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2024 ACCELERATOR AWARDS
Round One Application and Rubric

Accelerator Awards are open to Creative Youth Development (CYD) music organizations seeking to influence youth-serving systems so all young people have access to learning, creating, and performing experiences that reflect their culture and identity.

The mission of The Lewis Prize is to partner with leaders who create positive change by investing in young people through music. Our vision is for every young person, regardless of who they are or where they live, to have the opportunity to access music programs from a young age. We believe this can only be achieved through equitable systems change. We aim to award ambitious organizations and leaders who are already strengthening young people through rigorous and diverse music programs and influencing systems so all young people can develop greater agency over their lives and contribute positively to their communities.

Round One applications were open from March 24 - June 2, 2023.

Eligibility Questions

1. Are you, the *leader of the organization, writing this Application?
2. Have you been the *leader of this program/work beginning in or before 2021?
3. Do you (the leader), or another leader who reports to and is solely supervised by the Board of Directors, reside in the local region of where the work/program is located?
4. Does your program/work take place in the United States or it's territories, and the young people it serves reside in the US or it's territories?
5. Are most of the youth whom you serve in the age range of 6-21 years old?
6. Does your program/work serve youth outside of school hours? School music programs do not meet the eligibility.
7. Does your program provide consistent, ongoing participation opportunities that sequentially build skills and relationships over time, ideally multi-year? One time classes, short term workshops, and/or summer camps do not meet the eligibility.
8. Does at least 50% of the time youth are in/at your program devoted to music learning, creating, or performing?
9. Is your organization an independent 501(c)(3) or do you have a partnership with a 501(c)(3) as a fiscal sponsor?
10. Has your program/work been in operation since or before 2018?
11. Does your Board of Directors and/or senior management staff have at least 40% of its members who reside in or represent the community that you serve?

* "Leader" is defined as someone who reports to and is solely supervised by the Board of Directors.

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Name and Basics Information

1. First Name
2. Last name:
3. Telephone number (to be reached during summer/fall 2023):
4. Leader's email address:
5. Additional email address of someone else from your organization to receive communication regarding this application. NOT REQUIRED
6. Name of your organization:
7. Name of the specific music program (if different/more specific than listed above).*optional
8. Address of your organization/program*
9. Street address
10. City/town
11. State
12. Zip code
13. Music organization/program's website:
14. Social Media handles:
15. Founding year of your organization
16. Founding year of your music program, if it's different from the founding year of the organization. *optional
17. Year you started reporting to the Board of Directors of your organization.

18. Your organization is: A) 501c3   B) fiscal sponsor
19. If fiscally sponsored: Name of Fiscal sponsor:
20. If fiscally sponsored: Contact and email address of main contact at fiscal sponsor.
21. Your organization or Fiscal Sponsor's IRS issued EIN number (ex: xx-xxxxxxx)

22. What were your total organizational expenses reported in your last 990-IRS filing?
    a. $99,999 or less   d. $500,000-$999,999
    b. $100,000-$249,999   e. $1m +
    c. $250,000-$499,999
23. What percentage of your organization's overall yearly budget is for youth music work?
    a. 0-9%   d. 50-79%
    b. 10-19%   e. 80-99%
    c. 20-49%   f. Our work is only youth music. 100%

24. Share specific number of young people involved and briefly share your program's general schedule and frequency.

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25. Please select the age range(s) of your music program participants (multi-select):
    a. Early Childhood, 0-4 years old
    b. Early Elementary School, 5-8 years old (Grades K-3)
    c. Middle Childhood, 9-11 years old (Grades 4-6)
    d. Early Adolescence, 12-14 years old (Grades 7-9)
    e. Adolescence, 15-18 years old (Grades 10-12)
    f. Young Adults, 19-25 years old
    g. Adults, 26-65 years old
    h. Retirement Age and Beyond, 65+ years old

26. What musical genre(s) does your organization/program work in?
    a. Band/Winds and Percussion
    b. Culturally Specific Music
    c. DJ
    d. Hip Hop
    e. Jazz
    f. Rock

    f. Music Production
    g. Orchestra/strings
    h. Rock
    i. Vocal/Choral
    j. Other Music Genre(s) not listed

27. Does your organization offer youth arts programming other than music? Y/N

28. If yes, please select the additional arts disciplines:
    a. Dance
    b. Fashion Design
    c. Film
    d. Literary Arts
    e. Media Arts

    f. Opera
    g. Theatre
    h. Visual Arts
    i. Other arts disciplines not listed

29. What direct services beyond music programming do you provide?
    a. None
    b. Academic Support
    c. Career Readiness Programming
    d. College Readiness Programming
    e. Community Service Opportunities
    f. Food
    g. Housing Support
    h. Income Support
    i. Justice Reform
    j. Material Wellbeing and Needs
    k. Mentoring program

    l. Mental Health
    m. On Site Health and/or Social Worker Support
    n. Parent/Guardian Support & Resources
    o. Social Connection
    p. Technology Access
    q. Transportation to or from program
    r. Voter Engagement
    s. Workforce Training
    t. Youth Employment
    u. Other

30. What practices does your organization currently have in place that support equity?
    a. None
    b. All programming is free of charge to youth
    c. Scholarship/tuition underwriting for youth and families with need
    d. Culturally responsive pedagogy
    e. Majority culturally specific program
    f. Representation amongst the board that reflects the community/youth served
    g. Representation amongst upper level staff that reflects the community/youth served

h.   Representation amongst teaching staff that reflects community/youth served
i.   Alumni teaching artists/staff
j.   Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Plan/Policy in place
k.   Geographic accessibility (or transportation support for young people)
l.   Youth Council
m. Youth board membership
n.   Alumni board membership
o.   Other

31. What percentage of each community setting do your youth reside in?
   a. Urban 100%   b. Suburban 100%   c. Rural 100%
   D. Multiple Community Settings - please specify

<u>The following information will be used for data collection, research, and for purposes of ensuring support for organizations that are led by and/or uplift the voices and artistry of people of color, rural communities, women, trans, and non-binary leaders.</u>

1. What is your gender identity? *optional
2. What is your racial identity?   *optional
   a. African (Also including: Black, African-American, Black Caribbean)
   b. Asian (Also including: Southeast Asian, South Asian)
   c. First Peoples (Also including: Alaska Native, Indígena)
   d. Pacific Islander (Also including: Native Hawaiian)
   e. Latinx (Also including: Hispanic)
   f. MENA (Also including: Arab, Persian)
   g. White (Also Including: European)
   h. Other: Please specify:
   i. Decline to Answer
3. Are you the founder of the organization?
4. What is the population of your city/town?
   a. 9,999 or below   b. 10,000 to 24,999   c. 25,000 to 49,999   d. 50,000 to 99,999
   e. 100,000 to 199,999   f. 200,000 to 499,999   g. 500,000+
5. What is the population of your county/parish/borough?
   a. 9,999 or below   b. 10,000 to 24,999   c. 25,000 to 49,999   d. 50,000 to 99,999
   e. 100,000 to 199,999   f. 200,000 to 499,999   g. 500,000+
6. What is the name of your county/parish/borough?
7. State/territory
8. Based on your best estimate, what percentage of your organization's young people are from communities that macro and/or civic systems have historically marginalized?
   a. 0-19%   c. 50-79%
   b. 20-49%   d. 80-100%

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Long Answer Questions:

1. **Organization Overview:** Tell us about your organization, young people, team, music program, and direct-service supports. Share how your program is relevant to your community.

2. **Big Idea:** What Big Idea do you have that reimagines or engages with systems to build towards equity? Please speak holistically of your work, and not just about a specific program or activity.
   Rubric for The Big Idea/vision: 0-5
   - There is discernible alignment between the Big Idea, equity alignment list (General Information), organization/program description, and Systems Change Category(ies) selected.
   - Goes beyond the organization to impact the wider community/nation/world's condition in order for young people to thrive through equitable communities.
   - Big Ideas that solely focus on building up the strengths and capacities of young people to be resilient without also addressing the societal structures that marginalize are not considered systems change initiatives by The Lewis Prize.

3. **Racial Equity and Inclusion:** How is your organization representative and accountable to your community in respect to racial equity, diversity, and inclusion (REDI)? How are REDI practices a part of your day-to-day programming, organization, and governance?
   Rubric for Equity and Inclusion: 0-5
   - The organization has a strong culture, habits, and/or policies that ensures racial equity and inclusion as a way of being, including its board, among its staffing, and in its programming.
   - REDI practices are accountable to their community. There is little difference between "the organization" and "the community."

4. **Youth Leadership:** Tell us how your organization centers young people's voices within a) their artistic practice and b) organization decision making.
   Rubric for Youth Leadership: 0-5
   - Youth engagement and leadership is integral to the organization's Big Idea and systems change goals.
   - Leadership responsibilities for young people increase as they mature and have more experience, such as youth employment within the organization.
   - Mentorship, alumni involvement, and intergenerational music making or work is apparent.

5. **Partners:** Describe the partners that you work with in solidarity to pursue your Big Idea and achieve systems change. Who are they, and how do you work reciprocally and intentionally together toward the Big Idea?
   Rubric for Partners: 0-5
   - The partners clearly work in solidarity to pursue the Big Idea with shared values and equity priorities.
   - The partners have clear roles that intentionally and reciprocally combine their strengths toward the Big Idea.

6. **Systems Change:** Does your work focus on macro and/or civic systems change?
    a. Macro b. Civic c. Both
        i. Which specific macro system does your work influence?
            1. Cultural Preservation
            2. Disability Justice
            3. Economic Opportunity
            4. Environmental Justice
            5. Gender and LGTBQIA+ Equality
            6. Immigrant Inclusion
            7. Nutrition Access
            8. Racial Justice
            9. Other - please specify
        ii. Which specific civic system does your work influence?
            1. Child Welfare
            2. Correctional/Justice System
            3. Education
            4. Employment/WorkForce
            5. Food Security
            6. Healthcare
            7. Housing/Shelter
            7. Immigration
            8. Police
            9. Political/Democratic Participation
            10. Transportation
            11. Workforce Training
            12. Other - please specify

7. Is there anything else you would like to share with the Lewis Prize?

8. **Two Musical Examples**
    a. A video (or audio) upload or link of your young people performing music from the last 2 years that displays all or most of the following elements:

       | Rigor/Musical Artistry | Personal expression | Youth leadership |
       | Cultural identity | Enthusiastic engagement of the young people performing |

          Rubric for Work Sample One: 0-5
          Score 1 pt for each example you experience or perceive
          ● The young people are challenged and are meeting that challenge.
          ● Young people bring their own expression to the music in a truthful way that it becomes fully their music.
          ● The young people look fully present and engaged.
          ● Includes characteristics of appropriate cultural representation.
          ● It sounds good and you want to hear it again.
    b. A video (or audio) upload or link of a rehearsal, youth or family interview, or program experience that showcases:

       | Social interventions that show youth leadership | Growth |
          Rubric for Work Sample Two: 0-5
          Score 1 pt for each example you experience or perceive
           | Youth engagement and leadership | Developmental Growth |
           | Positive personal/social Impact | Community Collaboration
           | Equity and Inclusion |

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Applications Advancing Past Round 1:

Narrative Questions:

1. **Resources and Capacity:** Tell us about the overall financial state of your organization and how the last 5 years have brought you to where you are today.
   We understand that the last 3 years have been unprecedented times. We know that every organization makes financial choices differently and this question is simply intended to share the authentic state of where your organization is financially.

2. **Systems Change Process:** Based on the civic and/or macro systems change your work focuses on, describe your process toward achieving your Big Idea.

3. **Systems Change Results (so far):** In list form: tell us the results achieved so far by this work, as it pertains to systems change and your Big Idea.

4. **Leadership:** Describe how your organization embodies collaborative leadership both internally and with your community in pursuit of your Big Idea and systems change. (250 words)

Uploads:

1. Weekly and yearly program schedules and/or calendar.
   Weekly and yearly program schedules and calendar, for either or both 2021-2022 and 2022-2023. If applicable, please include the number of young people served, and number of faculty, staff, and/or essential volunteers.
2. Organizational Structure Chart
   Upload an organization staffing chart, to include paid staff (denoting full and part time status) and key volunteer positions, if applicable. Include Board of Directors, Advisory Board, and/or fiscal sponsor relationships, as applicable. Include youth in the organization chart, if applicable.
3. Current Balance Sheet (also called "Assets & Liabilities Statement") and current Income Statement (also called "Profit & Loss Statement")
4. Balance sheet and income statements from two prior completed fiscal years.
5. List of your largest 10 funding sources (government, private or public, foundations, businesses, individuals, etc.) for this current fiscal year, and the most recently completed fiscal year.
6. Organization Logo
7. Organization W9

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Rubric for Semi-Finalist Applications:

1. **Big Idea and Systems Change:** There is a clear connection between the Big Idea and the Systems Change process & progress. The Systems Change work has reached a tipping point to infuse inequitable systems with change, sustaining the transition or is establishing a new standard.
2. **Leadership and Youth Leadership:** Collaborative leadership practice that is inclusive of young people. Without youth leadership, the organization's culture would feel drastically different. Youth leadership is playing a role in systems change intentions. Indicators: reciprocal relationships; increasing opportunities for young people as they continue through the organization.
3. **Community Partners:** Partnerships are clearly reciprocal with complementing strengths that increase reach and impact. Partners are aware of and collaborating toward the same systems change goals.
4. **REDI:** The organization/program has strong policies, habits, and/or a culture that ensures racial equity and inclusion on its board, among its staffing, and in its programming. | The organization shows racial equity and inclusion practices that are accountable to their community. There is little difference between "the organization" and "the community."