

HARPER ARTS TOURING FUND GUIDELINES

Connecting Alaskans to arts experiences is an important goal of the Rasmuson Foundation. The Harper Arts Touring Fund was established in 2002 to stimulate access to high quality performing arts in communities throughout Alaska; to encourage tours of Alaska's performing arts; to build the capacity of organizations in small communities to present; and to build audiences for cultural events. The fund has been expanded to include traveling art and cultural exhibits.

The Harper Arts Touring Fund provides grants to subsidize travel and freight expenses associated with the presentation of touring performers or arts/cultural exhibits in communities without regular access to these types of programs. Through a partnership with the Alaska State Council on the Arts, training and technical assistance are also provided to help communities strengthen their ability to successfully present arts activities.

Who May Apply

- Alaskan organizations that have received 501(c)(3) status from the Internal Revenue Service and are classified as "not a private foundation" under section 509(a) of the Code.
- Units of government and tribal entities.
- A school, college or university if the proposed activity is open to the general public and the primary purpose of the project is NOT a school residency or to generate academic credit.

In addition to the above requirements:

- The applicant organization must be based in the community to which the performer/exhibit is traveling AND they must be the local presenter of the planned activity.

Organizations that have a regular season of arts activities may only apply if:

- the performance/exhibit is specifically programmed to attract new audiences or reach an underserved population;
- they function as the lead presenter working with organizations in underserved communities to provide access to a new performance/exhibit; OR
- the performance/exhibit is the work of an Alaskan based artist and/or arts organization.

If you have a question regarding your organization's eligibility, please contact the Rasmuson Foundation.

Deadline

Applicants may apply as early as one year in advance of the date of the activity or the season in which the proposed event is scheduled. Postmark deadline is 90 days prior to the scheduled activity. Faxed applications will not be accepted.

Eligible Projects

Arts presentations including but not limited to: theater, dance, opera/musical theater, music, performances for young audiences, literary readings/storytelling, folk & traditional arts, media arts, and visual art and historical exhibitions are eligible provided they meet at least one of the following criteria:

1. Arts presentations/exhibits in Alaskan communities that do not have regular access to the arts experiences.
2. Presentations/exhibits of an Alaskan based artist or arts organization to communities in Alaska.
3. Presentations/exhibits specifically designed to attract new audiences or reach underserved populations.
4. Multi-community tours within Alaska that include categories 1, 2 or 3 above that are coordinated by a lead organization.*
5. If a performer/exhibit is traveling from outside of Alaska, then block-booking with at least two Alaskan communities is required.
6. The proposed activity must be marketed to and open to the public. There must be an admission fee for performing arts events. Where possible, it should include an educational component.

*Provided the lead organization partners with a local organization in each community. Each community organization must complete an application to be submitted by the lead presenter.

Eligible Expenses

Performing Arts activities:

- Artist travel and related freight costs associated with the presentation of touring performers within Alaska.
- For lead presenters a pro-rated amount for travel and related freight costs associated with bringing performers to the first performance community in Alaska. (See lead presenters incentive program.)

Exhibits:

- Freight costs associated with exhibit travel.
- For lead presenters a pro-rated amount for travel and related freight costs associated with bringing exhibits to the first exhibit location in Alaska. (See lead presenter incentive program.)

Ineligible expenses

- Travel/freight for fundraising, benefit concerts or exhibits;
- Production expenses (i.e., costs associated with preparing a production/exhibit for tour including artist fees, set and crate fabrication; and
- Underwriting for an organization's ongoing programming budget.

Grant Amounts

Community Presenters

Organizations may apply for up to 75% of the travel and freight expenses to travel the performer/exhibit to their community.

Lead Presenters

Please refer to lead presenter program.

Lead Presenter Incentive Program

Presenters are encouraged to share performers/exhibits with other rural and underserved communities and will be given a financial incentive to take on the added responsibility of serving as the lead organizer. In such cases, lead organizations may apply for a portion of the travel and freight costs incurred to transport the performance/exhibition into the state or to a lead organization's community. Award amounts will be pro-rated based on the number of participating communities. In general, awards will not exceed 50% of the project travel/freight costs incurred by the lead organization.

Responsibilities of the Lead Presenter:

- to make contact with rural and underserved communities letting them know what presenting/exhibit opportunities may be available;
- to partner with identified communities;
- to coordinate the tour and travel arrangements with the performers/exhibit curators; and
- to administer the Harper Arts Touring Fund applications from those communities and submit those applications as a group to the Rasmuson Foundation. (Note: each participating community must complete their application and submit it to the lead presenter.)

Selection Criteria

- 1) The degree to which the activity increases access to the arts for underserved populations and/or communities. Priority will be given to applicants whose projects serve geographic areas without regular access to the arts.
- 2) The artistic quality of the proposed artists/exhibits. Special consideration will be given to organizations that present Alaskan artists or exhibits reflecting the work of Alaskan artists.
- 3) The capacity of the applicant to successfully present the activity.
- 4) The applicant's plan for attracting audiences and building community participation.
- 5) The number of communities served by the proposed tour.
- 6) For repeat applicants: the diversity of art forms presented from year-to-year; and a track record that demonstrates an increased ability to plan events 3-6 months in advance.

Selection Process

Applications for the Harper Arts Touring Fund will be reviewed and a decision will be made within 60 days of receipt.

If you are not sure if your organization qualifies for this program, please contact us prior to completing an application.

Organizations may apply for no more than two (2) projects a year.

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