To: Distribution List

From: Faculty Research Development Office (FRDO)
Office of the Vice President for Research

Subject: Limited Competitions: National Endowment for the Arts: Challenge America AND Grants for Arts Projects

Date: 11/10/2023

This limited competition is in response to the National Endowment for the Arts call for proposals in the following program categories: Challenge America AND Grants for Arts Projects (If an organization applies to the Challenge America category, it may *not* submit another application to the Grants for Arts Projects category.)

PLEASE NOTE that the NEA allows UNM to submit only ONE proposal to either the Grants for Arts Projects OR the Challenge America category. This internal competition is for ALL proposals regardless of field or deadline. In order for you to compete in the UNM selection process you must participate in the pre-proposal limited competition described below and MUST SUBMIT YOUR STATEMENT OF INTEREST BY NOON ON November 27, 2023 AND PRE-PROPOSAL MATERIALS BY NOON ON December 4, 2023. This is the ONLY competition that will be held for the NEA Grants for Arts Projects AND the NEA Challenge America programs for ANY deadline in 2024.

All grants require cost share—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 $20,000 and UNM must provide $10,000 toward the project from nonfederal sources. Challenge America grants are for a fixed amount of $10,000. Grants for Arts Projects will range from $10,000 to $100,000. Grants awarded under these guidelines are generally allowed a performance period of up to two years. The National Endowment for the Arts’ support can start no earlier than the “Earliest Start Date” from the NEA website, https://www.arts.gov/grants/grants-for-arts-projects/application-calendar.

**Note that the NEA has not yet updated their solicitation or funding calendar for 2024, however, we are posting this limited competition now to give applicants more time to work on their application in advance of the first anticipated deadline in early February 2024.**

Grants for Arts Projects (GAP) is the National Endowment for the Arts’ principal grants program. Through project-based funding, they support public engagement with, and access to, various forms of art across the nation, the creation of excellent art, learning in the arts at all stages of life, and the integration of the arts into the fabric of community life. Projects may be large or small, existing or new, and may take place in any part of the nation’s 50 states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories. They encourage projects that use the arts to unite and heal, as well as address any of the following:

- Elevate artists as integral and essential to a healthy and vibrant society.
- Celebrate the nation’s creativity and/or cultural heritage.
- Enrich our humanity by broadening our understanding of ourselves as individuals and as a society.
- Originate from or are in collaboration with typically underserved constituencies.

Further details can be found on the NEA website. GAP grants are expected to be due in early February and early July 2024. All Artist Communities and Design applications must be submitted by the February deadline.
The **Challenge America** grant offers support primarily to small organizations for projects in all artistic disciplines that extend the reach of the arts to populations that are underserved—those whose opportunities to experience the arts are limited by geography, ethnicity, economics, or disability. Possible projects include but are not limited to: arts programming including commissioning or presentation of artists or artwork; marketing and promotional activities; and organizational planning. Projects may consist of one or more specific events or activities and should not cover an entire season of programming. The NEA does not support seasonal or general operating support. Full details are available on the NEA website: [https://www.arts.gov/grants/challenge-america](https://www.arts.gov/grants/challenge-america). **Challenge America** grants are expected to be due in **late April 2024**.

This is a limited competition; each institution is limited to **ONE (1) proposal**. Independent components, like museums and institutes, may be allowed to submit separately, but you must still participate in the Limited Competition so we can be certain all requirements have been met. **UNM can submit a Challenge America grant *OR* a Grants for Arts Projects application **(not one of each)**. We will be conducting a two-step internal competition to ensure we have a review committee in place by the pre-proposal deadline. **You must complete both steps if you are interested in participating.**

**STEP ONE:** Please submit your 200-word **statement of interest** by **NOON on November 27, 2023** via UNM’s [InfoReady Review portal](https://unm.infoready4.com). This is a required step and no late submissions will be considered.

**STEP TWO:** Submit an abbreviated budget, 2-page CV, 3-page pre-proposal, and cost share plan by **NOON on December 4, 2023** through UNM’s InfoReady Review portal [https://unm.infoready4.com](https://unm.infoready4.com). Initial arrangements for meeting the cost share requirement must be made in advance of submission of the pre-proposal. The level of external/in-kind cost share contributions will be used as criteria for evaluation during review by the Limited Competition Review Committee. No late submissions will be considered. The pre-proposal should address the major points that will be included in the proposal narrative, as follows:

**Challenge America submissions must include:**
1. Describe the specific arts project and why the project is important. Include, as applicable, the target population that will be served, and where the project will take place during the period of performance.
2. Describe the intended project outcomes and the potential to make quality arts or cultural resources more widely available.
3. Identify the specific underserved audience(s) your project is intended to reach and explain how the project extends the reach of the arts to those whose opportunities to experience the arts are limited by geography, ethnicity, economics, or disability and engage the public beyond the university.
4. Briefly describe your plans for promoting and/or publicizing the project and any efforts made to reach the identified underserved population.
5. Describe your goals for the project and how you will evaluate progress towards those goals.

**Grants for Arts Projects submissions must include:**
1. Clearly describe the specific arts project and state why the project is important. Include, as applicable, the target population that will be served, and where the project will take place during the period of performance.
2. Describe the major project activities and goals, the resources involved, and the qualifications of the project’s personnel.
3. Describe the intended audience, participants, and community served, as well as plans to reach these beneficiaries.
4. Describe how this project will use the arts to unite and heal, as well as address any of the following: celebrate America’s creativity and/or cultural heritage; elevate artists as integral and essential to a healthy and vibrant society; enrich humanity by broadening our understanding of ourselves as individuals and as a society.
5. Describe how you define and how you will measure the success of your project.

Should you have any questions please feel free to contact us at limited@unm.edu.

*If you are affiliated with HSC, you must submit you application materials to HSC Limited Competitions at [HSC-LimitedComps@salud.unm.edu](mailto:HSC-LimitedComps@salud.unm.edu).*