2022 Queens Arts Fund Evaluation Criteria: Arts Access Grant

Below are the review criteria for the 2022 Arts Access Grant. Each criterion ranks from 3 as the highest score possible and 1 as the lowest score possible. The scores for each criteria are tallied to compose the applicant’s final score. Please use the guiding questions when scoring and review project proposals only based on the information provided in the application. Do not reference or determine scores using outside material.

- Outstanding (3) - very strong with only minor weaknesses
- Good (2) - strong with one or more moderate weaknesses
- Poor (1) - many major weaknesses, with very few strengths

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Creativity & Artistic Vision (3)
A competitive applicant’s artistic or organization mission is highly aligned with the proposed project or program’s goals. Key participating artists and collaborators are identified and their roles are clearly defined.

- What is the project that is being proposed? Are both the project concept and logistics clearly described?
- How does this project align with the applicant’s organization/collective mission and goals? If the proposed project is different from past work, does the applicant show what steps they’ve taken to alter their programming or mission?
- Do the work samples demonstrate that the applicant uses the materials and resources available to them in creative, innovative ways?
- What is the applicant’s role in this project? Who are the participating artists and/or community members in this project? What are their roles?

Community Engagement & Resonance (3)
A competitive application clearly identifies the project’s intended Queens-based audience and provides an engaging, culturally-relevant arts or cultural experience that is reflective of the diversity of Queens. Competitive applications demonstrate evidence of long-lasting, sustainable relationships between the applicant and members of their target community. These relationships are mutually beneficial for the applicant, participating artists, and members of their target community.

- Is this project likely to resonate with its target audience? Is organization leadership and participating artists reflective of the target audience?
- Do collaborating artists, participants, and members of the target audience actively share decision-making power with the applicant in the envisioning, planning, and implementation of the proposed project?
- Does the marketing and outreach plan seem likely to engage the target community as proposed?

Equity & Access (3)
QAF aims to work towards furthering racial and economic equity in its grantmaking practices and actively seeks to fund applicants and their proposals that meet program-funding priorities, as outlined in QAF grant guidelines.

- Does this project center communities that are multiply-marginalized by our society’s inequitable systems and structures? Is this project based in and created by Black, Indigenous, and Latine communities and South and Eastern Queens neighborhoods who have historically been under-funded in past QAF grant cycles?
- Do people who are historically under-represented and under-resourced* in arts funding hold leadership positions in the applicant organization?
- Is the labor of partners or participating artists compensated or volunteer-based? Are collaborators paid at a fair rate?

QAF suggests using W.A.G.E. Certification's fee calculator, linked here, to determine fair compensation fees.
Does this project offer cultural, geographic, economic, and/or disability access to the target community and general public?
   ○ Is it free, or is there a sliding scale fee to participate in programs?
   ○ Are public programs compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act?
   ○ Is this project offered in languages other than English or are there translation services provided?

If awarded, would this applicant be a first-time QAF grant recipient?

*In arts and cultural sector funding, those who have been historically excluded and under-represented are members of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color communities, LGBTQIA2S+ folks, immigrants, and disabled folks.

Project Development & Feasibility (3)

Demonstrated ability to successfully complete the project as proposed.

Overall, does the application provide a basic understanding of the ‘who,’ ‘what,’ when,’ ‘where’ and ‘how’ of the project?

Are the timeline and budget clear and realistic in relation to the project’s scope? Keep in mind that shifts in project timelines are allowable, but projects must be completed by December 31st, 2022.

Is the proposed project and public component flexible enough to accommodate minor, unforeseen changes or roadblocks?