



M I D W E S T

2908 Hennepin Avenue, Suite 200
Minneapolis, MN 55408-1954

T. 612 341 0755 // F. 612 341 0902 // TTY. 612 822 2956
www.artsmidwest.org

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

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Arts Midwest plans to address the goals of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act by partnering with our nine member state arts agencies.

Partnering with our state arts agencies will afford us a unique opportunity to achieve an array of mutually beneficial objectives. First, and most obviously, we will coalesce our financial resources and invest them in worthy arts organizations across the region to preserve jobs and allow those organizations to continue to contribute public value to their communities. By ensuring that our investment is made in concert with each individual state, we will also assure that those closest to the ground will lead the grant making process. Second, effective implementation of this process affords us an opportunity to help strengthen our member state arts agencies' capacity to serve their constituency in a manner most appropriate to each state's needs and context—and to do so at a time when many of these state arts agencies are themselves under pressure to further demonstrate their value in an increasingly competitive public funding arena. Third, this process provides us an opportunity to deepen our already strong relationship with our member states by closely collaborating in this time of crisis, building what we hope will be a new set of partnership skills which will benefit our work together in years to come. Finally, and not insignificantly, this collaborative approach will simplify the process of accessing the ARRA arts funding in our region for our shared constituency of arts organizations by creating a single application source via their own state arts agency.

In consultation with the executive directors of our nine state arts agencies (and in consideration of the ARRA funding priorities), Arts Midwest has determined to divide all non-administrative funds available to us into nine "pots" set aside to support projects in each of our nine states. Individual state funding allocations will be determined by a formula which takes into consideration each state's dues level and current unemployment levels in each state. As the goal of ARRA is to preserve jobs that are threatened due to the economic climate, we believe it is critical to focus additional resources on those states experiencing greater job loss at this time. These target amounts will be transmitted to the state arts agencies and will add to their pool of available funds for re-granting to arts organizations to support job preservation.

Each state arts agency will develop program guidelines, selection criteria, and an application procedure for our shared ARRA arts funds, and will promote the availability of funds to an eligible applicant pool within their state through written and digital means. Based on recent meetings with our state arts agency directors, most (if not all) intend to closely align their guidelines with the review criteria and application information the NEA is using for its Recovery Act. Each state arts agency will convene panels in accordance with their own panel conduct standards to select the arts organizations to receive ARRA funds. Grant levels will be determined by each state arts agency, generally in the range of \$10,000-\$25,000.

Once each state's panel has made its funding recommendations, Arts Midwest will work with the state arts agency staff to determine which applications will be supported by Arts Midwest's funds. Wherever possible, Arts Midwest regrants will be directed to organizations involved in performing and visual arts presenting and touring, an area with which we have a deep and historic background. Once this determination is made, Arts Midwest (in concert with each state arts agency) will send out a joint award letter. Grants to these organizations will be issued directly by Arts Midwest, and will be ratified by Arts Midwest's Board of Directors, as required by our policies.

Arts Midwest will retain the responsibility to collect all required quarterly and final report data on behalf of our grantees, and will submit all necessary reports on those funds to the NEA. Furthermore, we will serve as a data gathering point for all nine of our states, collecting required data as well as anecdotal information on the program's impact for documentation and planning purposes. This information will be regularly shared with our member state arts agencies.

For more information, contact Adam Perry, Senior Program Director, at 612.238.8013 or adam@artsmidwest.org.