Building for the Arts Program Overview

WHAT IS BUILDING FOR THE ARTS?

- Building for the Arts awards state grants to nonprofit community-based organizations to buy, build, or renovate arts and cultural facilities
- Grants to eligible organizations up to 33 percent state match of eligible project costs
- RCW 43.63A.750

WHICH AGENCY ADMINISTERS BFA?

Washington State Department of Commerce

- Building for the Arts is administered by the Washington State Department of Commerce

- ArtsWA supports with outreach, informational consultation

HOW DOES THE GRANT WORK?

- Reimbursement-style grant for construction-related costs. Operating costs are ineligible

- Competitive grant application process held every two years

- Grant applications are screened by staff and then ranked by an advisory board

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

- Open to tribal entities and nonprofit arts organizations based in Washington State
- Historical museums are not eligible

ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS

- be a Tribe or registered in the state of Washington as a nonprofit organization

- have *binding* control of the site thru ownership or long-term lease

- legally constituted board of directors

- agree to LEED certification / exemption

- agree to pay state prevailing wages; **and**

- have made substantial progress in a capital fundraising campaign

WHAT TYPES OF PROJECTS CAN BE FUNDED?

- Buy, build or renovate arts and cultural facilities

- Art and cultural centers

- Theatres, performing arts centers, etc.

- History museums are NOT eligible

BUDGET, FUNDING AND MATCH

- $18M cap for available funds per biennium
- Required match, reimbursable
- Grant can provide up to 33% of eligible project costs

WHAT COSTS CAN BE REIMBURSED?

ELIGIBLE COSTS

- design, architectural, and engineering
- permits/fees; archeological review
- construction labor and materials
- IT infrastructure (cables and wiring)
- construction management (*external)*
- initial furnishings; landscaping
- real property

INELIGIBLE COSTS

- internal administrative activities
- project management
- Fundraising or feasibility studies
- computers, office equipment, vehicles
- lease payments or rentals
- mortgage or leases
- moving of equipment
- non-capital expenses, such as a website

HOW ARE PROJECTS SCORED?

- Ability to complete project expediently

- Organizational capacity

- Community need

- Availability of other funding sources

Building for the Arts
Building a Solid Plan and Project

CONDITIONS FOR SUCCESS

ORGANIZATIONAL FITNESS

- Can your organization make the project happen?

- Do you have capacity to manage facility long-term?

- Would you be able to move the project forward without BFA?

MARKET NEEDS / ASSESSMENT

- Does the community want this project?

- Data to back up demand

- Who else is doing this work in your area?

FEASIBILITY STUDY

- How practical is your project? How likely is it to come to fruition?

- Components of a feasibility study include: preliminary analysis, organization readiness, market assessment, financial analysis, project and funding timeline
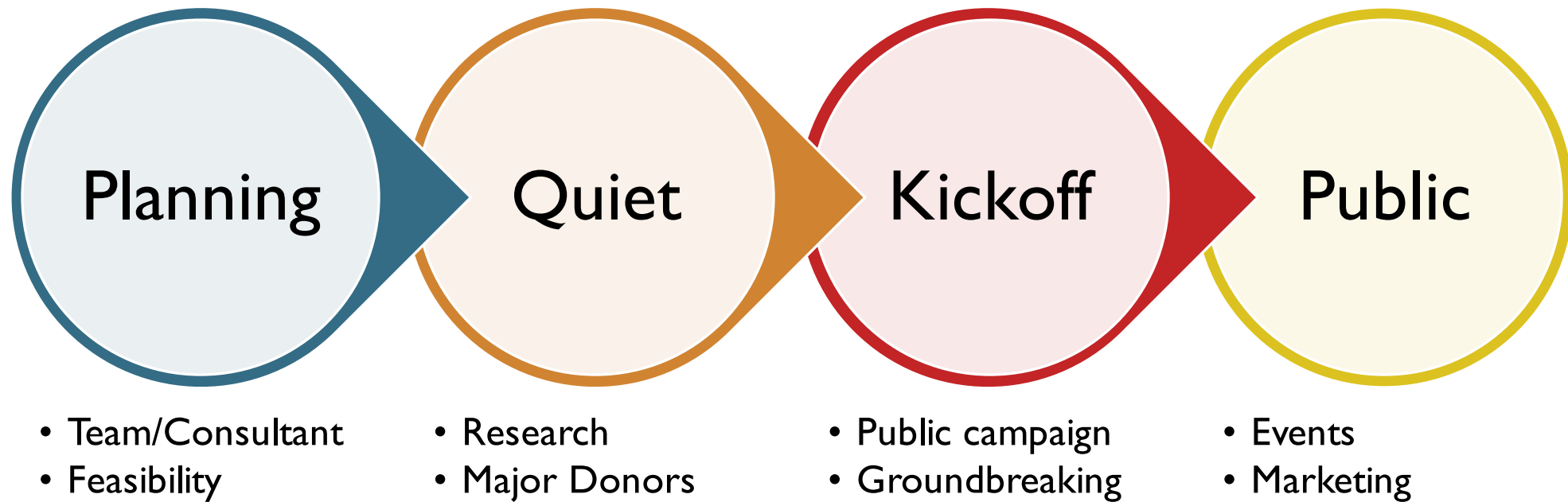
FINANCING YOUR PROJECT

- Determine a reasonable budget

- Do you have any initial investment for this project?

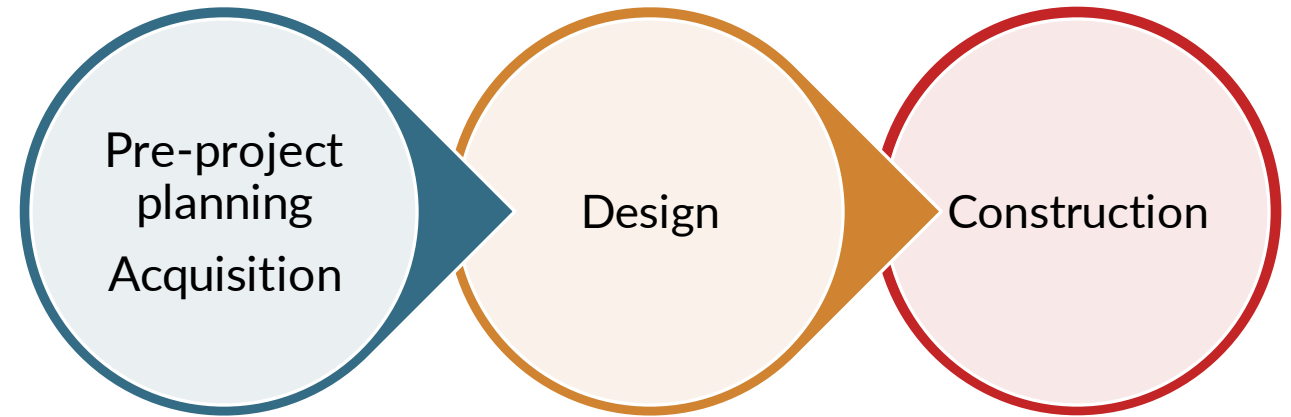- If not, how are you going to secure funding?

DO YOU NEED A CAPITAL CAMPAIGN?

Planning
- Team/Consultant
- Feasibility

Quiet
- Research
- Major Donors

Kickoff
- Public campaign
- Groundbreaking

Public
- Events
- Marketing

HOW TO DETERMINE PROJECT TIMELINE

- Start with the end in mind
- Which phase of the project are you in?
- How can you utilize project phases to access BFA funding?

Pre-project planning Acquisition → Design → Construction

LEED CERTIFICATION OR EXEMPTION?

- "Green" building standards

- LEED Silver

- Exemptions: land acquisition, new construction under 5000 sq. ft.; renovation costs <50% of assessed value & under 5000 sq. ft.; research facilities
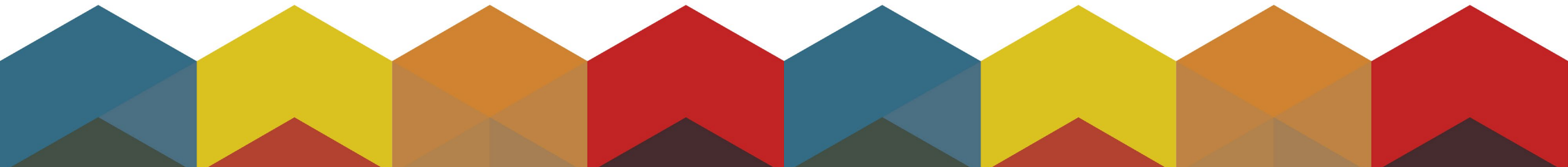
Building for the Arts
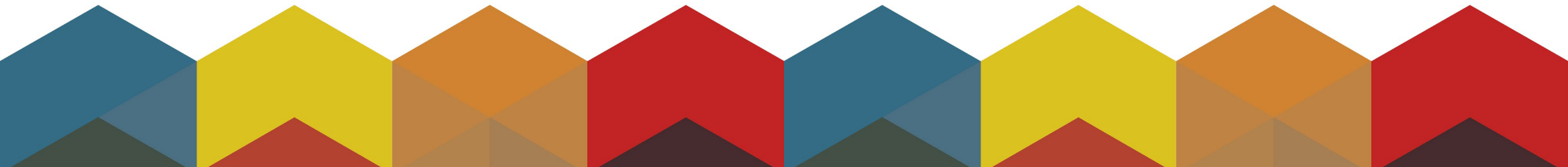## Building a Strong BFA Application

PREPARING TO APPLY FOR BFA

- Are you eligible and ready to apply?

- Can you complete the project on time & in budget?

- Can you ensure the long-term viability of your facility?

NOTES ABOUT THE APPLICATION

- Extensive application; can apply online only

- Preliminary step to determine eligibility

- Be prepared to answer extensive questions about budget, project scope
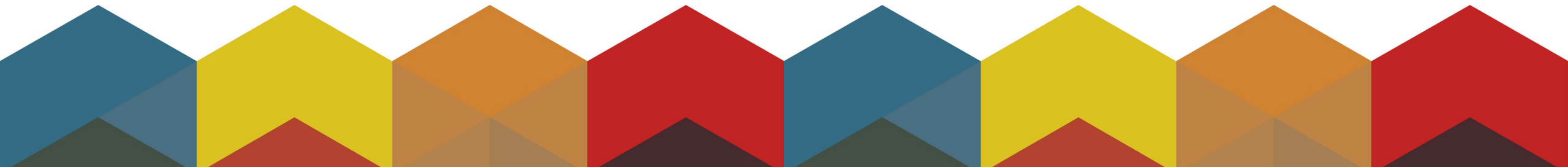
REVIEW CRITERIA

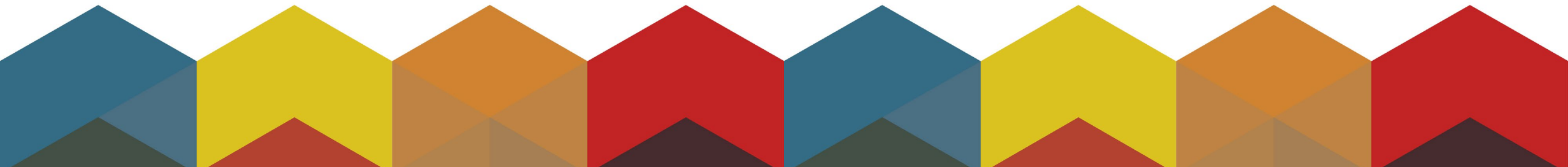Project readiness

Organizational capacity

Project results

Community need

Stakeholder participation

TIPS FOR A SMOOTH APPLICATION PROCESS

- Read grant guidelines closely

- Start doing the requirements early

- Pay attention to the questions, answer appropriately

THANK YOU!

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