving the PCA's goal of *promoting equitable access for all Pennsylvanians to participate fully in a creative life and the diverse forms of arts and culture in the commonwealth*.

The PCA seeks entities/organizations with applicable research and service experience to help us better understand the needs of under-resourced and under-served constituencies to increase access to the arts.

This Request for Proposals (RFP) was developed to support projects that engage and cultivate deeper relationships, strengthen access, and promote the involvement of historically under-resourced and/or under-represented artists, organizations, and communities that have faced barriers such as geography, race/ethnicity, socioeconomic status, ability/disability, age, gender identity, or expression.

Preference will be given to projects that involve information gathering that would inform an approach to engagement through the arts, implement best practices models, and encourage new ways of thinking about access and impact, focusing on one or more of the above-mentioned constituencies.

Award

PCA anticipates approving up to four applicants with non-matching awards of up to \$25,000.

Project Length

Applicants may propose projects with scopes lasting up to three years.

Eligibility

Applicants must be a Pennsylvania-based nonprofit organization, county government, or local government.

Review Criteria

Quality and responsiveness of project design, implementation plan, and proposed budget.

The degree to which the proposal advances the PCA's crosscutting value of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Proven and demonstrable expertise in this area will be considered.

Applicant's experience with comparable projects and applicable credentials.

Submission Process

All questions regarding this process and completed proposals should be submitted to Dana Payne at danpayne@pa.gov.

Proposals must include the following:

- Applicant Name
- Applicant Address
- FEIN #
- Contact Name
- Contact Email
- Contact Phone

Application Narrative (not to exceed **three** pages):

1. Describe your project in appropriate detail, including the design and implementation plan.
2. Describe how your project will advance the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts' crosscutting value of diversity, equity, and inclusion.
3. Describe your relevant experience with comparable project(s), applicable credentials, and demonstrated outcomes.

Attachments:

1. Proposed project budget based on applicant's request amount.
2. Résumé(s) of project lead(s) and key team members, as applicable.

Application Review Process

Proposals will be reviewed by a committee, based on the review criteria above. Committee recommendations will be presented to staff and the Council, the PCA's governing body. Council will act on recommendations and have final authority in the awarding of grants. Applicants will be notified about the status of their applications. Approved applicants will be notified via an email outlining the next steps in the grant award process.

How to Apply

STEP 1. THOROUGHLY REVIEW THIS DOCUMENT.

STEP 2. CONTACT Dana Payne at danpayne@pa.gov or 717.525.5544 if you have questions.

STEP 3. SUBMIT VIA EMAIL to danpayne@pa.gov by February 1, 2022.

NO HARD COPIES ARE REQUIRED.

Agency Mission

To strengthen the cultural, educational, and economic vitality of Pennsylvania's communities through the arts.

Overarching Value:

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Promote equitable access for all Pennsylvanians to participate fully in a creative life and in the diverse forms of arts and culture in the commonwealth.

arts.pa.gov