ART PROJECT GRANTS – FY 2021

Scoring Criteria

ARTISTIC QUALITY & MERIT (scores from 0-18, 50%)

- The project’s activities should have high artistic merit, with the potential for participants and audience to develop knowledge, skills, and understanding of the arts.
- The artist resumes or bios should show an appropriate level of experience for the project, and work samples should provide evidence of high artistic quality, including technical skill and artistic vision/voice.

IMPACT ON PARTICIPANTS & AUDIENCE (scores from 0-8, 22%)

- The applicant should demonstrate the importance of the project to their community. The project should meet the artistic needs of the community, organization, and involved artists.
- The project should show growth for the organization and/or for the community, building on the organization’s mission and previous programming.
- The applicant should have chosen appropriate MN Arts Outcomes for their project and connected those outcomes to realistic, specific, and measurable changes to occur as a result of the project.
- The applicant should have a clear, workable plan to measure or prove that their chosen outcomes have been achieved. Providing a sample evaluation tool is optional.

REACHING THE UNDERSERVED (scores from 0-5, 14%)

- The applicant should be able to identify the underserved and/or underrepresented groups in their community.
- The applicant should attempt to reach one or more of the underserved/underrepresented groups to enable them to participate in the project.
- The applicant should be making an effort in regard to ADA accessibility.

ABILITY TO ACCOMPLISH (scores from 0-5, 14%)

- Any key non-artist personnel should have experience suited to the proposed project.
- The application should illustrate a clear plan with reasonable time lines.
- The marketing and publicity plans should be appropriate for the project, organization, and community.
- There should be community involvement and support for the project, including evidence of collaborations, financial support, or in-kind contributions.
- The budget should be clearly itemized, demonstrate fiscal responsibility, and accurately reflect the needs of a carefully thought out project.
- The information provided about the organization’s role, board, and finances should demonstrate ability to accomplish the project.
- If the organization has received grants from SMAC in the past, they should have a history of successfully completed projects. All reporting requirements for SMAC grants should have been followed.

Applicants will also be awarded one additional percentage point for each of the following criteria they meet: First time SMAC applicant; Applicant organization led by or primarily serving BIPOC or LGBTQIA2S+ communities or people with disabilities; Applicant from a county that has received three or fewer SMAC grants in the last fiscal year.