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Visual Arts

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Information Outlined Below:

Program Goals
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- Regrants and Partnerships Support

For complete instructions on how to apply to NYSCA's FY2017 Grant Program, please click here.

Program Goals

Visual Arts (VAP) offers support to a wide range of contemporary art activity for the benefit of the public and the advancement of the field. Visual Arts considers living artists to be of primary importance to the visual arts field and directs the majority of its funding to organizations that present visual artists who reside in New York State. Supported activities may include exhibitions, installations, workspace facilities, residencies, publications and critical writing.

The goals of Visual Arts are to:
Assist New York State visual artists in their efforts to create, present and exhibit new work.

- Interpret the work of contemporary visual artists to the public.
- Encourage dialogue and critical commentary about the visual arts.
- Present high-quality contemporary work that expands traditional parameters and reflects the diverse ethnic and cultural profile of the state.

Individual visual artists are not directly funded through this program area. Information on artist fellowships is available at the New York Foundation for the Arts (www.nyfa.org).

The NYSCA grant program strives to make investments of public funds that serve all communities and people that comprise New York State's citizens and visitors. NYSCA strongly supports, values and encourages the sustained and concerted efforts of non-profit art, culture and heritage organizations to be inclusive and have its workforce, artists and programmatic offerings reflect New York State's diversity of people, geography and artistic interests.

New applicants are encouraged to contact VAP staff in advance of the application deadline.

Program Information

Prerequisites

- Direct payment of fees to artists is required for all activities that include artists.
- New York State-based artists must be included in the ongoing programming.
- Organizations cannot require or request artists to pay a fee for participation in projects funded by NYSCA.
- Applicant organization must employ at least one paid staff member.
- Commissions on sales of art in projects funded by NYSCA cannot exceed 30% of the sale price.
- Projects and exhibitions featuring membership, board members, staff, faculty, or enrolled students are not eligible.
- Events such as festivals and open studios are not eligible for funding.

IMPORTANT NOTE: For the purpose of this grant opportunity, Visual Arts does not include time-based media art works such as moving image, video, sound art, gaming and film. For example, VAP supports work such as sculpture, painting, drawing, printmaking and photography. For applicants seeking support in the time-based media arts, please see NYSCA Electronic Media and Film Program grant opportunities.

For Visual Art organizations that present more than one artistic discipline or cross-discipline work in an Exhibition or Workspace request, applicants must apply for the Visual Art component only, as referenced above. Time-based and moving image technology art works, as project, exhibition or workspace components will not be considered eligible.

Types of Support Available:

Applicants may make a total of two requests Council-wide, except in categories exempt from the two-limit request (see below). Applicants wishing to make two requests in the Visual Arts project categories in FY17 should first speak to Program staff regarding eligibility for General Operating Support.

General Operating Support is provided for organizations whose primary mission is Visual Arts-based. General Support applicants may not apply in the project categories below, and are limited to one additional request Council-wide.

Project Support is provided for the following categories:

- Exhibitions & Installations
- Project Support
- Workspace Facilities

Regrants and Partnerships Support is made by invitation from the Council only, and is *exempt* from the Council-wide two-request limit**.**

Eligibility to Apply for other NYSCA Support and Exemptions from the Two-Request Limit:

Organizations applying for or receiving General Support from NYSCA may also apply for Project Support in one other program. Sponsored applicants and those funded under the following programs are exempt from the two-request limit:

Architecture and Design Program - *Independent Projects category*

Dance Program – *Rehearsal Space and Residencies category*

Electronic Media & Film Program –*Art & Technology Initiatives (see Workspace category)*

Facilities Program - *All categories*

Folk Arts Program - *Apprenticeships category*

Folk Arts Program - *Regional and County Folk Arts Programs category*

Individual Artists Program – *All categories*

Literature Program –*Translation category*

Regional Economic Development Program – *All categories*

State and Local Partnership Program - *Decentralization category*

All Programs - *Regrants and Partnerships category*

Evaluative Criteria

Grant requests are evaluated in accordance with agency-wide criteria.

Program Questions

All applicants to the Visual Arts Program
must complete the following questions

Managerial/Fiscal

1. Board and Staff

Describe the board composition, including their involvement in organizational management, fundraising and program oversight. Include the range of professional expertise of the board members.

2. Finances

Describe the plan for meeting annual organizational income goals and expenses. Describe how project expenses will be met. Describe contingency plans for any shortfall in income that might occur, for the organization and for projects.

Remember to include any financial notes in the Project Budget area.

3. Describe artist fees, support and artist subsidies for participating artists across all programs involving visual artists. Briefly describe any rights or contracts with the artist.

Marketing, Outreach and Promotion

4. Describe the promotion and marketing plan appropriate to your request, including print and electronic media. What measures are taken to diversify and broaden public and artist participation.

5. If applicable, describe the content and presentation format of any documentation or publication stemming from this project and/or programming. Include the plan for distribution, contributors and other useful information regarding the scope and purpose of this publication.

Service to the Public

6. Describe the benefit, value or significance of the organization and/or project to the cultural community and general public. If applicable, describe the specific community served by this organization. How does this project serve participating artists and the artist community?

7. Describe any partnerships or collaborations the organization may have with other cultural organizations partners, including local businesses.

Category Specific Information & Questions:

Applicants are also required to complete those questions that correspond to the category for which they are applying.

Regrants and Partnerships

The Council may contract with nonprofit organizations to administer targeted funding and technical assistance in areas not directly funded by NYSCA Programs. These activities are carried out with funds granted through the Regrants & Partnerships category.

Application to the Regrants and Partnerships Programs category is by invitation only.

This category covers a range of services from the administration of technical assistance funds to fees for artist appearances. Services can either have a long-term role in the arts community or be developed to meet a short-term need. Some organizations may use a panel review process to determine regrant awards for their projects, while others may be limited primarily to assigning and accounting for consulting services. A working knowledge of the target audience, arts discipline, and service area is essential for those organizations receiving grant contracts in this category. Organizations applying to the Council in this category must show a willingness to reach beyond their membership in providing services or regrant awards.

Administrative costs for delivery of services can vary depending on the nature, depth, and scope of the work, but should rarely exceed 15% of project costs. Organizations receiving support for regrants in this category are required to report on the distribution of funds, describing the demographics of the recipients.

Eligibility Criteria:

In order to be eligible to apply for Regrants and Partnerships Support an applicant organization must meet the following minimum criteria:

- It must be a governmental or quasi-governmental entity, a tribal organization, or duly incorporated non-profit organization, either incorporated in NY State or registered to do business in NY State, with its principal place of business located in NY State; and

- Unless it is not otherwise exempted from prequalification, the nonprofit organization must be prequalified to do business with NY State by the time of the NYSCA application submission deadline date. For more information about how to Register and Prequalify in the Grants Gateway, click here.

- Its primary focus or mission must be in the discipline in which the organization is seeking Regrants and Partnerships Support; or the organization must have significant ongoing activities or services that address the focus of the NYSCA program in which the organization is seeking support; and

- It must have ongoing services, programs, exhibitions, productions or other art and cultural activities that serve the general public and/or the arts discipline; and

- The organization must make evident a substantial commitment to arts and culture, with a prior record of accomplishment in producing or presenting cultural activities or services; or the organizational mission must be primarily devoted to arts and culture, with a prior record of accomplishment in producing or presenting cultural activities or services; and

- It must demonstrate fiscal stability as indicated by such factors as a positive fund balance, an absence of substantial, recurring organizational deficits, a realistic and balanced organizational budget, diverse revenue sources, and strong internal controls; and

- The organization must employ one or more qualified, salaried administrative staff; and

- It must have a viable, committed board of directors with officers that exercises oversight and accountability for governance, operations, programming and finances; and

- It must demonstrate a consistent policy of fair payment to consultants, organizations and artists.

Regrants and Partnerships Questions:

Artistic/Programmatic

1. **Program Summary**
   Describe the regrant or partnership program, its priorities, and the constituents served. How does it differ from or complement other programs in the community or field? Provide the organizational URL.

2. **Mission**
   How does this program relate to the organization's mission, goals and programming?

3. **Scope of Activity**
   For ongoing regrant projects, describe the number of requests received, on average, for each of the past two years. Include the average request amount and grant amount. If this is a new request or service, project the number of anticipated requests and the range of grant amounts to be awarded.

Managerial/Fiscal

4. Staffing

Who is responsible for the administration of this project? Describe their role, detailing their duties and noting whether this is a full time, part-time or consultant position. If the coordinator has other responsibilities within the organization, describe them.

6. Work Plan

Outline the schedule and work plan for the next granting or activity cycle. Provide an overview of annual regrant or program deadlines and related activities.

Service to the Public

10. Selection Process

Describe the application and selection process, noting what is required of applicants, restrictions, and whether there is a panel review. If applicable, describe the composition of the panel and the review process.

11. Evaluation

How is the effectiveness of this program evaluated and assessed? Has evaluation led to change in the program? Describe the benefits of this regrant or partnership to the community and general public.

12. Community Context

Identify the other organizations in the area that provide similar arts and cultural activities, and tell us how their activities support, enhance, or differ from those of this organization. Describe any partnerships or collaborations with other organizations.

13. Support Materials

Please list all of the support materials and/or work samples being submitted. These materials are critical to the application's assessment.

Support Materials

Support Materials must be submitted by uploading each into the Pre-Submission Upload menu in the Grants Gateway Grant Opportunity Portal.

Acceptable file types: Adobe Acrobat PDFs, Microsoft Word DOC or DOCX, Microsoft PowerPoint PPT or PPTX. To submit URLs, please create a Word or PDF file with a list of URLs with any notes or description. URLs cannot be password protected and must remain live until December 31, 2016. NYSCA is not responsible for any broken, inactive or password protected links.

In the event that an applicant fails to submit one or more of the following required materials, the application will not be eligible for review. For a more detailed description of how to submit your support materials for this application, please click here for more information.

Program Support Materials

All applicants to the Visual Arts Program
must submit the following support materials.

1. *Résumés or biographical statements* of up to 3 key staff, maximum of 1 page each.
2. *Up to 5 representative marketing materials* (sample programs, flyers, catalogs or brochures) that reflect activity for the past year. Do not include press coverage, reviews or notices.
3. *Website, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and other social media links*. We also reserve the right to review any/all of these online sources as part of your application.
4. Up to 15 images best representing the request(s); including images of current year exhibitions, projects and/or workspace; where applicable, label each image with the artists' name, title of work, date, materials and dimensions ; also include images of the gallery/exhibition space.
5. Submit a list of related planned activities such as workshops, talks, lectures, and/or related films.
6. For the Workspace category, evaluation forms, designed by applicant organizations and completed by participating artists, are required as support material.