



To: Distribution List

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Subject: National Endowment for the Arts: **Challenge America Fast-Track** and **Art Works**

Date: December 17, 2014

PLEASE NOTE that the NEA allows UNM to submit only **ONE proposal**. This internal competition is for ALL proposals regardless of field or deadline. (For eg., you may be thinking of applying for a Dance grant with an NEA deadline of July 23; in order for you to compete in the UNM selection process you must participate in the pre-proposal competition described below, and **MUST SUBMIT YOUR MATERIALS TO OUR OFFICE BY NOON ON JANUARY 9. This is the ONLY competition that will be held for the NEA Art Works and the NEA Challenge America Fast-Track programs.**

This limited competition is in response to the National Endowment for the Arts call for proposals in the following two program categories: **Challenge America Fast-Track** and **Art Works**. The **Challenge America Fast-Track** category offers support primarily to small and mid-sized organizations for projects that extend the reach of the arts to underserved populations -- those whose opportunities to experience the arts are limited by geography, ethnicity, economics, or disability. Grants are available for professional arts programming and for projects that emphasize the potential of the arts in community development. This category encourages and supports the following two outcomes:

- Engagement: Engaging the public with diverse and excellent art.
- Livability: The strengthening of communities through the arts.

The **Art Works** category emphasizes: the *works* of art themselves, the ways art *works* on audiences, and the fact that art is *work* for the artists and arts professionals who make up the field. To make "art work," the NEA has included the advancement of innovation as a core component of its mission as a way to ensure the vitality of the arts. Innovative projects are strongly encouraged. **Art Works** encourages and supports the following four outcomes:

- Creation: The creation of art that meets the highest standards of excellence,
- Engagement: Public engagement with diverse and excellent art,
- Learning: Lifelong learning in the arts, and
- Livability: The strengthening of communities through the arts.

Applicants will be asked to select the outcome that is most relevant to their project (you also will be able to select a secondary outcome). ***To mark the 50th anniversary of the NEA in 2015, and the National Park Service's (NPS) Centennial in 2016, both agencies are working together to encourage the creation of and greater public engagement with art relating to the work and mission of our national park system.** Projects in the **Art Works** category might include the commissioning and presentation of new work in or adjacent to a national park, performances, or festivals in these settings. Additional project examples are listed in the Art Works guidelines for each artistic discipline. Applicants also may consider NPS managed trails, rivers, designated landmarks, historic sites, and heritage areas as sites of activity in a project proposal. Collaborative partnerships with the selected park area or program are strongly encouraged. For a project being proposed within a national park, applicants must first consult with the appropriate NPS official. See "[NEANPS Funding Collaboration](#)" for more details.

All grants require a nonfederal match of at least 1 to 1. For example, if an organization receives a \$10,000 grant, the total eligible project costs must be at least \$20,000 and the organization must provide at least \$10,000 toward the project from nonfederal sources. **Challenge America Fast-Track** grants are for a fixed amount of \$10,000 and require a minimum \$10,000 match. **Art Works** grants generally will range from \$10,000 to \$100,000. Grants awarded under these guidelines generally may cover a period of support of up to two years. The two-year period is intended to allow an applicant sufficient time to plan, execute, and close out its project, not to repeat a one-year project for a second year. The National

Endowment for the Arts' support can start no earlier than the "Earliest Start Date" from the NEA website, <http://arts.gov/grants/apply-grant/grants-organizations>.

For more information on the **Challenge America Fast-Track** grants, see the NEA's website at: <http://arts.gov/grants-organizations/challenge-america/grant-program-description>. **Challenge America Fast-Track** applications have a two-phase submission process, with the first component due to the agency by April 16, 2015.

For more information on the **Art Works** grants, see the NEA's website at: <http://arts.gov/grants/organizations-apply> **Art Works (Artist Communities)** applications are due to NEA by February 19, 2015. **Art Works (Design)** applications are due to NEA by July 23, 2015. For other **Art Works** disciplines, please see the following schedule to ascertain which deadline is appropriate: <http://arts.gov/grants/apply-grant/grants-organizations/deadlines>

This is a limited competition; each institution is limited to one (1) proposal. That is, we can only submit a Challenge America Fast-Track grant OR an Art Works grant (not one of each). Please submit your 3-page preproposal (plus budget, CV, and cost sharing commitment plan, all documents in a SINGLE PDF file, 11 point font) by NOON on Friday, January 9, 2015 to limited@unm.edu with the subject line indicating: NEA - your name. Please indicate program category (Challenge or Art Works) and which discipline your preproposal falls under. Arrangements for meeting cost sharing requirements must be made in advance of submission of the pre-proposal. Additionally, the level of external/in-kind cost share contributions will be used as criteria for evaluation during review by the Limited Competitions Committee. No late submissions will be considered. The pre-proposal should address the major points that will be included in the proposal narrative, including: 1) major project activities, 2) intended project outcomes, 3) intended beneficiaries and 4) how the project will benefit an underserved community and engage the public beyond the university. The narrative should be accompanied by a **draft budget overview** (including cost share arrangements) and an **abbreviated PI CV**. The scoring will be weighted as follows: proposal narrative (70%), draft budget overview (15%), and abbreviated PI CV (15%).

Should you have any questions please feel free to contact Monica Fishel (mlfishel@unm.edu or 277-8114) or Allison Hagerman (alphao@unm.edu or 277-0168). *If you are affiliated with HSC, please contact Corey Ford at 272-6950 for more information.*