Accelerator Awards are open to Creative Youth Development (CYD) music organizations seeking to influence youth-serving systems so all young people have access to learning, creating, and performing experiences that reflect their culture and identity.

The mission of The Lewis Prize is to partner with leaders who create positive change by investing in young people through music. Our vision is for every young person, regardless of who they are or where they live, to have the opportunity to access music programs from a young age. We believe this can only be achieved through equitable systems change. We aim to award ambitious organizations and leaders who are already strengthening young people through rigorous and diverse music programs and influencing systems so all young people can develop greater agency over their lives and contribute positively to their communities.

Round One applications were open from July 24-August 21, 2020 at 5pm PST.

Eligibility Questions
These awards are for music-based Creative Youth Development organizations that are led by strong leaders who are addressing opportunity gaps and/or circumstances of marginalization for young people in their community and working for systemic change. Eligible applicants must be able to answer “Yes” to the following questions:

1. Are the youth whom you serve in the age range of 6-21 years old?
2. Do at least 50% of the total youth served come from historically marginalized or under-resourced communities?
3. Does your program provide consistent, ongoing participation opportunities that sequentially build skills and relationships over time, ideally multi-year? (One time classes, short term workshops, and/or summer camps do not meet the eligibility.)
4. Does your program/work serve youth outside of school hours?
5. Is at least 50% of the time youth are in/at your program devoted to music learning, creating, or performing?
6. Does your program/work take place in the United States or its territories, and the young people it serves reside in the US or its territories?
7. Is your organization an independent 501(c)(3) or do have a partnership with a 501(c)(3) as a fiscal sponsor?
8. Has your organization been in operation for at least five years (beginning in or before 2015)?
9. Are you, the leader of the program, writing this Application? “Leader” is defined as someone who reports directly to the Board of Directors.

10. Have you been the leader of this program/work since 2017 or before?

11. Do you, the leader, or another leader who reports to the Board of Directors, reside in the local community where the work/program is located?

12. Does your Board of Directors and/or senior management staff have at least 25% of its members who reside in or represent the community that you serve?

General Information

1. Leader’s (your) first and last name:
2. Name of your music organization/program:
   a. Name of the specific music program (if different/more specific than listed above).*optional
3. Address of your music organization/program:
   a. Street address
   b. City/town
   c. State
   d. Zip code
4. Leader’s email address:
5. Additional email address of someone else from your organization to receive communication regarding this application.*
6. Leader telephone number (to be reached during summer/fall 2020):
7. Music organization/program’s website:
8. Music organization/programs social media handle:
9. Founding year of your music organization
10. Founding year of the umbrella organization, if different than the music program:*optional
11. Year you started as the leader of your music organization/program
12. Your organization or Fiscal Sponsor’s IRS issued EID number (ex: xx-xxxxxxxx)
13. What were your total organizational expenses reported in your last 1099-IRS filing?
   a. $99,999 or less
   b. $100,000-$249,999
   c. $250,000-$499,999
   d. $500,000-$999,999
   e. $1m +
14. What percentage of your organization’s overall yearly budget is for youth music work?
   ● Some organizations are multi-service organizations.
   a. 0-19%
   b. 20-49%
   c. 50-79%
   d. 80-99%
   e. Our work is only youth music. 100%
We aim to support a nationally diverse group of leaders and organizations. The following information will be used for data collection, research, and for purposes of ensuring support for organizations that are located in under-resourced communities as well as those that are led by and/or uplift the voices and artistry of people of color, rural communities, and women leaders:

1. **What is your gender identity?** *optional

2. **What is your racial identity?** *optional
   
   Check box:
   
   a. African (Also including: Black, African-American, Black Caribbean)
   b. Asian (Also including: Southeast Asian, South Asian)
   c. First Peoples (Also including: Alaska Native, Indígena)
   d. Pacific Islander (Also including: Native Hawaiian)
   e. Latinx (Also including: Hispanic)
   f. MENA (Also including: Arab, Persian)
   g. White (Also including: European)
   h. Other

   i. Please specify: ______________

3. **Are you the founder of the organization? (y/n)**

4. **What is the population of your city/town?**
   
   a. 9,999 or below
   b. 10,000 to 24,999
   c. 25,000 to 49,999
   d. 50,000 to 99,999
   e. 100,000 to 199,999
   f. 200,000 to 499,999
   g. 500,000+

5. **What is the name of your county?**

6. **What is the population of your county?**
   
   a. 9,999 or below
   b. 10,000 to 24,999
   c. 25,000 to 49,999
   d. 50,000 to 99,999
   e. 100,000 to 199,999
   f. 200,000 to 499,999
   g. 500,000+

7. **State/territory: drop down**

8. **Based on your best estimate, what percentage of your organization’s young people would identify as being from a historically marginalized community?**
   
   a. 0-19%
   b. 20-49%
   c. 50-79%
   d. 80-100%

9. **What musical genre(s) does your organization/program work in?**
a. Band/Winds and Percussion  
b. Hip Hop  
c. Jazz  
d. Music Production  
e. Orchestra/strings  
f. Rock  
g. Vocal/Choral  
h. Culturally Specific Music, or other genres not listed:  
   i. ____________________

Reader’s Assessment of Eligibility
Please affirm that the statement below is true for the application: The applicant’s youth music work explicitly addresses opportunity gaps and/or mitigates circumstances of marginalization for the young people they serve, and has an explicit systems change vision. If “No”, do not continue scoring this application and inform your Lewis Prize staff contact.

General Program Overview
   1) Tell us about your standard program, including location, typical schedule and frequency, and specific numbers of young people involved.

Rubric for General Program Overview: No scoring

Big Idea
   1. What is your Big Idea, or vision, for all young people?
   2. How has the Big Idea shifted or changed since the beginning of 2020?

Rubric for The Big Idea/vision: 0-5
   ● Goes beyond the organization and stretches to the wider community/nation/world.
   ● The Big Idea aligns with the Lewis Prize for Music’s focus on achieving equitable access to music learning, creating and performing opportunities for all young people.
   ● The Big Idea has remained steadfast, and/or shifted in ambitious ways in 2020, considering the current circumstances.

Systems Change
   1) Does your work focus on macro and/or civic systems change?  
      a) Macro  
      b) Civic  
      c) Both  
   2) Describe how you are undertaking systems change in the area(s) you listed above, toward your Big Idea.
Rubric for Systems Change: 0-5

- The applicant’s choice of their systems change work (Q1) aligns with their description of their actual work (Q2). The systems change work is explicit and intentional.

Partners

1) Describe the partners that you work with to pursue your Big Idea and systems change. Who are they, and how do you collaborate to accomplish systems change work?

Rubric for Partners: 0-5

The partners are:

- Diverse with clear roles and intentionally combining their unique strengths toward the Big Idea and systems change goals.
- The organization demonstrates self awareness and a genuine spirit of collaboration for how it aligns with others in the community to leverage shared impact and outcomes.

Systems Change Impact

1) In list form: tell us about the systems change results that have already been achieved by this music work, particularly as it pertains to the Big Idea. Please correlate your impact and progress to the phases of systems change.

Rubric for Systems Change Impact: 0-5

The systemic work is already in progress, and is creating progress toward the Big Idea (Steps 4, 5, or 6). Continued work in this area will create a visible impact toward the Big Idea.

Systems Change Process Steps:

1. People experience the need for change
2. Diagnosing the systems
3. Creating a progressive change initiative
4. Enabling a tipping point to infuse systems with change (partnering with civic systems, coalitions and social movements are a few examples of how to enable a tipping point)
5. Sustaining the transition to new systems
6. The new rules of systems are the new mainstream/standard

Leadership

1) Describe how your organization embodies collaborative leadership both within your organization and with your community.

2) In the midst of the intersecting crises of COVID-19, economic instability, and racial justice uprisings, how has leadership evolved in your organization?
Rubric for Leadership - part one: 0-5
The applicant demonstrates a collaborative leadership that:

- Puts others as equal collaborators and leaders, including youth
- Prioritizes the holistic wellbeing of their youth, especially in 2020
- Prioritizes the holistic wellbeing of their staff/team, especially in 2020
- Shows appropriate evolution to their circumstances throughout 2020

3) Describe how you as a leader work together with the other leaders within your organization toward the Big Idea. How do their characteristics, traits, and experiences also lead the organization?

Rubric for Leadership - part two: 0-5
The applicant describes an inclusive culture that explicitly makes room for and uplifts the leadership and abilities of others.

Youth Leadership
1) Describe the youth leadership within your organizational structure and the ways you and your staff encourage and support tangible opportunities and outcomes of young people leading.

Rubric for Youth Leadership - part one: 0-5
The organization’s leadership involves youth in numerous ways throughout the organization’s structure in intentional ways that are integral to the organization’s Big Idea and systems change goals. Leadership responsibilities for young people increase as they mature and have more experience.

2) How would receiving the Lewis Prize impact your organization’s ability to have young people lead and participate toward the achievement of the Big Idea?

Rubric for Leadership - part two: 0-5
The organization has a clear and distinct plan of how youth will be further involved in advancing the Big Idea and systems change goals.

Equity and Inclusion
1) What does equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) look like in the day-to-day of your program, organization, and governance? Where are you proud of your EDI work, and where can you grow or improve?

Rubric for Equity and Inclusion - part one: 0-5
The organization/program has strong policies, habits and/or a culture that ensures equitable inclusion on its board, among its staffing and in its programming.
2) How do you identify and consistently include representatives of the community you serve in leadership (board & staff), program and advisory roles? How is your organization accountable to your community?

**Rubric for Leadership - part two: 0-5**

There is little difference between “the organization” and “the community.” The organization shows equitable and inclusive practices that are accountable to their community.

**The YEAR 2020**

1) Tell us about specific choices you have made for your organization in 2020. What are your biggest concerns right now? How has this season helped or hurt the work toward systems change? Paragraph or List form.

**Rubric for The Year 2020: 0-5**

The applicant is transparent about how 2020 has impacted the organization and its pursuit of systems change.

Is there anything else that you’d like to share with the Lewis Prize? Please share it here (75 words) *optional:

**Rubric for Additional Information: No scoring**

**WORK SAMPLES**

1) A final or culminating project or performance within the last 3 years that displays all or most of the following elements:

- Rigor
- Personal expression
- Youth leadership
- Cultural identity
- Enthusiastic engagement of the young people performing.

**Rubric for Work Sample One: 0-5**

The young people are challenged but are meeting that challenge with style. | Original voice: young people bring their own expression to the music in a truthful way that it becomes fully their music. | The young people look fully present and engaged. | Includes characteristics of appropriate cultural representation. | It sounds good and you want to hear it again.

Score 1 point for each example you experience or perceive for a maximum of 5 points
2) Examples of process, rehearsal, student interview, or program experience that showcases:
   - Artistic and developmental growth
   - Social interventions that show youth leadership

Rubric for Work Sample Two: 0-5
The material displays: A connected community of support | Youth engagement and leadership | Growth | Impact | Community Collaboration | Equity and Inclusion |