About Arts in Society

The Arts in Society grant program will make available a second round of grants in 2020. Arts in Society will accept applications through June 1, 2020. The acceleration of the application and grantmaking process is in response to the devastating economic impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the creative sector, but the projects are not limited to COVID-19 projects. Artists, arts organizations, and non-arts non-profits can apply to either respond to the current crisis or explore new responses to ongoing social challenges. Arts in Society is a collaborative grant-making program that fosters cross-sector work through the arts by supporting the integration of arts and culture into multiple disciplines critical to the health and well-being of Coloradans. The program, which is administered by RedLine Contemporary Art Center and funded through a cohort of Colorado foundations, provides grants ranging in size from $5,000-$35,000 to individuals and organizations who seek to implement projects that utilize the arts as an integral element in promoting social justice and community welfare.

ELIGIBILITY

Who can apply?

Arts in Society is open to nonprofits and individuals. Basically, all who reside in the state of Colorado can apply. You do NOT need to be an arts organization. We encourage applications from individual artists, non-arts organizations like human service groups, neighborhood organizations, or healthcare organizations (as examples). Government entities can also apply.
Could an organization or artist located outside of Colorado be eligible to apply if they use an eligible local organization as a fiscal sponsor?

Primary applicants must be from Colorado. If you are an organization or artist outside the state of Colorado interested in applying, you must partner with an organization within the state in order to be eligible. A fiscal sponsor does not count as a “partner.” Partner organizations must play a critical role in the implementation of the project.

If I am already a grantee of one or more of the funding partners (currently Bonfils-Stanton Foundation, Hemera Foundation, and/or Colorado Creative Industries) can I also apply to this program?

Yes.

Can we participate in more than one application e.g. as a lead on one project and a "partner" on another application that another org leads (distinct projects).

Yes.

PROJECT TIMELINES AND CROSS-SECTOR WORK

Should the grant application be geared towards the possibility of continued remote work? Do we create two scenarios with carrying out our project in current COVID-19 restrictions and possible post-pandemic conditions if restrictions are lifted?

While it’s not necessary, it would be a good idea to think through how your proposal would be feasible in the new normal with inevitable restrictions and the possibility of more outbreaks and further restrictions. It would be advisable to make sure your project can still take place under restrictions or include an alternate plan. This year’s application timeline is shortened due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but you are invited to apply for a one-year or two-year grant cycle, which provides an opportunity to potentially implement your project post-crisis. Your project can be a response to the pandemic or address another social issue or challenge.
What do you mean by cross-sector work through the arts?

This type of work is sometimes referred to as Arts &. The term implies the utilization of arts and culture as an integral part of creating solutions to civic, social, environmental, and health problems. Arts in Society funds projects that integrate arts and culture with other disciplines to improve the health and well-being of Coloradans. Qualifying projects will engage arts organizations and artists as partners in illuminating and finding solutions to a wide array of civic and social challenges in communities across Colorado. Read our blog or look at all the funded projects for some examples of work by past and present Arts in Society grantees.

What’s considered socially engaged art?

Good question. There are many definitions, but we like this one: “an art medium that focuses on social engagement, inviting collaboration with individuals, communities, and institutions in the creation of art that informs or shines a light on a social issue”.

When planning your project, think about the idea of “with not for”.

How are you working with the people affected by the social issue you are addressing to come up with a solution through art with them, not for them. This is a key question funders are looking at when reviewing applications. If you’d like to learn more, check out the following links:
A Blade of Grass
Creative Time
Pablo Helguera, Education for Socially Engaged Art

PARTNERSHIPS AND BUDGETS

Do partnerships need to provide financial assistance or can they provide support in other ways? Can partnerships be a group of individuals that are not related other than they share a common social issue?

Partnerships do not necessarily have to provide financial assistance or help fund the project. Our definition of community is broad and wide-reaching. Funders do want to see that you have collaboration and support from other organizations and individuals, but that doesn’t mean it needs to be monetary support. We define community in both
geographic and relational terms. A project must work with a community of people who share something in common (interest, geography, heritage, etc.).

Is it appropriate to apply for funding for a collaborative project that intends to be ongoing and evolving, but is not started yet? On the other hand, can projects be a specific, short window of time within the funding timeframe?

Both types of projects have received funding and are eligible. If you’re applying for a very large project with an extended timeline and large budget, it might be better to consider applying for funding for just one aspect of the overall project that can be completed in 12-24 months.

How extensive/comprehensive does the proposed budget need to be, as the timeline is shortened this year?

The budget doesn’t need to be extensive; however, you should think of it as a supporting document to your project narrative. What can you include in your budget that adds to and reflects your written statements? Additionally, funders like to see that you are including cost of administration and that you’re paying artists fair wages. W.A.G.E. and CARFAC are good resources to assess examples and pay scales.