

Illinois Arts Council Narrative
The Arts & the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

Proposed Subgranting Program

The Illinois Arts Council’s (IAC) subgranting program will provide grants for salary support, artists fees, and/or contractual personnel consistent with NEA’s guidelines for this initiative. Designed to reach the broadest possible range of potential applicants, the proposed subgranting program will also present clearly defined application parameters that specify the precise focus and the accompanying performance requirements. The IAC will use a tiered system of grant awards, providing options to various sized organizations that focus on the preservation of jobs in the arts. Funds will be available for projects beginning September 1, 2009. To the extent applicable, IAC application requirements and review criteria will mirror those utilized by the NEA for its Recovery Act competitive grant program.

Applicant Pool

The IAC’s subgranting program applicant pool will consist of organizations from throughout the state and in all disciplines (Arts-in-Education, Arts Service, Dance, Ethnic and Folk Arts, Literature, Local Arts Agencies, Media Arts, Multi-Disciplinary, Music, Presenters, Theater, and Visual Arts). Eligible applicants must have received funding through the IAC’s Program Grant or Partners-in-Excellence Program in at least two of the last four fiscal years (FY06-FY09). Additionally, eligible applicants will be required to have had a total arts programming budget of over \$50,000 in actual cash expenses for at least two of the last four years. These eligibility requirements will ensure that applicants have gone through an IAC panel review process.

The IAC anticipates approximately 600 eligible applicants. While the majority of potential applicants are from Chicago and its collar counties, 25% of the pool draws from other areas of the state. The IAC will make efforts to encourage applications from throughout the state and in every artistic discipline to take advantage of this opportunity.

Representative List of Organizations

Organization	Type	Budget Size	City	Region
Country Theatre Workshop	Theatre	\$56,966	Cissna Park	Central
Charlotte's Web for Performing Arts	Presenters	\$63,685	Rockton	Northern
Jackie Joyner-Kersey Foundation	Multi-Disciplinary	\$82,500	East Saint Louis	Southern
Access Living of Metro Chicago	Multi-Disciplinary	\$90,000	Chicago	Chicago
Buchanan Center for the Arts	Local Arts Agency	\$118,941	Monmouth	Western
Artspartners of Central Illinois	Arts Service	\$120,866	Peoria	Central
Experimental Sound Studio	Media Arts	\$171,431	Chicago	Chicago
Champaign Urbana Ballet	Dance	\$172,389	Champaign	Central
Kalapriya Foundation Center for Indian Arts	Ethnic/Folk	\$183,552	Chicago	Chicago
Carbondale Community Arts Inc	Local Arts Agency	\$196,475	Carbondale	Southern

Bishop Hill Heritage Association	Ethnic/Folk	\$335,503	Bishop Hill	Western
Puerto Rican Arts Alliance	Ethnic/Folk	\$484,655	Chicago	Chicago
Snow City Arts Foundation	Arts-in-Education	\$545,647	Chicago	Chicago
Chicago Public Art Group	Visual Arts	\$670,066	Chicago	Chicago
Muntu Dance Theatre	Dance	\$812,148	Chicago	Chicago
About Face Theatre Collective	Theatre	\$1,034,786	Chicago	Chicago
ETA Creative Arts Foundation	Theatre	\$1,166,335	Chicago	Chicago
Little Theater-On The Square	Theatre	\$1,427,994	Sullivan	Central
National Museum of Mexican Art	Multi-Disciplinary	\$4,706,332	Chicago	Chicago
Ravinia Festival Association	Music	\$22,914,837	Highland Park	Suburban

Plans for Informing Applicant Pool

Eligible applicants will be notified by email, the IAC’s e-newsletter, news releases, and by posting of information on the agency website.

Efforts to Reach Organizations that Serve Underserved Populations

The IAC believes in active engagement with all Illinoisans, ensuring that residents of all ages and abilities have the opportunity to participate in and experience arts and culture. The agency is committed to ensuring that at least 30% of applicants funded through this subgranting program are organizations located in underserved communities or who serve under-represented or underserved populations. The Council defines underserved communities as those reflecting a minority, inner-city, rural, tribal, new immigrant, or older population, and individuals with disabilities. The designated subgranting program applicant pool includes many organizations identified as being from or serving these populations and these organizations will be made aware of the opportunity as outlined above.

Plans for Receiving and Reviewing Requests

Applications submitted to the IAC by the deadline date and meeting eligibility requirements will be sent to a specially appointed panel for review. Chaired by an Illinois Arts Council Member, the panel will be composed of volunteers from throughout the state who bring a broad variety of expertise from the various artistic disciplines. Recommendations from the panel will be submitted for final review and decision to Council Members at the Illinois Arts Council Tri-annual Meeting. Any applicant who has been approved for and accepted other NEA funds through this national initiative will not be eligible to receive support from the IAC through this subgranting program.

Review Criteria

The IAC will mirror the review criteria to be used by the NEA for its Recovery Act competitive grant program, specifically the **artistic excellence** and **artistic merit** of the project, which includes:

- Quality of the organization.
- Potential of the project to have a significant and immediate impact on the arts work force.
- Significance of the project and position(s) to the mission and core work of the organization.
- Likelihood that the project will achieve the identified outcome(s) and the feasibility of the proposed performance measurements.*

- Ability to carry out the project including the appropriateness of the budget, the quality and clarity of the project goals and design, the resources involved, and the qualifications of the project's personnel.

*The outcome the IAC and NEA intend to achieve through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is that: *Organizations enhance their ability to realize their artistic and public service goals.* Within the context of this outcome, the IAC will ask all applicants to define what they aim to achieve, how they will assess the degree to which that objective is achieved, and, upon completion of the project, what they have learned from their successes and/or failures.

Appropriateness of Project to IAC's Mission and Core Work

The goals of the NEA's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act program are directly aligned with the mission and core values of the Illinois Arts Council (IAC). As delineated in the IAC's *Strategic Directions 2007-2012*, preservation of jobs in the arts is a "Core Value" of the agency: "We strive to cultivate long-term sustainability in the vitality of our creative spirit and the pathways through which that creativity is channeled by and to the people of Illinois." Job loss poses a significant threat to the sustainability of Illinois' nonprofit arts sector, narrowing and eliminating pathways through which the people of this state are able to engage with arts and culture. This core value imbues all IAC objectives and will guide the agency in furthering the goals of the Recovery Act to preserve jobs in the arts for Illinois, as clarified below by the following objectives:

"The arts and cultural community statewide will be stronger and better connected – to each other and to the broader community – and will use these new connections to advance a more vital and robust creative landscape for the entire state." A recent survey (completed 2/25/09) assessing the financial condition of Illinois Arts Council grantees revealed that more than 35% of the 400 responding organizations have eliminated or reduced positions, and 6.2% of the organizations have put serious consideration into closing down entirely. By providing salary support, full or partial, for one or more positions that are critical to such an organization's artistic mission and that are in jeopardy or have been eliminated as a result of the current economic climate, Recovery Act funds will have a stimulative and timely impact in shoring up the workforce at such organizations.

"All Illinoisans – particularly children and those who are currently underserved – will experience a significant increase in their opportunities to participate in, learn from, and enjoy the arts." Another finding of the abovementioned impact survey is that more than 40% of the 400 responding organizations have eliminated or reduced artistic programs, education or outreach programs, and free or reduced-cost programs. By providing fees for previously engaged artists and/or contractual personnel to maintain or expand the period during which such persons would be engaged, Recovery Act funds will help to ensure Illinois' nonprofit arts workers can continue providing opportunities to underserved populations and communities.

Impact of Administering Subgranting Program

Additional work resulting from this program will be incorporated into appropriate IAC staff job responsibilities. In order to assist staff, when necessary, the IAC will utilize the services of a temporary staff provider under contract with the State of Illinois.