Speakers

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Arts Forward Fund
Agenda

- Background and purpose of the fund
- Types of work that will be funded
- Eligibility
- Overview of online application process
- Timeline
- Q&A
Background

The Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation and Greater Washington Community Foundation and have joined with eight other funders to launch the Arts Forward Fund to support arts and culture organizations in the DC region as they make essential shifts needed to continue their work during the COVID-19 pandemic and respond to the nationwide movement for racial justice.
Supporters

- The Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation
- Weissberg Foundation
- Harman Family Foundation
- Linowitz Family Fund
- S&R Foundation
- Greater Washington Community Foundation
- Paul M. Angell Family Foundation
- Diane & Norman Bernstein Foundation
- England Family Foundation
- Philip L. Graham Fund
Purpose

Arts Forward Fund will make grants ranging from $10,000 to $50,000 to support short-term capacity-building, training, and innovation. Nearly $1 million is available for grantmaking.

Arts Forward Fund will prioritize:

- Organizations that serve Black, Indigenous, and other communities of color
- Organizations with limited access to philanthropic capital.
- Requests that address longstanding racial inequities in organizations, in the arts and culture field, and in the broader community.
Three Types of Work

- **Capacity Building** — needed shifts to organizational programs and operations to adapt to the impact of COVID-19
- **Training** — group learning (rather than individual professional development)
- **Innovation** — solutions with implications for the broader arts community
Eligibility Criteria

Your organization...

✓ Serves DC; Prince Georges Co., Montgomery Co., Arlington, Fairfax, Alexandria, and/or Falls Church

✓ Is a 501(c)(3) public charity, has a fiscal sponsor that is a 501(c)(3), or plans to have either of those secured before the grant is awarded

✓ Centers arts and culture in your work

✓ Has pre-COVID annual revenues totaling $10 million or less

If you can say “Yes” to ALL of the above, you are eligible to apply!
Ineligible to Apply

- Individuals
- Private and public schools, including public charter schools
- Organizations located in the DC region that are not focused primarily on serving the DC region
- Organizations headquartered outside the DC region
- Larger organizations, such as colleges and universities, that operate arts programs
Application Questions

- **Brief organizational description** (mission and goals; audiences, communities, and geographies served; number of people reached/served)

- How COVID-19 has affected your organization

- Description of the work for which you are requesting support – *in the context of capacity-building, training, and innovation, and the impact of COVID-19 on your organization*

- How your proposed efforts will help you **adapt to the current environment** and be more effective and equitable during and after COVID-19

- **Racial composition** of board, staff, and people you serve

- How your organization advances **diversity, equity, and inclusion**, internally and in the broader community

- **Anything else** you’d like to tell us
Attachments

Required* attachments (submitted as separate PDFs):

1. Financial statements (statement of activities and statement of financial position) for the most recently completed fiscal year -- audited or not audited
2. Most recently available statement of financial position (balance sheet) -- not audited
3. Current year budget
4. Budget for this grant request

*If unable to submit any of these items, upload a separate PDF note for each to let us know why.
Criteria for Review

- Alignment with the spirit of the fund (adaptations needed to navigate COVID-19; capacity building, training, and/or innovation; strengthened organizational viability)
- Programmatic and/or financial impact on the organization
- Impact on the people and communities served by the organization
- Impact on the broader arts and culture community
- Addressing of longstanding inequities in the arts and culture field and/or broader community.
- Leadership of Black, Indigenous, and other communities of color
Step 1: Create an Account

All grant applications must be submitted via The Community Foundation's Online Grant Application System. To access the application form, please use this link:


You will need to create an account in the Community Foundation’s Gifts online portal. If you already have an account you will be able to log in using your email address and password. If you forgot your password, please click on the ‘Forgot Password’ link.
Step 2: Enter Your Tax ID Number

Enter your organization’s tax identification number:
Step 3: Complete the Online Application

Overview

Arts Forward Fund is a collaborative partnership between The Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation, Greater Washington Community Foundation, and many other individual and institutional contributors, with a goal of helping arts and culture organizations in the DC region stabilize, adapt, and thrive despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

In mid-May, the Cafritz Foundation interviewed leaders of arts organizations across the DC region to better understand the impact COVID-19 was having on their operations, finances, and ability to fulfill their missions. As expected, these interviews revealed significant challenges and financial vulnerability, but also optimism, resilience, and creativity in finding a path forward.

Arts Forward Fund was launched in June 2020 with an initial grant of $250,000 from the Cafritz Foundation, with an additional $250,000 available to match contributions from other funders. Supporters include the Harman Family Foundation, Weisberg Foundation, Linowitz Family Fund, Diane & Norman Bernstein Foundation, Paul H. Angell Family Foundation, England Family Foundation, and Philip L. Graham Fund. By mid-July, contributors had surpassed requirements for the Cafritz match, making nearly $1 million available for grantmaking.

The purpose of the Arts Forward Fund is to provide resources to support organizations as they make essential shifts needed to weather the COVID-19 pandemic, which may be protracted, and continue their vital role in the region’s economy and community life. The partners around the Arts Forward Fund table believe that arts and culture organizations are a critical part of the region’s economy, as well as contributing immeasurably to our sense of community well-being and quality of life for everyone.

Beyond well-known cultural institutions that are household names, the arts and culture sector in our region includes scores of community-based groups that serve people of all ages, identities, and income levels. As we move forward, the steering committee is committed to doing this work with an equity lens. That means we will prioritize organizations that serve Black, Indigenous, and other communities of color, and organizations with limited access to philanthropic capital. We will also prioritize requests that address longstanding racial inequities in organizations, in the arts and culture field, and in the broader community.

If you need assistance with the grant application and online portal, please contact Gisela Shanfield at gshanfield@thecommunityfoundation.org. Due to the anticipated volume of requests, we are not able to talk one-on-one with prospective applicants regarding programmatic questions.
Step 4: Upload all attachments

- Each required attachment must be individually uploaded into the system & required in order for your application to be considered complete.
- Only one document may be uploaded for each required attachment.
- Documents will only be accepted in PDF File format.
- Please do not use special characters (!, @, #,$, etc.) in the names of these attachments.
Step 5: Review and Submit

After you have carefully reviewed your application for completeness, click ‘Review and Submit’ to submit your application. You will receive an e-mail confirming your application submission.
Timeline

- Application Opened: August 5, 2020
- Applicant Webinars: **August 14, 2020 & August 20, 2020**
- Deadline for submission is **Thursday, August 27, 2020**
- Funding decisions made by September 21, 2020
- Applications will be reviewed by steering committee representatives and outside reviewers
Questions?