



**DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities
FY18 Grants Web Chat Session
Friday, October 6, 2017
2:30 PM – 3:30 PM EST**

CAH Grants Team

Welcome to our webchat session. Our grants team will be ready to take your questions starting at 2:30 pm. Please stand by.

Arts2017

Hello

CAH Grants Team

Yes

GrantsGuy

What kinds of grants do you have available?

CAH Grants Team (Regan Spurlock)

Hi! This is Regan. You can find CAH's currently available grant opportunities on our website here:
<https://dcarts.dc.gov/page/current-grant-opportunities>

Jeffrey

Hi...I had questions about the Sister Cities Grant Opportunity



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CAH Grants Team (Benjamen Douglas)

Hi Jeffrey - this is Benjamen. I manage SCG. What's your question?

CAH Grants Team (Khalid Randolph)

hi this is Khalid - your answers are coming.

Ira T

I am also working on the Sister Cities Application with some questions.

CAH Grants Team (Benjamen Douglas)

Hi Ira, this is Benjamen. How can I help?

Mark Hudson

We are working on an Sister Cities Grant with people from Washington Old Hall in Sunderland, England. What is the best way for us to incorporate their time and direct expenses into the budget for this project?

CAH Grants Team (Benjamen Douglas)

Hey Mark - it's Benjamen. Are you paying them?



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Perisphere

Our organization does not have video work samples from our previous season, what else may be use in terms of work samples? We are applying for the PEF and Liftoff grants.

CAH Grants Team (Heran Sereke-Brhan)

Hi this is Heran - unfortunately that is a requirement of the grant and not one that can be substituted.

CAH Grants Team (Regan Spurlock)

Hi Perisphere, This is Regan. I can speak to PEF. Please consider what other materials you have available that would give panelists a good idea of your proposed project in the application.

CAH Grants Team (Khalid Randolph)

This is Khalid - we are working on your answer Perisphere

Mark Hudson

In don't anticipate that. It will be an exchange, with some of us visiting there and some of them coming here. They likely will cover their travel cost to the US and our lodging while we are there.

CAH Grants Team

Your budget should include all of the actual expenses that your organization is covering. If there aren't direct expenses for their time, then it wouldn't be relevant to the budget.



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Stephanie

Hi - I also had a question about the sister city grant opportunity - is attending a workshop mandatory to apply? There's only one left, correct?

CAH Grants Team (Benjamin Douglas)

Hi Stephanie - this is Benjamin. Attending a workshop is not mandatory, but as always, encouraged.

Ira T

I am proposing a cultural exchange with Rome. Four artists travelling to Rome and returning with prints made there (at Laborintus) as well as some work from Laborintus artist. Collectively, the work will be shown in DC.

CAH Grants Team (David Markey)

David here. Building on Regan's comment:

The current opportunities we have are as follows:

1. Projects, Events or Festivals (for individuals and organizations)
2. Budget Enhancement Grants (for organizations)
3. Sister Cities (for individuals and organizations)
4. LiftOff (for organizations)

We also have a small contract opportunity for those of you who work with children and youth. It is due to launch next week.



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Hi! I have a quest...

Hi! I have a question about the budget enhancement grant. The projects that are applicable for funding are listed on the first two pages of the guidelines PDF, is that right? For example, organizations dedicated to preserving burial grounds. These are the only projects that are eligible for funding?

CAH Grants Team (Heran Sereke-Brhan)

Hi this is Heran. Yes, the seven projects are listed in the PDF. These are the only project eligible for funding in this cycle of the Budget Enhancement Grants.

Ira T

Do all of the artist need to reside in DC?

CAH Grants Team (Benjamen Douglas)

Hi Ira - this is Benjamen. That sounds interesting. If you are executing the project as an organization -- the organization must be DC-based. If you are applying as an individual, then you must live in DC. The staff or others do not all necessarily need to reside in DC, though it would certainly bolster your DC impact score.

Jeffrey

I applied a few years ago and my proposal for Seoul Korea was frowned upon because my contact was on a military base (although I had a prospective gig in the city). I have a contact and performance opportunities in Paris, however, if the hosts speak English, I don't want an "Anglophone" type of event in France and (possibly) Belgium to disqualify me from funding.



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CAH Grants Team

Being anglophone -- or not -- isn't an eligibility factor, so you wouldn't be disqualified. It might be best for us to chat offline. Shoot me an email at benjamin.douglas@dc.gov and let's find a time to talk by phone to make sure I'm grasping all of the nuances.

Chiarina Chamber P

Greetings! We are a concert series based in Capitol Hill (chiarina.org). Our mission is to bring top area performers and innovative programming right here to the neighborhood, at affordable prices. We read about the Projects, Events or Festivals (PEF) Cycle 2 grant. Would our 2017-18 season constitute a "project," or if it would be better to ask for support for a single, special concert or event?

CAH Grants Team (Regan Spurlock)

Hi Chiarina Chamber Players, this is Regan. To answer your question...

CAH Grants Team

"Laundry list" style projects including a whole season of work can sometimes come across as confusing - different shows may have different partnerships and target audience goals.

CAH Grants Team

However, it is possible to apply with your season as a singular project. Please note, the max for organizations to request is \$20k. Please review the other eligibility requirements before applying as well.



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MagicB

Hey there I'm interested in applying for the Sister Cities Grant. What are the steps?

Ira T

I understand we need to include photocopies of all the travelers passports. Just a one page photocopy?

CAH Grants Team

Yes. Just the inside cover. You can scan them all into one PDF.

Comment From Ira T

In order to make a budget, I need to have the artist cover their own flights. As well, the hotel costs and per diem will be lower than what is allowed. Does that hurt the application? Do I need to list hotels and restaurant costs to indicate that one can stay well in Rome for less than the per diem?

CAH Grants Team

Panelists always like to see that artists and scholars are being appropriately compensated. If an artist is expected to pay for their own hotel (or is being compensated a less-than standard amount), it likely will not panel well.



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Guest

Hi! I have a question about the budget enhancement grant. The projects that are applicable for funding are listed on the first two pages of the guidelines PDF, is that right? For example, organizations dedicated to preserving burial grounds. These are the only projects that are eligible for funding?Hi! I have a question about the budget enhancement grant. The projects that are applicable for funding are listed on the first two pages of the guidelines PDF, is that right? For example, organizations dedicated to preserving burial grounds. These are the only projects that are eligible for funding?

Jessica at YPT

Hi CAH Grants Team! Regan, would it be possible to connect with you to confirm PEF Cycle 2 eligibility as a GOS recipient?

CAH Grants Team (Regan Spurlock)

Hi Jessica! This is Regan. And, thanks, David.

CAH Grants Team

GOS recipients are eligible for PEF Cycle 2, however, similarly to last year, projects must be new or significantly expanded.

CAH Grants Team

The other eligibility requirements (no public art, no projects for children/youth, etc.) remain and are listed in full in the guidelines.



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CAH Grants Team (David Markey)

Jessica - David here. Let me know if Regan does not catch your question. I am happy to follow up with you.

Ira T

Benjamin, I will applying as an individual with support from a variety of organizations here and in Rome - although not monetary support. I will include the names within the application. Is it necessary best to get letters from all of them. I don't want to overwhelm the application.

CAH Grants Team

Having letters of support (and the required letter of project agreement) is certainly helpful. Although, as you note, there is such thing as too much. First of all, I would scan them all into one document -- so it's not visually overwhelming. Then, depending upon how many partners there are, I would say four -- maybe as many as six one page letters would be good.

Chiarina Chamber P

Thanks so much, Regan. Which other grant(s) besides the Projects one might be a good fit for us?

CAH Grants Team

In this currently opened round, you should have a look at LiftOff if your cash operating budget is under \$250K. And...



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CAH Grants Team

It would be great to start off with a project grant this round. In late winter CAH anticipates opening up the first round of FY19 grants, the General Operating Support program, which would also be one for you to keep in mind.

CAH Grants Team

AND, also currently open, if you are working with artists in any of DC's 14 Sister Cities, the Sister Cities Grant may be of interest.

Alison B

Hi -- quick question about the Liftoff application! In the Liftoff guidelines, it asks for 3-5 work samples, but in the "Guide to Grants" it says no more than 2 video samples if you are applying as a theatre/performing group. Should we submit 3-5 video clips? Is there a maximum combined length?

CAH Grants Team (Khalid Randolph)

Hi this is Khalid - This answer is for Alison B. You should have no more than 5 work samples in your proposed grant. It would be nice to see more than one work sample.

MHEDC

Any tips on the budget part of the application? can you share a link to the preferred budget template?



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CAH Grants Team (David Markey)

Hi MHEDC. There are "buckets" in the Budget part of the application. That part of the application will give you a sense of possible expenses and income lines. Best, David

dss16

The LiftOff program seems to be more flexible than UPSTART, since it apparently allows for spending on artistic & administrative personnel. We recently hired a part-time business manager to supplement our previously all-volunteer efforts, and that has represented our biggest capacity-building effort. Would staff compensation to continue supporting that position qualify as capacity-building under the more flexible rules of LiftOff?

CAH Grants Team (Khalid Randolph)

Hi dss16 - this is Khalid. The LiftOff program is for a new activity that you have not embarked upon or you currently do not have the capacity to administer. Existing cost or activities would not be supported under the LiftOff program.

Alison B

Thanks Khalid!



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Hi, this question ...

Hi, this question is about the Sister Cities grant. I have an idea, and some artists in the Sister City who would like to collaborate on a project with me. Would my proposal be seen as stronger if I have a letter from a gallery in the Sister City, for an exhibit plan, or does that matter?

CAH Grants Team (Benjamin Douglas)

Hi, this is Benjamin. Yes, that would make it stronger. In general, the more fleshed-out a project is, the more successful the application is. So, having an idea with some people who would like to collaborate likely isn't going to have enough detail. Showing that you've already secured the venue will be critical to demonstrating that, if funded, your project is ready to go.

Jessica at YPT

Thank you, David and Regan!

Carrie

I would like to set up a time to talk in more detail about the Budget Enhancement Grant particularly African American burial ground preservation. How is managing that grant?

CAH Grants Team (Regan Spurlock)

Hi Carrie! This is Regan. Heran Sereke-Brhan, CAH's new Senior Grants Officer, is managing this program. You may reach her at Heran.Sereke-Brhan2@dc.gov or 202-724-5613.



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CAH Grants Team (Heran Sereke-Brhan)

Hi Carrie - this is Heran. We can certainly set up time to talk. We have another workshop scheduled for Thursday, October 12 from 10am-12pm at the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Greater Economic Opportunity (2235 Shannon Place SE) as well if that is of interest.

dss16

Will LiftOff grant applications be evaluated in three cohorts based on the budget size (\$0 to \$50K, \$50K to \$150K, \$150K to \$250K) or will all applicants be competing against each other regardless of size?

CAH Grants Team (Khalid Randolph)

Hi dss16, this is Khalid. The grants will be funded in three categories, they will all be evaluated regardless of size.

Jeffrey

I can call you this afternoon, Benjamin...I know Regan (initially) said since I was trying to do some events with my fraternity's graduate chapter in Seoul Korea that a performance on an American military base in an international Sister City would not be considered for funding. However, my prospective gigs in Paris and Brussels aren't on a military base and I have a writer/poet from the USA who has multiple European performance opportunities from living over there for the last year

CAH Grants Team

Okay. It sounds like some strong possibilities. Looking forward to chatting.



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Perisphere

Is the UPSTART grant an open opportunity or has the deadline passed?

CAH Grants Team (David Markey)

David here, UPSTART launched and closed in the spring.

dss16

If accepted into the LiftOff program, do we receive the cash award this fall, or is the idea to develop a specific project with a budget in the spring (including exact amount), submit the interim report in March, and then get the funding?

CAH Grants Team (Khalid Randolph)

Hi dss16, This is Khalid. The LiftOff program is unique depending on the organizations need. Some activities will need to be refined afterwards (between the leader and CAH); therefore, this is more fluid. However, we will let each organization know the reporting procedures and funding during the announcement of awards.

Carrie

Thank you!



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Ira T

While I will have DC artists traveling to Rome, I will only have the art work (pints) from the Roman artists here in DC. I am hoping those artists will find their own funding to get here. If not, we will still have their work on display. How do think a panel will judge that?

CAH Grants Team

Having a mutually beneficial exchange is an important aspect of the program. Getting a sense of whether they would be able to travel would be helpful, in advance of submitting the application.

Hi, this question ...

Hi. I'm also assesmbling a proposal for the Projects Grant (pop-up gallery). Do all the artwork samples have to follow the proposed theme? Also, it's a bit hard to have a venue agreement letter when the show date is TBD. could I include a backup venue?

CAH Grants Team (Regan Spurlock)

Hi, Hi. This is Regan. Regarding your question...

CAH Grants Team

For the PEF side of things, the work samples you include should speak to the proposed project, but don't necessarily need to be the ones that will be in the project. They should give the panel a sense of what sort of work will be included... AND



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Regarding the venue, date and agreement letter. While these are not requirements to apply, it will speak to your planning to have these details determined.

CAH Grants Team

If you can't speak to the exact dates, times, locations, please give a clear story of your anticipated details (e.g. do you have a venue in negotiations?)

Ira T

I will asking for the full \$10,000 for the individual Sister City Grant. That will cover four artists, a venue, framing . . . If it is justified in the budget, does asking for the full amount make a difference to the typical panelist?

CAH Grants Team (Benjamen Douglas)

Hey Ira - Benjamen, again. In short, it depends. Panelists respond well to *reasonable* budgets that are fully thought-out, regardless of whether it's \$15,000 project, or a \$3,000 project. So -- sometimes panels do appreciate that people request less-than the full amount. It just all depends. One thing that will tank an application is if panelists think an applicant has inflated their budget to be able to request the full amount. Does that make sense?



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dss16

Does DCCAH plan on offering FY19 LiffOff grants in the normal application timeframe next spring, rather than the accelerated FY18 process underway right now? We are a stable organization and prior CAH grantee, but our Board has concerns about answering fundamental questions like "describe our vision for the next three years" before October 20th. The tentative plan is to spend more time coalescing around those answers and doing some strategic planning BEFORE we apply, rather than to meet upcoming CAH deadlines. Does that sound like a reasonable approach, or is LiftOff designed to actually help us with those processes? (A bit of chicken-and-egg problem for us.)

CAH Grants Team (Khalid Randolph)

Hi dss16, this is Khalid. We are evaluating the inaugural year of LiftOff and will make adjustments for next year. I'm sorry I can't answer that question with a yes or no. We are hopeful that organizations would have started with their strategic planning before planning - if not, we hope this process can help with that process.

Jeffrey

So...if I am selected for a French Residency that required some funding, that would not be looked upon favorably in panel? Also, I have had Ghanaian points of contact, but I think there was embassy/governmental/Sister City "Red Tape"...it might be difficult to do Paris and Accra for the grant amount, I know Brussels is a nominal flight from Brussels, but I still would want tje Ghana info as an FYI...I don't want to waste time constructing a grant proposal for a SC that may be ineligible because of factors beyond my control

CAH Grants Team (Benjamin Douglas)

Jeffrey, this is Benjamin. It sounds like there are complexities that I'm not fully grasping in this format. Let's have a phone call. Please email me at benjamin.douglas@dc.gov and let's set up a mutually-convenient time to chat.



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dss16

Thanks Khalid for all your answers on LiftOff. I will share these responses with our Board as we decide whether it makes sense for us to apply right now or not. The fact that capacity-building grants are now available to very small organizations is great, and it has prompted a lot of thinking and discussion in our organization over the past 10 days. We hope the program will continue even if we don't quite have enough time to file an application in the next two weeks.

Ira T

Benjamin, given the per diems in Rome, I am actually having a hard time making a budget work. It certainly will not be padded.

John Jingleheimer

Is there a limit to the number of grants I can apply to?

CAH Grants Team (David Markey)

John - David here. Are you referring to this current slate of grants or are you including grants you may have already received for FY18? Best, David

Jeffrey

If I am forecasting for travel in the SC grant proposal, when is the earliest I can plan the prospective trip...january 2018?! I know there's a December 2017 meeting for the awardees listed in the DCCAH RFP. Also, I know travel is often more affordable in the colder months (outside of Christmas/NYE)



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Eligible project expenses are those that occur after the receipt of the grant notification. We anticipate grant notifications going out before December 31.

CAH Grants Team

Thank you for your questions. We'll be wrapping up at 3:30 pm.

Ira T

Thanks for all your comments. I hope to set up an appointment in the next week or two once I have a finished draft.

CAH Grants Team

Sounds good!

Lamont Carey

I have no questions at this time. If I do, I can still send an email?

CAH Grants Team (Regan Spurlock)

Hey Lamont. (This is Regan). Absolutely! We can field questions at any time.



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CAH Grants Team (David Markey)

And Lamont - Creative Spark! is launching soon too! Best, David

Lamont Carey

Awesome. Hiiiiiiiiiiiiii Regan

Hi, this question

thank you for the webchat!

John Jingleheimer

Don't go!

CAH Grants Team

Ha! Do you have any other questions?