

BUILDING CULTURAL DIVERSITY

Project Funding for Culturally Diverse Organizations

The Building Cultural Diversity program supports new and emerging organizations whose mission, programs, staff, and board represent culturally diverse communities. Awards support arts programming and projects that celebrate communities' unique arts and culture or preserve a culturally significant artistic tradition or practice. These awards help ensure a vibrant range of arts and cultural experiences are shared with residents, visitors, and communities, both today and in the future.

GRANT AWARDS: Applicants may request between \$1,000 and \$3,000. All awards require a 50 percent match, up to half of which may come from allowable in-kind donations. Applicants planning to use in-kind donations to supplement a match should consult OAC staff prior to submitting an application.

APPLICATION DEADLINES: June 1 annually (for activities taking place July 15—next June 30) and, if program funds remain, December 1 annually (for activities taking place January 15—next June 30)

STAFF CONTACT

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ELIGIBILITY: All applicants must possess nonprofit status or nonprofit intent, but need not be registered with the IRS as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Additional eligibility requirements for Building Cultural Diversity include:

1. Organizations must be representative of the American Indian/Alaskan Native, Appalachian, Asian, Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, or other culturally specific population.
2. Applying organizations must be authentically representative of the population they serve, as evidenced by the following:
 - a. at least 50 percent of staff and board combined is made up of individuals from a culturally specific population
 - b. arts and culture programming focused on and reflective of that population
3. Applicants may be: 1) arts and cultural organizations in any arts discipline (literature, performing arts, visual arts, traditional arts, multidisciplinary arts, etc.); or 2) other organizations providing arts programming (government entities, social service agencies, etc.) that demonstrate a commitment to arts programming in a larger community setting.

Organizations receiving support through the Sustainability or Arts Access programs are ineligible to apply.

HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS: Building Cultural Diversity grants are one-year or six month awards for activities representative of a culturally diverse community. Funds may be used to support general operating and programming costs, with other allowable expenses including artist fees, training or workshop costs, marketing, and planning and evaluation costs. The budget section of the Building Cultural Diversity application provides a full list of allowable expense areas. Organizations may receive only one Building Cultural Diversity grant per year. Please refer to the [Introduction and Overview](#) for a list of activities the OAC cannot fund.

HOW TO APPLY: Building Cultural Diversity program applications must be submitted via the [ARTIE](#) system. Please refer to [ARTIE: Organizational Grant Applications](#) for a description of the process. New applicants are encouraged to contact the OAC prior to applying.

EVALUATION AND SCORING: A panel of OAC staff evaluates and scores each Building Cultural Diversity application.

Panelists highlight strengths and weaknesses, discussing all aspects of the application and its support materials. Summaries of panel comments are made available to applicants. Score averages are used to determine funding award recommendations, which are then reviewed by the OAC executive director and deputy director. The OAC Board is the only body authorized to make final funding decisions and must approve recommendations. The process is competitive, and not all applications are funded.

REVIEW CRITERIA: Criteria are divided into four categories: Program Quality, Community Engagement, Defining and Measuring Success, and Resource Management. Criteria evidence may be found in any portion of an application or associated support materials. Each criterion is worth up to five points, for a maximum of 60 points.

Program Quality (15 points)

- Project activities will celebrate the unique artistic contributions of a culturally diverse community
- Project will make possible activities of artistic, educational, or cultural value
- Artistic and/or educational leaders are qualified to carry out culturally unique project as described

Community Engagement (20 points)

- Efforts to engage participants are thoughtful
- Organization works to attract a diverse range of participants, including people with disabilities
- Project will be promoted using up-to-date tools and an understanding of targeted communities
- Engagement with the broader community is evident

Defining and Measuring Success (15 points)

- Project has been thoughtfully planned
- Successful outcomes for the project are clearly defined
- Documenting activities will help organization know to what degree success was achieved

Resource Management (10 points)

- Appropriate financial and other resources have been sought out to support project
- Sound administrative practices are led by qualified personnel

TIMELINE: The following timeline outlines the Building Cultural Diversity grant lifecycle. Any deadline falling on a Saturday, Sunday, or state holiday, is extended until the next business day. Grant Agreements are due 30 days after a grant is received. Final Reports are due 30 days after the conclusion of a grant period.

YEAR	DATE	TASK/DEADLINE
2017	November 1	Application Available in ARTIE
	December 1	Application Deadline for projects January 15, 2018—June 30, 2018
2018	January	Panel Meeting
	February	Grant Award Announcement
	June 1	Application Deadline for projects July 15, 2018—June 30, 2019
	July	Panel Meeting
	August	Grant Award Announcement