

the lewis prize for music

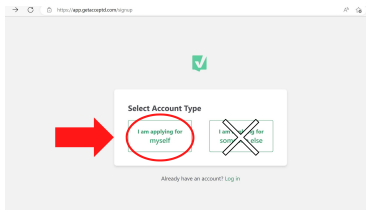
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Frequently Asked Questions

Accelerator Awards, 2024

1. When I register on Acceptd, it asks if I am applying for myself or someone else. Which should I choose?

Yourself. As you proceed, it will be clear that you are applying on behalf of your organization.



2. When I submit my application on Acceptd, it asks me to pay a fee. Does it cost \$30 to apply?

There is no fee to apply. If you are prompted to pay a fee within the Acceptd platform, click “Next,” and your application should submit. If this is not the case, please notify the [Acceptd Help Desk](#) for support.

3. What is the process after I submit my Round 1 application?

- Round 2 Applicants will be notified in early July and are invited to submit additional application materials due July 28, 2023.
- Finalists will be notified in early September and are invited to submit a Request for Proposal due October 20 and host a Virtual Site Visit from September through October 18.
- Awardees are notified in early December and asked to be interviewed in mid-December for a highlight video managed and paid for by TLPM.
- Awardees will be announced publicly in mid-January 2024, with funds provided afterward.

4. I’m not familiar with the term “Creative Youth Development.” What does it mean?

Creative Youth Development (CYD) describes programs that blend excellence in artistic instruction with principles of positive youth development. More information about CYD and its growth as a field can be found at the [Creative Youth Development National Partnership](#).

5. What does systems change mean to the Lewis Prize?

An in-depth definition, background, and examples can be found [here](#). The Accelerator Awards will go to those who have a solid systems change initiative underway and are beginning to see progress toward a tipping point or sustaining the transition to a new system.

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6. Our organization provides additional support services to young people and their families, such as academic tutoring, meals, transportation, etc. Should we mention these in our application?

Yes. TLPM recognizes and values CYD organizations' commitment to filling systemic gaps and building new systems beyond access to music so young people thrive. We recognize that these activities contribute to systems change alongside musical opportunities. The application includes questions that ask you to share information about your program's holistic focus on youth wellbeing.

7. What will Reviewers be looking for in the Round I Application?

The Lewis Prize seeks to understand the full scope and work of the organization's impact and work. This is reviewed through rubric indicators that center on racial equity and inclusion, youth leadership, and community partners. Describe your Big Idea toward systems change, which is generally a multi-faceted whole-organization undertaking. We seek to learn about your overall work, including non-musical activities. Please do not focus the application on a specific or individual music program.

8. Who are the application Reviewers and Panel members?

The Application Reviewers and Finalist Panel members are individuals chosen for their diverse professional and lived experience across the fields of music, education, philanthropy, community organizing, and social justice. One to two-thirds of each Panel are young adult leaders (ages 19-25) who have participated in CYD programs. You can find the complete list of panelists from last year's prize process [here](#). If you would like to nominate someone to serve as an Application Reviewer this year, click [here](#) to learn more.

9. My video (or audio) recordings are not of professional quality. Will this hurt my chances?

No. We understand that not every program has the means to provide a professional recording, and we acknowledge that recordings produced since 2020 will look very different from those of previous years. We are interested in how the video (or audio) samples display rigor/musical artistry, artistic and developmental growth, personal expression, youth leadership, cultural identity, and enthusiastic engagement of the young people performing. The video/audio samples often show evidence of what we read in the narrative portion of the application.

10. I have only worked as my current organization's CEO/Executive Director for one year. Am I still eligible to apply?

No. The 2024 application requires eligible leaders to have been serving in their leadership role, reporting to and being directly and solely supervised by the Board of Directors since in or before 2021.

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11. Eligibility asks that our Board of Directors and/or senior management staff have at least 40% of its members reside in or represent the community we serve. What does this mean?

TLPM believes that the best community work is done when it's directed by and led by those from the community. We seek to fund these organizations. We understand that every organization and community is unique and that each organization needs to determine its community representation. Should you advance beyond Round 1, be prepared to describe how your organization meets this criterion and how you determined who is representative of the community served.

12. My program occurs during the school day, but the school system does not fund us. Are we eligible?

TLPM supports programs that happen in out-of-school time, regardless of funding source. Program operations must occur outside of those hours. You are eligible if you run programming both within the school day and after school/out-of-school time. Please [reach out to TLPM](#) for clarification if it is unclear what your program's eligibility is. School Booster Clubs and other 501(c)3's that exist to support a school music program do not meet the CYD eligibility requirements.

13. The application asks if the organization's leader is filling out the application. Our organization has a grant writer. May they fill in this application?

The Lewis Prize values the voice of the leader. It is required that the Round 1 application be filled out directly by the leader of the organization. Grant writers may be involved if applicants move to future application rounds.

14. I am an independent musical artist working in my community. Am I eligible to apply for funding for my artistic project?

No, funding is only for 501(c)3 organizations or those that are fiscally sponsored. Programming must be centered around Creative Youth Development.

15. Is the funding restricted? Are there requirements after we're funded?

Recipient organizations of a \$500,000 Accelerator Award collaboratively work with TLPM to determine a multiyear timeline for funding. Funding is unrestricted with the exception of use for lobbying or purchasing/improvement of real property. Additionally, Accelerator Awardee organizations meet a few times per year as a cohort (virtually) and with the TLPM staff team for: conversations and learning opportunities; thought partnership in strategic relationships, investments, and decision-making as an organization; and additional support through narrative building and capacity building grants.

16. I see on TLPM's website that there are Infusion and Catalyst funding options for \$50K and \$75K. Is that a separate application?

This is the only application cycle at TLPM. Infusion and Catalyst grants are distributed to Finalists.

*If you want clarification, please reach out through The Lewis Prize [Contact Form](#).