Request for Applications: Anthology Research Project Lead

The Lewis Prize for Music seeks applicants to lead its forthcoming national creative youth development and systems change anthology project. This project will engage upwards of 60 creative youth development (CYD) organizations around the country as well as a small body of expert organizers/researchers who will serve as editors for the project. The intention for the anthology is to create a critical mass of stories and testimonies about the ways in which creative youth development organizations are shifting and intervening in the systems that impact young people as well as their local and regional communities. Concurrently, we seek for this story collection effort to help articulate the lineages of the field of creative youth development.

The Lewis Prize for Music (TLPM) will collaborate with the CYD field to use the anthology project, both in process and publication, to make the case for increased support of creative youth development across the United States.

Request

The Lewis Prize is requesting applications from individuals to develop and lead a multi-stage qualitative research effort culminating in an anthology/body of stories about the power of creative youth development and systems change across the United States.

The Lewis Prize is particularly interested in receiving applications from individuals with the following set of skills and experiences. These skills are all of significance to us and are listed in no particular order of importance.

1. Masterful command of storytelling technologies and practices across the stages of story collection, story development, editing and publication across media and form. This anthology may become a podcast or a film or a convening or a suite of think tanks or a white paper or something else. We are looking for a candidate who has a background in multidisciplinary storytelling.
2. A strong background and understanding of the work of creative youth development. A background as a youth worker is essential.
3. A strong background with both qualitative and quantitative research and analysis. A background in academia is a plus but not required.
4. A strong background in project management. This project will engage a wide range of contributors and stakeholders. Attention to detail and strong orientations toward building internal systems for management is crucial.
5. Having a personal connection and commitment to the mission and vision of The Lewis Prize for Music, particularly around its goal to support music organizations that work across the diversity of genres that make up the cultural fabric of the United States, is a big plus.
Goals and Outcomes
We hope that this anthology will be a major opportunity for the CYD field to be able to collectively articulate its impact on positive social change and systems change in the United States. At The Lewis Prize for Music our specific goals for this project include:

1. Produce one Anthology report that provides historic context for the CYD field and features 60-64 case studies that clearly demonstrates the alignment between the CYD field and 6-8 cross-sector systems change areas.
2. Engage the Lewis Prize community including staff, board, awardees and grantees in the collective work of contributing to this anthology.
3. Development and activation of a network of activist/editors across 6-8 - yet to be determined systems change areas (examples only: racial justice, youth movement building, direct service provision, carceral justice systems reform)
4. Plan potential in-person or online engagement opportunities and learning networks with anthology editors and contributors.
5. Outreach and engagement of contributing organizations and authors that are not yet in The Lewis Prize for Music network.

Project Timetable

1. Fall 2022 (September - November) Identifying and hiring project editors with TLPM team, developing an engaging outreach strategy for contributors (this may include media development, development of a template for the contributors, identifying a body of contributors with TLPM staff.
2. Winter 2022-2023 (December - February 2023) Request case studies from invited contributors, work with invited contributors and editors to begin refining collected stories.
3. Spring 2023 (March - June 2023) Work with contributors and editors on detailed editing and refining of contributions. Work with editors on submitted introductions to their system change sections. First draft sharing with board and staff.
4. Summer 2023 (June - August 2023) Multiphase release of the final anthology across various forms and media.

Scope of Services

1. Lead project management and track timelines for the larger anthology project.
2. Close work with the Knowledge Generation Team at TLPM to coordinate with other quantitative and qualitative research efforts corresponding with the anthology project.
3. Close work with the Communications Team at TLPM to coordinate and lead development of publishable engagement collateral about the anthology project.
4. Close work with the Field Learning Team to develop strategies and gain insight about awardee, grantee and board engagement.
5. Work with the Knowledge Generation team to build a body of references or an informal lit review of other materials about systems change and CYD.
6. Lead the crafting and development of public language about the anthology project.
7. Lead work to refine the final list of anthology editors with TLPM staff.
8. Manage the anthology editors in their work directly with contributors.
9. Design and facilitate the invitation and editing process for all contributors and editors.
10. Work with anthology contributors to build a collective list of their philanthropic partners for distinct and adjacent Lewis Prize engagement.
11. Work with the Communications Team and all stakeholders to determine, design and execute the finished anthology across various media and forms.
12. Co-develop with TLPM team engagement strategies for sharing and disseminating the anthology project.
13. Co-lead dissemination with TLPM team of the anthology project.

Budget
The budget allows for a $75/hour pay rate and a total of 20 hours per week from September 2022 - August 2023.

Reporting Structure
This position reports to the CEO of The Lewis Prize for Music while working in tandem with all teams at the prize, especially the Knowledge Generation Team.

About The Lewis Prize for Music
The mission of The Lewis Prize is to partner with leaders who create positive change by investing in young people through music. We believe young people with access to high-quality creative youth development music opportunities will mature into thriving individuals.

However, inequitable systems often fail to prioritize music learning in young people’s lives. As a result, too many young people are not supported to express themselves creatively. This stifles young people’s potential to become powerful citizens. Through learning, performing and creating music with peers and caring mentors, young people can develop greater agency over their lives and contribute positively to their communities.
We believe that music in the lives of young people is a catalytic force to drive positive change in our society. 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 aim to do this by finding and awarding ambitious leaders who are already strengthening young people in their communities through rigorous and diverse music programs.

Guiding Principles
These are the principles we look to as an organization to guide how we identify music leaders who are aligned with our vision.

- **Artistic Excellence**: To blend rigorous music learning and healthy social development that fosters youth expression, identity, self-agency and joy.
- **Shared Experience**: To build love, trust and understanding through reciprocal relationships and respect.
- **Collaborative and Innovative Leadership**: To creatively pursue fair, just and sustained social change that reflects and responds to the communities served.
- **Systems Change**: To change beliefs, practices and policies so equity is achieved for all.

About The Lewis Prize for Music Team
The team consists of one full time and eight part time staff members. We pride ourselves in being highly collaborative, flexible, and adaptive, and are each deeply committed to providing the best support possible to the organizations we resource through our funding process, as well as the CYD music field at large.

Application Requirements
Please submit a cover letter and resume to apply for this position. Applications will be received on a rolling basis until early September 2022. Application reviews will begin immediately, with a target to begin the interview process by September. Email entries are required, and should be submitted to opportunities@thelewisprize.org, with the subject line “Anthology Project Lead Application.”

Thank you for your interest in this project. We look forward to receiving your application.