



ALBUQUERQUE
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
leadership • trust • legacy



Request for Proposals: Re-envisioning the COVID Creative Economy

Overview

The devastating effects of COVID-19 have affected nearly every aspect of our state's nonprofit sector – from causing unprecedented financial losses to having nonprofits immediately cancel programming and services to ensure the safety of their staff, clients and/or the public-at-large.

Arts & Culture organizations, many that rely on public performances or gatherings, have had to cancel seasons, exhibits or ongoing programming for an indefinite amount of time. This has led to significant financial losses, in addition to Arts & Culture organizations quickly restructuring their programs in order to continue operating and offering arts programming to audiences. In recent months, we have seen many working artists face immediate unemployment and loss of multiple income streams.

Every week, we are learning of arts organizations that are thinking beyond their usual programs to engage audiences, while also supporting local artists – many of whom have lost nearly all sources of income during this time. We know these undertakings are not often possible with one organization working alone, but instead require a strong sense of collaboration among organizations working together for a shared vision.

The Albuquerque Community Foundation and the McCune Charitable Foundation are partnering on a grant opportunity to support the creative economy, increase employment opportunities for working artists of all kinds and help arts and culture organizations rebuild their programs in new and innovative ways due the COVID-19 pandemic.

Grant Opportunity

As we enter into a new phase of this pandemic, the *Re-envisioning the COVID Creative Economy* grant **seeks to support organizations that are adopting safe practices, while developing creative and collaborative new approaches to ensure their programs are still viable and accessible during the changing social landscape COVID-19 has created.**

Grants will support initiatives that address one or more of the following focus areas:

- Developing new and longer-term solutions to engage arts audiences during COVID (and beyond, understanding the implications of COVID will last far longer than these initial months);
- Increasing inclusive employment opportunities for arts professionals during COVID; and/or
- Engaging multiple partners for a larger impact in the creative economy.

*Important: grants will not be focused on immediate/emergency funding but will rather focus on **new approaches to adapting programming** as a result of COVID-19.*

We understand that to pivot programming and create new approaches to work will require more resources than typical operating costs. Our goal is to make fewer, higher impact grants. Through this approach, we will focus on funding organizations where one grant may affect multiple organizations, audiences or arts professionals.

What You Need to Know

- Organizations must hold 501c3 nonprofit status from the IRS.
- Organization must be located in (or serving) the Four County Greater Albuquerque Area.
- Organizations may only submit one application.
- Organizations that have already received a grant from any emergency fund via the Albuquerque Community Foundation or McCune Charitable Foundation are eligible to apply.
- Grants will be a maximum of \$25,000.
- Applications may be submitted for projects that are currently underway, but not completed. That is, funding may be used retroactively for partial programming.
- Applications must be submitted by September 30, 2020 at 5pm MT.
- Funding decisions will be announced on a rolling basis throughout 2020.

Narrative

While organizations are required to submit an online application [here](#), the following bullets indicate information which will be required in various questions on the application.

- Your organization and/or program's mission and goals.
- Description of program for which you are applying for funds (this should include a program/project overview and how your program/project is adapting to COVID).
- How your program fits into one (or more) of the above described funding areas, with an emphasis on how your program/project will continue to engage diverse audiences and support professionals working in the creative economy. *A stronger application will show how your program fits into multiple funding areas.*
- Description of long-term vision and sustainability of program.
- Describe how would you define success of your new program or adaptation of ongoing program(s) during and beyond COVID-19.
- How you are collaborating – sharing talent and resources with other organizations in community. *Collaboration is not a requirement for funding, though is strongly encouraged in your application.*
- A detailed project budget indicating the intended use of grant funds.
- Audited financial statements (organizations with operating budgets less than \$500,000 can submit unaudited financial statements).