



Request for Proposals

To Influence Arts Education for Students with Disabilities in Integrated Classrooms

In 2015, the Department of Education's Office of Arts and Special Projects developed the [Arts and Students with Disabilities Online Resource Compendium](#), a training guide to ensure that art teachers have the tools and resources necessary to provide quality arts education to students with disabilities in integrated classrooms. However, many community schools do not have full-time or permanent arts teachers on staff and rely on community-based nonprofit organizations to train, place, and support teaching artists in educating students both with and without disabilities. Yet there are few standardized resources available for teaching artists working with students with disabilities, infrequent opportunities for them to come together to share ideas, and they often do not have the ability to plan with teachers and school administrators prior to their classroom placement. As a result, teaching artists report often feeling unprepared to meet the needs of students with disabilities. Moreover, while a selection of nonprofits provides training opportunities for teaching artists, the groups rarely work together to identify shared challenges and resolutions. Better guidance for teaching artists placed in integrated classrooms would ensure that all New York City public education students receive the arts education they deserve.

In Spring 2018, [The New York Community Trust](#) met with a selection¹ of nonprofit arts education providers with expertise in working with students with disabilities to learn about the challenges in the field and areas for improvement. The Trust now invites groups that participated in these conversations to jointly apply for a new grant opportunity.

Grant Opportunity and Eligibility

The Trust invites these arts education nonprofits to work together in teams of at least three to submit proposals for grants to support systemic improvements to arts education for students with disabilities in integrated classrooms. Initiatives that help substantial numbers of teaching artists, teachers, and paraprofessionals identify the needs of students and necessary accommodations or

¹The group included representatives from the following organizations: ArtsConnection, Brooklyn Arts Council, Center for Arts Education, Community-Word Project, Marquis Studios, New Victory Theater, Queens Museum, Teachers and Writers Collaborative, and Urban Arts Partnership.

interventions appropriate for arts education are encouraged. Any resources or materials developed as a result of this project must be free and open for the benefit of the field. Proposed tasks may include, but are not limited to:

- Identifying best practices in the field, both locally and nationally (potentially with the guidance of an expert consultant);
- Developing a guide or resource for teaching artists in integrated classrooms;
- Bringing together teaching artists, service providers, teachers, administrators, and paraprofessionals to share ideas and challenges;
- Hosting a web-based application or online resource;
- Assessing and documenting the benefit of the developed resource.

The Trust’s goal is to identify systemic challenges in providing arts education to students with disabilities and make sustainable improvements that have the potential to benefit *all* professionals that serve these students. The Trust expects applicants to take on a coordinated approach to achieving this goal and requires that proposals come from groups of at least three partnering organizations; the designated tasks and budget should reflect the respective strengths and challenges of each organization. Grants will range from \$200,000 to \$400,000 over two years per project. We expect to award approximately \$600,000 in total grants.

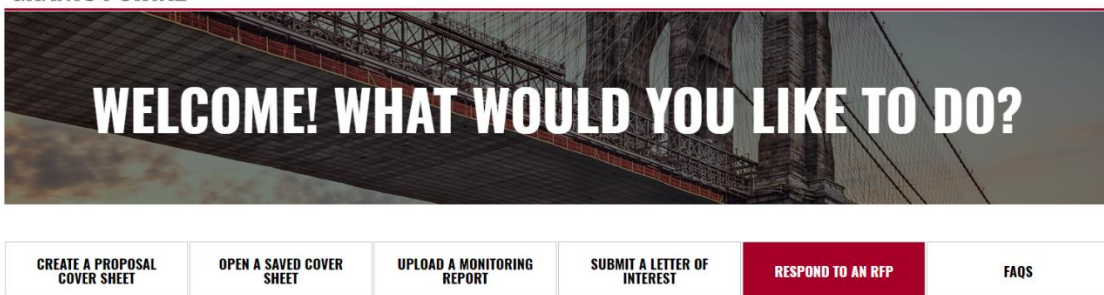
Application Process

Please include the following in your proposal:

1. Proposal cover sheet, completed on The Trust’s [Grants Portal](#) in the “Respond to an RFP” tab. Find the name of this RFP and click on the “Apply” button to open the [proposal cover sheet](#). Make sure the name of this RFP is noted at the top of the cover sheet. **Important:** When you complete the cover sheet for this RFP, you will be asked to upload the full body of your proposal (items #2-6 that follow) as a single PDF; *this means that you need to plan ahead to have your full proposal materials ready for submission before you complete and submit the proposal cover sheet.*



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The Trust issues a number of Requests for Proposals (RFPs) every year for our own grant programs and for our collaborative funds. Some examples are: Arts Capacity Building – due in January; Van Lier Fellowship Program – due in late April-early May

2. Proposal narrative (please limit to seven single-spaced pages and use a 12 pt. font), that includes information about:
 - a. History and track record of the partnering organizations in serving students with disabilities;
 - b. Plan for improving arts education for students with disabilities, including detailed information on the resources that will be produced as a result of this initiative;
 - c. Outline for working with school-based professionals and other stakeholders in the field in systemic and strategic ways.
3. Program budget, including expenses (you may include staff time and other organizational costs) and other sources of revenue (confirmed and pending).
4. List of the board of directors, including years with the organization, for the lead applicant.
5. Current organizational operating budget for the lead applicant. (Please include income and expenses.)
6. Recent financial statement from the lead applicant. Organizations with budgets of \$750,000+, submit your latest audited financial statements; organizations with budgets between \$250,000 and \$750,000, submit a CPA review report; all others, provide a copy of your IRS 990.

The proposal should be sent to:

Ms. Sheila Dinkins
The New York Community Trust
909 Third Avenue, 22nd Floor
New York, NY 10022

Proposals must be received by 12 noon, Wednesday, October 31, at the offices of The New York Community Trust, 909 Third Avenue, 22nd Floor, New York, NY 10022. Faxed and emailed proposals will not be accepted. Please note that this is not a postmark deadline.

Proposals received after the deadline will not be considered.

Questions about this Request for Proposals may be emailed to kem@nyct-cfi.org; please include your contact information. Grants will be announced in February 2019.