

**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](https://arts.pa.gov)

**Please note: The call for Letters of Interest for the 2023 round closed on December 2, 2022, at 5 p.m. EST. We anticipate that the next call for letters (2024 round) will be published in September 2023.**

## **PA COUNCIL ON THE ARTS CREATIVE COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE Call for Letters of Interest (2023 Round)**

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**The Pennsylvania Council on the Arts (PCA), a state agency, supports the role of creative industries as vital to vibrant, livable communities.**

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

**PCA's 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.

**Creative Communities Program Purpose:** The purpose of the Creative Communities program is to provide multi-year funding to community-driven, arts-based projects that serve as catalysts for livability, economic development, and community connectedness. Also called creative placemaking or placekeeping, the funded projects will have a demonstrated, positive impact on their respective communities.

**Creative Communities Program Goals:**

- Strengthen Pennsylvania communities through the arts.
- Ensure diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- Advance community recovery and resilience.
- Cultivate deep community engagement for innovative, community-driven projects.
- Promote the unique identities of PA's communities as places people want to live, visit, work, and play.
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- Support authentic, inclusive, and strong community partnerships.

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- Promote inclusion of artists and culture bearers in community projects
- Support local leadership and develop future leaders.
- Foster development and implementation of sustainable programs and projects.
- Invest in creative industries projects.
- Leverage additional sources of funding (local government, private sector, foundation).
- Create and implement best practices for project evaluations.

**Funding Amount:** Up to \$25,000 per year for up to four years.

**Funding Restrictions:**

In general, the PCA does not fund the following:

- Activities for which academic credit is given.
- Activities that have already been completed.
- Activities that have a religious purpose.
- Performances and exhibitions not available to the general public.
- Performances and exhibitions outside Pennsylvania.
- Cash prizes and awards.
- Benefit activities.
- Payments to lobbyists.
- Competitions.

**Eligibility:**

- Project must be place-based.
- Required partnership of at least two organizations, one of which will serve as the lead applicant.
- Lead applicant must be a unit of government, nonprofit (501(c)3 or 501(c)6) organization.
- Lead applicant organization must be located in the community.

**Selection Process:**

1. Letter of Interest (LOI)
2. LOI review and site visits with selected communities
- 3. Application (by invitation)**
4. Panel review of application and Creative Communities Initiative  
Communities selected

**1. LOI Submission Instructions: LOI's must be submitted via email to [RA-OAcreativepa@pa.gov](mailto:RA-OAcreativepa@pa.gov) no later than Friday, December 2, 2022, at 5 p.m. Letters submitted after the deadline will not be accepted (Please note: PCA staff cannot make exceptions).**

- a. Completed [coversheet form](#) with acknowledgment of and intention to comply with the local government resolution requirement, if your community is selected to participate in the Creative Communities Initiative Program.
- b. Narrative Content (3 pages max.)
  - Brief description of the community in which the project will take place.

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- Description of successful collaborations between partners for proposed project.
- Description of past and planned inclusive community engagement activities.
- Description of how artists and culture bearers will be included in the project.
- Description of the community opportunities and/or challenges the partners would like to address through the project.

- c. 3 Letters of Support (local government, planning, convention and visitor's bureau (CVB), business improvement district (BID), chamber of commerce, local arts organization, etc.).

**2. LOI Review and Community Virtual Site Visit Selection Process:**

- a. Review of LOIs
  - Letters will be assessed for viability and program alignment.
- b. PCA staff will contact communities selected for virtual site visits.
- c. PCA staff and panelists will review virtual site visit findings and select communities for invitation to complete an application.
- d. Applications reviewed by panelists and recommendations for approval of two-to-four presented to PCA's Council at July 2023 meeting.

**For questions or advice contact Sarah Merritt, Director of Pennsylvania Creative Communities & the Creative Economy [skmerritt@pa.gov](mailto:skmerritt@pa.gov)**