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Request for Expressions of Interest (RFEI)

Introduction

The Advance Albany County Alliance (AACA) is pleased to announce an opportunity for artists, cultural organizations, and community groups to express interest in applying for the AACA Cultural and Arts Grant Program. This grant program aims to support Albany County's economic growth and community engagement by fostering initiatives that enhance the county's vibrant arts and cultural landscape.

Purpose of this RFEI

This RFEI is issued to gauge interest from eligible individuals and organizations with projects that align with AACA's goals. Through this process, AACA seeks to identify potential applicants with impactful ideas and determine the level of community interest for future grant awards. Expressions of interest submitted in response to this RFEI are non-binding and will inform the development of a more formal grant application process.

Program Overview

The AACA Cultural and Arts Grant Program seeks to:

- Support artistic excellence across all disciplines
- Promote cultural diversity in Albany County's communities
- Enhance community engagement by making arts and culture accessible to all
- Stimulate economic growth through the expansion of arts and culture initiatives
- Support artistic projects that introduce innovative ideas, techniques, or perspectives

Eligibility

This RFEI invites submissions from the following entities:

- Individual artists and creators
- Nonprofit cultural organizations
- Community groups and collectives
- Educational institutions with a focus on arts and culture
- Local or municipal government organizations

Eligible Project Types

Expressions of interest may include, but are not limited to, the following types of projects:

- Public art installations

- Cultural festivals and events
- Educational workshops and programs
- Artist residencies and fellowships
- Projects focused on the preservation and promotion of historical and cultural heritage

Funding

Grant funding will vary depending on project scope and impact, typically ranging from \$25,000 to \$500,000. Funds may be used for artist fees, materials and supplies, marketing, venue rental, equipment, and administrative expenses directly related to the project.

Submission Requirements

Interested applicants are encouraged to submit a brief expression of interest that includes:

1. **Organization/Artist Information:** Name, contact information, and a brief description of the organization or individual artist.
2. **Project Summary:** A one-page summary of the proposed project, including goals, key activities, and intended impact.
3. **Alignment with Program Goals:** A statement explaining how the project aligns with one or more objectives of the AACA Cultural and Arts Grant Program.
4. **Estimated Budget:** A preliminary budget estimate, including potential use of grant funds.
5. **Timeline:** Proposed timeline for the project, including any major milestones.
6. **Previous Experience:** A brief summary of relevant projects or accomplishments, if applicable.

Submission Process

Please submit your expression of interest by Friday, November 29, 2024, via email to spaulsen@advancealbanycounty.com. Submitted materials should be concise and limited to no more than 3 pages.

Review and Notification

All submitted expressions of interest will be reviewed by the AACA Arts & Culture Advisory Council. Selected applicants will be invited to participate in the full application process for the Cultural and Arts Grant Program. Notification of selection for the next stage of the process will be provided within 4-6 weeks of the submission deadline.

Disclaimer

This RFEI does not constitute an offer or guarantee of funding. It is intended solely to gather information about interest and the nature of potential projects. AACA reserves the right to issue or not issue further requests based on the responses received.

Contact Information

For questions regarding this RFEI or the Cultural and Arts Grant Program, please contact:

Sara Paulsen or Antionette Hedge

Advance Albany County Alliance

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