

ArtsWA seeks to distribute funds across Washington State. Grant allocation decisions are therefore made with consideration for achieving broad statewide geographic representation. Additionally, in 2016, the ArtsWA board of commissioners approved ArtsWA's 2017-2021 Strategic Plan. The updated plan includes a crosscutting objective that helps shape and guide the equitable distribution of ArtsWA's limited resources. Along with the Review Criteria, panelists are asked to consider ArtsWA's Strategic Plan's Crosscutting Objective when rating applications.

ArtsWA STRATEGIC PLAN CROSSCUTTING OBJECTIVE

"Increase our specific and intentional efforts around social justice to ensure that ArtsWA-funded activities and work are reflective of Washington's diverse populations including cultural diversity, artistic disciplines, geographic locations, and underserved populations."

THE REVIEW CRITERIA

While we understand that it is not always possible or appropriate for a project to meet every definition of the individual criterion, the strongest applications will demonstrate strengths in all of these five areas.

Below are the Review Criteria that are used to evaluate your application with brief examples.

PUBLIC BENEFIT that strengthens community through arts participation as defined by:

Project proposal identifies and details creative, cultural, professional, and/or economic development

Examples:

Project will provide professional development workshops for artists and tabling for the selling of artwork with proceeds going to the artists.

Project highlights cultural traditions of specific growing immigrant population in community

Project highlights traditions of local heritage/culture/community (example: focus on fishing community)

Project will draw tourists into the community during the event

Project proposal identifies and details collaboration with community partners and stakeholders

Examples:

Project will partner with local business groups

Project engages elders from the local Native American community

Project will partner with local schools and/or higher education

Project will partner with military facility and/or community

Project will partner with local social services agency(ies)

Project proposal identifies and details increased access, expansion and/or diversification of audience

Examples:

Project will tap into school district communications to reach immigrant community

Project will include two performances augmented specifically for the hearing impaired

Project will include a free outdoor performance in community space

Project will include discounted block of tickets for specific audience (low income, seniors, students, or to meet identified need)

INCLUSION of underserved* populations:

**Washington Administrative Code definition: "Underserved" means populations whose opportunities to experience the arts are limited by geography, ethnicity, economics, or physical ability. In addition, for the purposes of these guidelines and review criteria, we include: cultural heritage, race, religion, sexual orientation, age, gender expression, military personnel (and their families) and veterans.*

ArtsWA seeks to increase our specific and intentional efforts on inclusion, equity, and social justice by ensuring that funded activities are reflective of Washington's people, cultures, traditions, and art production. The "Inclusion" criterion provides a number of definitions we will use to recognize inclusive projects. Inclusive projects are those that reach and engage constituents historically underserved and subsequently excluded from participation in the arts.

The definitions under the "Inclusion" criterion correspond to the above definition of "underserved" and are fairly self-explanatory. As mentioned in the comment under the Review Criteria heading above, we understand that not all the definitions are always possible to meet or appropriate for every project. Therefore we will be mindful that inclusion is relative to project and community, however we will be evaluating the extent to which applicants are making efforts to identify, reach and include underserved populations in their communities.

ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE:

Project proposal identifies and details a mastery of skills, techniques and/or diverse approaches

Project proposal identifies and details a professional approach to process and presentation

Project proposal identifies and details communication of a unique vision or perspective

Project proposal identifies and details how it contributes to a vibrant arts and cultural community

Project proposal identifies and details how it contributes to the development of artists, art form, or arts field

Here we are evaluating what you tell us about the specific arts strengths and qualities of your project. Be specific about the arts components of what you're producing when, for example, you're speaking of the artists or arts personnel you've chosen, what are the strengths they bring to the project?

EVALUATION of the sustainability, planning and growth of the applicant organization, project or community:

For examples of evaluation: <https://goo.gl/cF1dhw>

Project proposal identifies and details method(s) to measure impact of the project on the applicant's local or target community

Project proposal identifies and details method(s) to measure impact of the project on the applicant's organizational strategic goals, objectives and planning

Project proposal identifies and details method(s) to measure successes and shortcomings of project participation and outcomes

Project proposal identifies and details method(s) to measure the project's replication (if applicable) and/or program sustainability

MANAGEMENT of project:

Project proposal includes a budget that leverages state funds with a diverse funding strategy (including a 1:1 match)

Showing a proactive approach (multiple funding streams) to funding your project speaks volumes to the panelists. There are lots of avenues to fund your project including other grants, private donors, corporate/business donors, etc. Your budget is as much a narrative of your project as the description of the project itself. Who are you reaching out to along with ArtsWA? Funds do not need to be confirmed at time of application.

Project proposal includes an event list charting a minimum of a one-year history of producing arts and relevant programming

This portion of the application lets us see what projects you've managed over the last year. They don't all have to specifically be arts projects (but preferred) and should reflect your capacity to produce the project you are proposing.

Project proposal clearly articulates organization's current capacity to plan and produce their project including names and brief bios of experienced staff and key personnel

We want to know who is involved in this project. Who are the key players, their roles and qualifications? For example, your narrative could reflect information such as why your organization chose these participants and reflect on how choosing them strengthens the project and the organizations mission.

The logo for the Washington State Arts Commission is a large, stylized letter 'A' composed of several overlapping, semi-transparent geometric shapes in shades of blue, yellow, and orange. The text 'WASHINGTON STATE ARTS COMMISSION' is displayed in a light blue, sans-serif font, centered below the 'A' logo.

WASHINGTON STATE
ARTS COMMISSION