

## **SAN DIEGO ARTS + CULTURE CHALLENGE FUND PHASE 3 OPEN TO SUBMIT LETTERS OF INTENT (LOI)**

Phase 3 of the San Diego Arts + Culture Challenge Fund is open to accept Letters of Intent (LOI) to apply from San Diego County 501.c3 mid-sized arts and culture organizations with budgets ranging from \$1.5 Million to \$4 Million based on a pre-COVID-19, 2019 Actual Operating Budget. Grants will be in the range of \$30,000 to \$50,000.

Based on current research and a July 2020 study conducted by WolfBrown, non-profit mid-sized arts groups will need funds to regain their footing as they either reopen, prepare to merge or consolidate, or sadly, thoughtfully and legally close their doors. As demonstrated by our implementation of Phase 1 and 2, the Challenge Fund has the capacity to be nimble and pivot as things change from month to month, but at this time, the following is the priority use of Phase 3 grant funds:

Re-Start Capital – Funds to support the creation of or implementation of a coherent plan for programmatic reentry. Post-COVID-19 may include major capital improvements, reduced campus capacity or substantial personnel or IT additions. For example, funds may be requested for planning and research, or acquisition and implementation if a plan is already in place.

Risk Capital – Funds to support planning and experimentation with promising new business practices occasioned by the crisis. This could include a test of new revenue streams, a substantial shift in mission and therein program content and audience, or an organization-wide change to respond to direct equity needs of a specific community.

Transformation Capital – Funds for transitions (e.g., mergers, consolidations), or to preserve or protect cultural assets in the event of insolvency at end-of-organizational life cycle.

### **Our Commitment to Racial Equity**

We acknowledge the long history of injustice, oppression, and racism against Black, Indigenous, People of Color within arts and culture institutions, and our society at large. We acknowledge that existing systems of power grant privilege and access unequally, and that equity is crucial to the long-term viability of both the arts and culture sector and the creative workers within the sector. We seek to ensure that the San Diego Arts and Culture Challenge and all its decision-making processes are informed by this knowledge.

This has required us to evaluate our blind spots and question our internal biases to ultimately guide us to more responsive ways of working with the communities we serve.

Note: For applicants in this cohort, it is our hope that your commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion is well established. Funds requested for this purpose should significantly advance your DEI efforts for the benefit of your organization and the communities you serve.

We also commit to:

- Simplifying and streamlining paperwork to save applicant's precious time and energy
- Trusting applicants to know best how to use the funds as they deem necessary

- Being open, honest and transparent about who we do and do not fund, and to invite applicants to be open, honest and transparent about their challenges so that we are operating with the best information available
- Receiving and acting on feedback so that we can better serve applicants and recipients in the future.

**REVIEW PROCESS**

To be considered for funding, applicants complete a simple two-page LOI and respond to the following set of questions designed to determine need and use of funds. Short-listed applicants will be required to submit more formal applications which will be reviewed by experts in the field and who are knowledgeable about and understand the current arts ecosystem.

**TIMELINE FOR PHASE 3**

February 8	Request for LOIs open for eligible nonprofit arts & culture organizations
March 1	Deadline for LOI submittals
March 8	Grant panel reviews LOIs and short-lists applicants
March 9	Short-listed applicants invited to submit proposals
March 29	Deadline for proposals
April 12	Grant awards announced
April 30	Phase 3 grant checks distributed by The San Diego Foundation

**A TWO PAGE LOI REQUIRES THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:**

1. How has the organization been impacted and how has it shifted under COVID-19 restraints?
2. How will the organization use grant funds to respond to the aforementioned priorities?
3. What are the proposed deliverables and timeline?
4. Include as an attachment your 2019 - 990.

If your organization has conducted research around the proposed issues you are welcome to attach that information with a brief description of the report.

To submit or if you have any questions Contact Matt Carney, Co-Chair of the San Diego Regional Arts and Culture Coalition at [sandiegoracc@gmail.com](mailto:sandiegoracc@gmail.com)