

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND THE ROLE OF ART AND CULTURE

Overview

Partners for Livable Communities and the Ford Foundation are inviting neighborhood-based arts organizations to apply for funding to produce a community development strategy. The purpose of the funding is to determine the role such organizations can take in mixed-income, mixed-race communities, and the role that active public space can play in assisting the transition often associated with dramatic shifts in demographics and market forces. These strategies must recognize the importance of partnerships between diverse stakeholders to strengthen the position of arts organizations as conduits for civic engagement.

Purpose of Funds

Eight to ten planning grants of \$30,000 to \$37,500 each will be made to produce community development strategies that will:

- Engage stakeholders and build partnerships with individuals from other institutions representing education, faith, government, family services, businesses and public health in the effort; and
- Position applicant organization to become an entity for civic engagement—a public place where people take on community issues; and
- Identify strategies that lead to social integration between races and ethnicities and that present opportunities for low-income residents to access upward economic mobility programs; and
- Leverage applicant's position to define a community cultural identity to serve as a barometer for social and moral equity as the neighborhood is transformed by dramatic economic and demographic change.

Use of Funds

Funds may be used for organizational staff support; staff support to partnering organizations; required travel; limited meeting expenses; outside consultant or technical assistance services; other related expenses as appropriate. Funds may not be used to support existing programs or for the purchase of equipment. Supplemental funds of up to \$8,000 might be available for applicants to support participation by religious congregations in establishing common strategies. This would be conditional on supplemental internal Foundation funds to be awarded in early May. Applicants wishing to access these supplemental funds should include a supplementary budget and scope of activities not to exceed \$8,000.

Qualifications

Qualifying organizations must be 501(c)(3) neighborhood-based arts and cultural organizations.

Evaluation Criteria

Partners and the Ford Foundation will evaluate proposals based upon the following:

- How well the demographic and market changes are documented.
- Innovation and creativity of strategies and how well they address the purposes stated above.
- Feasibility of approaches to engaging multiple partners for positive community action.

Product

The product will be a business plan that defines a medium term (2-4 year) community development strategy for subsequent implementation.



Requirements

Partners for Livable Communities and the Ford Foundation believe that a sharing of experiences among the grantees is important. Therefore, grantees must participate in one of four regional workshops that will be held at strategic locations around the country during the grant performance period, and a final workshop of all grantees that will take place in early October in New York City. **The costs associated with attendance at these meetings will come from the grant awards; please keep this in mind when developing a budget.**

Letter of Intent

A one-page letter of intent should be sent to Partners for Livable Communities no later than May 5th. The letter of intent will briefly address your organization – what you do and how you do it; the city and neighborhood in which you function; and the kinds of changes you see taking place in your neighborhood.

Proposal

A complete proposal (4-6 pages) to be submitted by May 16 will include:

- An analysis of neighborhood change based upon census data of 1990 and 2000. This should include changes in ethnic composition, changes in poverty status or income, and changes in the composition of renters versus homeowners.
- The potential strategy you intend to explore and what it will accomplish.
- The partnerships you are hoping to establish with at least two of the stated stakeholder institutions (education, faith, government, family services, businesses, public health).
- If one of your partners is faith-based, supplemental income may be available. Describe this relationship in greater detail.
- A budget within the range of \$30,000 – \$37,500 that details the use of funds line itemed by personnel, community partners, consultants or supplemental technical assistance, travel to the two required convenings and other appropriate expenses. Line items can be refined upon award. The Ford Foundation allows overhead of no more than 10%.
- A scope of work that conforms to budget line items.

Additional information should include:

- The name/s and resume/s of project manager/s.
- Proof of non-profit status.

TIMELINE

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| May 5 | Letter of intent due |
| May 16 | Proposals due |
| May 30 | Awards made |
| June 1 - Sept. 30 | Grant performance period |
| Oct. 1 | Draft grant reports due |
| Oct. 31 | Final grant reports due |

TO APPLY

Letters of intent and proposals may be faxed, emailed or mailed to:

Penny Cuff
 Senior Program Officer
 Partners for Livable Communities
 1429 21st Street, NW
 Washington, DC 20036
 pcuff@livable.com
 202-887-5990 x 19
 202-466-4845 fax

If you have questions, please contact Penny Cuff at the phone number or e-mail address above or Bob McNulty at (202) 887-5990 or via e-mail at bmcnulty@livable.com.