

the lewis prize for music

community | collaboration | leadership

2020 Letter of Interest Rubric

Overview

The 2020 Letter of Interest (LOI) is designed to enable Creative Youth Development music leaders to broadly describe their vision, or Big Idea, and the work they are doing to reach that vision. The LOI has been written with as little professional jargon as possible and without pre-describing methods or definitions so leaders use their own language. The LOI seeks to gather indicators that The Lewis Prize team believes are common to initiatives with the potential for social and systemic change outcomes.

The indicator categories the LOI is written to identify are:

- Leadership Qualities
- Understanding of Opportunity Gaps/Circumstances of Marginalization
- Systems Change Orientation, Vision and Impact
- Youth Leadership
- Community Inclusion
- Artistic Quality
- Readiness, Capacity and Resourcefulness

The LOI rubric is written to measure the presence or absence of specific indicators, provide more weight to select indicators, and enable the LOI Readers to make subjective recommendations based on their expertise and judgement coupled with their knowledge of The Lewis Prize..

Applicants' responses to the LOI are not expected to contain extensive detail. As a result, we expect an indicator to be affirmed by specific descriptions or language that implies its presence in the work of applicants. In addition to cataloging indicators, the rubric allows Readers to evaluate each applicant's vision, approach, and ability to reduce opportunity gaps and circumstances of marginalization.

Criteria and Eligibility

This material was published on The Lewis Prize website and the entry portal. It is provided here as additional reference material to deepen your familiarity with our priorities. The LOIs assigned to Readers have already been checked for fulfillment of the Eligibility Requirements by The Lewis Prize team.

The Leaders We Seek

The 2020 Lewis Prize awards will be given to leaders who:

- Pave the way for young people to learn, create, and perform music at levels of excellence, as well as develop their leadership skills
- Are collaborative and innovative, with a proven track record that reflects knowledge of and concern for correcting unequal opportunities
- Use their creativity and craft to lead efforts for making music education available for ALL young people.

If you are a leader in this work and have others following your lead, we want to know about it.

Criteria

The Lewis Prize awards in 2020 will be given to leaders at the head of organizations which serve the least resourced youth and their communities with high quality music programs that are not school music classes (but may be in partnership with schools or in-school music), often referred to as Creative Youth Development or CYD, that:

- Embody academic rigor and artistic excellence, culturally responsive curriculum and civic engagement
- Train and include young people in leadership roles and responsibilities
- Have a timely and relevant project and vision that disrupts, transforms, or creates new systems to level the playing field and ensure fair opportunities for all youth
- Are committed to openly and broadly sharing knowledge, lessons learned, and practices with the field

Eligibility Questions- applicants must be able to answer Yes to the following questions in order to be considered for the Lewis Prize for Music. Answering No to any of these questions will disqualify your application from being reviewed.

1. Does your youth music work address opportunity gaps and/or circumstances of marginalization for the young people you serve?
2. Is at least 75% of the time youth spend at your program devoted to learning, creating and performing music?
3. Does your program/work serve youth outside of school hours?
4. Has your program/work been in operation for at least five years?
5. Have you been the leader of this program or work for at least three years?
6. Does your leadership (Board of Directors and/or senior management staff) have at least one member who resides in or represents the community that you serve?
7. Does your program/work take place in the United States and serve young people residing in the US?
8. Are you an independent 501(c)(3) or do you have a partnership with a 501(c)(3) as a fiscal sponsor (examples: nonprofit, faith organization, university, school district, community center, foundation, etc.)?
9. Are you, the leader of the 501(c)(3) or fiscally sponsored project, writing this LOI?

Scoring

The scoring range for all questions is a scale of 0-5 points.

- Zero (0) points are to be applied if none of the requested attributes and indicators are described.
- Five (5) points are to be applied to the applications that describe the most attributes and indicators in comparison to the other LOIs you are reviewing.
- Readers are asked to use their judgement in applying scores of 1-4 so that the most robust and comprehensive applications receive higher scores and applications with the least information and alignment with the The Lewis Prize receive low scores.
- Once you have completed scoring all LOIs, please review them all again to confirm you have applied the standards of The Lewis Prize consistently across all LOIs.

LOI and Rubric Combined

The content below includes the full LOI and associated rubric questions for each section.

Confirmation of Youth Music Working to Address Opportunity Gaps.

Please affirm that the statement below is true for the application: The applicant's youth music work explicitly addresses opportunity gaps and/or mitigates circumstances of marginalization for the young people they serve. If no, please reach out to your Lewis Prize team member before continuing the rubric.

Yes Maybe No

Vision and Program Elements (LOI Question)

What is your Big Idea, dream or vision? And, what are you doing to achieve it now?

Describe what your program achieves and what you would like to do in the future to continue advancing your Big Idea. Describe why this is important, provide details of the opportunity gaps or circumstances of marginalization experienced by the young people you serve, and how your work creates needed large-scale social change to reverse it. Include a brief background on the community you are serving through this work, the causes of the opportunity gap or circumstances of marginalization you've identified, and the progress of your work, or a timeline, to realize your vision.

Share a basic description of your program, as you would describe it to someone who is not a member of it.

1) Vision and Program: Big Idea and Vision (0-5pts)

The applicant explains their Big Idea or vision with coherence for both artistic and social purposes, and progress toward achieving it.

2) Vision and Program: Opportunity Gaps (0-5pts)

Background information demonstrates why and how the young people they serve experience opportunity gaps or marginalization. | The applicant states why the organization/current program is needed/important/vital to their community

3) Vision and Program: Potential for Scaling (0-5pts)

The applicant articulates how their Big Idea or vision can scale Social or Systems Change at the local, regional, state, or national level.

Equity and Inclusion (LOI Question)

What community disparities are you most explicitly seeking to change? Tell us how this project disrupts, transforms, and/or creates new systems to better your community.

Please describe how you create fair opportunities and reduce participation barriers in all facets of your work (examples may include practices used in the recruitment of students, community engagement, youth leadership, curriculum development, employment, partnerships and decision-making, evaluating impact).

1) Equity and Inclusion: Changing Community Disparity (0-5pts)

The applicant clearly explains what community disparities they are seeking to change. The applicant uses equitable and inclusive language and has a clear understanding of the community.

2) Equity and Inclusion: New Systems for Fair and Vibrant Communities (0-5pts)

The applicant clearly describes how the organization/program disrupts, transforms, and/or creates new systems to better the community. The applicant uses equitable and inclusive language and builds on community strengths.

3) Equity and Inclusion: Fairness and Removing Barriers (0-5pts)

The applicant clearly describes how the organization/program creates fair opportunities and reduces barriers to participation. *The applicant uses equitable and inclusive language and has strong strategies to remove barriers and establish fairness.*

Leadership (LOI Question)

Tell us how others recognize that you are a leader. Describe what you are really proud of and why. How do you or your program develop leadership skills in the youth you serve and what opportunities do you provide for them to use these skills?

1) Leadership: Recognition from Others (0-5pts)

The applicant demonstrates strong leadership skills, as displayed by other's recognition.

2) Leadership: Generous Leadership (0-5pts)

The applicant is proud of their work, lifts up others as leaders or demonstrates an affinity for shared leadership.

3) Youth Leadership: The applicant demonstrates an explicit practice and understanding of youth leadership development, examples may include:

Structured youth input sessions; peer mentorship. | Youth council or youth board membership. | Contribute to evaluation design. | Serve as spokespeople. | Employed or receiving workforce training opportunities. | Or other youth-leading opportunities. Score 1 point for each example provided for a maximum of 5 points (0-5pts).

Resources and Capacity (LOI Question)

Describe the range of diverse resources and partners that you have brought together to pursue your Big Idea. How do you know that you and your community are ready for the scale of investment that comes with the Lewis Prize?

1) Resources and Capacity: Community Inclusion and Diverse Stakeholders (0-5pts)

The applicant practices community inclusion and collaboration with diverse stakeholders.

2) Resources and Capacity: Network Approach Across Different Sectors (0-5pts)

The applicant communicates a strong orientation toward network approaches and collaboration across different sectors.

3) Resources and Capacity: Critical Juncture (0-5pts)

The applicant's organization/program is at a critical juncture that would benefit from the resources of The Lewis Prize.

Impact (LOI Question)

Tell us about the results that have already been achieved by this music program. How do these results contribute to your Big Idea? How does the community where you are working acknowledge the impact you are having?

1) Impact: Robust Results that are Unique from Other Programs (0-5pts)

The results of this organization/program are robust and unique when compared to similar organizations/ programs, including other Lewis Prize LOI applicants.

2) Impact: Progress Toward the Big Idea (0-5pts)

This organization/program's results show progress toward fulfillment of their Big Idea or vision.

3) Impact: Community Acknowledgement of Impact (0-5pts)

Their local community acknowledges that the organization/ program's impact is substantial.

Musical Merit (LOI Question)

Musical Merit: What musical genre is this organization/program? (drop down list)

- a. Orchestra/Strings
- b. Chamber Music
- c. Piano/Harp
- d. Band/Wind and Percussion
- e. Vocal/Choral
- f. Jazz
- g. Hip Hop
- h. Mariachi
- i. Native American
- j. Electronic Dance/DJing
- k. Music Production
- l. Rock Music
- m. Other
 - i. _____

Musical Merit: The applicant’s artistic standard is visibly and audibly strong, as demonstrated by any or all of the following (0-5pts):

It sounds good and I want to hear it again. | The young people look fully present and engaged. | The young people are challenged but are meeting that challenge with style. | It’s a delivery of truth: the performers’ own truth or they are delivering someone else’s. | Original voice: young people bring their own expression to the music in a way that it becomes fully their music.

What makes them Proud (0-5pts)

The applicant’s statement and additional materials are authentic, trustworthy, and display strong characteristics that the Lewis Prize encourages and stands for (leadership, vision, impact, a connected network of support, community collaboration, youth leadership, equity and inclusion, high artistic standards).