2022 Donors InVesting in the Arts (DIVAs)

CALL FOR IDEAS

Release Date: July 6, 2022

Amount Available: Most grants will range from $5,000 to $10,000.

To Apply: Interested organizations must complete all the fields in the application form by 5 p.m. on Friday, August 19, 2022. By September, The Community Foundation will follow up with any questions from the DIVAs members and/or information about how to submit a formal proposal.

Questions? Reach out to Olivia Hsu, Donor Services Associate, at ohsu@thecommunityfoundation.org prior to the deadline.

The DIVAs Giving Circle is comprised of Montgomery County women who seek to enable youth to have life-changing experiences through the arts. Each year, the DIVAs Giving Circle develops guidelines for its giving, evaluates youth/arts grant opportunities, and seeks to support promising arts programming for youth through a competitive review process facilitated by The Community Foundation’s professional staff.

Eligibility
For the 2022 cycle, the DIVAs are particularly interested in programs that foster mental health and healing, promote joyful self-expression, encourage conflict resolution and violence prevention, build bridges, and inspire hope. The DIVAs Giving Circle is open to hearing from art-focused nonprofits as well as youth-focused organizations whose partnerships can ensure highly engaging, top quality artistic programming. All artistic mediums are welcome (e.g., visual arts, theater, dance, digital media, video production, creative writing, etc.).

Our Commitment to Racial Equity
The Donors InVesting in the Arts grantmaking program is happening within the context of The Community Foundation’s new 10-year strategic plan grounded in the values of Racial Equity and Inclusion and a vision to close the racial wealth gap in the region’s most underinvested neighborhoods. We believe that changing the prospects for how Black and Brown people in our community generate, sustain, and share wealth will ultimately improve the quality of life for everyone who lives, works, and raises a family in this region. We invite applicants to speak boldly and honestly about their efforts to address systems and policies that contribute to disproportionate negative outcomes for BIPOC people and communities. To this end, we are also
actively looking for opportunities to support BIPOC-led organizations and the places where they do their work.

VIEW SUBMISSION FORM

Application Questions
For planning purposes, the call for ideas application questions are noted below.

1. Organization Name
2. Website
3. Name, email, and phone number for the organization's Executive Director
4. Name, title, phone number, and email of primary contact person for fundraising (if different from Executive Director)
5. Total Organizational Budget (Current Year)
6. Fiscal Year (e.g., January – December, July – June)
7. Mission [Limit 500 characters]
8. Note the total number of staff and describe your staff composition in terms of full, part-time, or contracted employees as well as the racial/ethnic breakout. Please also clarify the race/ethnicity of the organization’s most senior staff members (however you define senior leadership).
   ▪ For example, “We have # staff members: # full-time and # part-time. # identify as African American/Black, # as Asian, # as Latinx, # as White, ... Our senior team includes the Executive Director (Insert race/ethnicity), Director of Development (Insert race/ethnicity)”
9. Please note if you are applying for a new or existing program which uses the arts to foster mental health and healing, promote joyful self-expression, encourage conflict resolution and violence prevention, build bridges, and inspire hope among Montgomery County children and youth.
10. Please describe the programs that your organization plans to offer in the coming year which seek to use experiential artistic programming to promote mental health and wellbeing, promote joyful self-expression, encourage conflict resolution and violence prevention, build bridges, and inspire hope among Montgomery County children and/or youth, particularly those disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. [Limit 1500 characters]
   ▪ For existing programs, be sure to note recent outcomes achieved over the last year. For new programs, be sure to explain how this work builds on your existing programs which either provide high quality arts experiences and/or serve Montgomery County's children and youth.
11. List any partners that are critical to the success of this program. For new programs, please be sure to clarify if these partnerships are already formalized or in progress.
12. Briefly explain how a grant between $5,000 - $15,000 could help advance this work. [Limit 500 characters]

13. Note the number of Montgomery County children/youth this program aims to serve in the coming year if selected for funding by the DIVAs.

14. Geographic focus of this program within Montgomery County. You may list regions (County-wide, Up-county, East County, etc.) or specific cities, neighborhoods, and/or schools.

15. (Optional, 3-page maximum) You may submit a supplemental document which helps illustrate your organization’s track record and impact of your work.

16. How is the population that you seek to impact involved in your work? How is your work informed by the people most directly impacted? How does your organization currently center BIPOC voices?