



New England
Foundation
for the Arts

Native Arts @ NEFA Grant Guidelines

November 2007

*Weaving a united
network among
Native communities*

Penumbra Theatre Company in
Grandchildren of the Buffalo Soldiers
by William S. Yellow Robe, Jr.
Photo by Ann Marsden

Native Arts @ NEFA, in partnership with the Maine Indian
Basketmakers Alliance, is made possible with lead funding from
the Ford Foundation's *Indigenous Knowledge and Expressive
Culture* program.

www.nefa.org

New England Foundation for the Arts • 145 Tremont Street, 7th Floor • Boston, MA 02111

Native Arts @ NEFA Program Overview

The Native Arts program at the New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA) seeks to support Native American artists in New England and nationally through grant making and network development. The program will build regional and national support structures to help Native artists reach broader audiences, connect with new markets for their work and gain access to financial resources. Planning to date has been informed by discussions with New England-based Native artists and community members at three gatherings that took place in 2005 and 2006 in Maine, Connecticut and New Hampshire.

Native Arts @ NEFA will support artistic traditions within Native communities, as well as encourage exchange among Native elders, professional artists, emerging artists and community resources, to promote both the preservation of traditional art forms and contemporary expressions in and across artistic disciplines.

Native Arts @ NEFA is being developed in partnership with the Maine Indian Basketmakers Alliance, with lead funding and vision from the Ford Foundation's *Indigenous Knowledge and Expressive Culture* program.

These guidelines are focused on Native artists residing within the six New England states. Please visit NEFA's website at www.nefa.org/grantprog/nativearts.html for updates and news on Native Arts @ NEFA national guidelines and events.

Native Arts @ NEFA Guidelines

Visit NEFA's website at www.nefa.org/grantprog/nativearts.html for guideline updates.

How much funding is available and what will it support?

Grants in amounts **up to \$3,000** each are available to support Native artists residing in New England. Projects should focus on art making, and the involvement of and benefit to New England communities. Projects may address preservation of arts and cultural traditions, contemporary native arts and/or training and technical assistance.

Examples of projects Native Arts @ NEFA will consider:

- Apprenticeship projects
- Public art projects
- Language projects that use art
- Developing current work or medium
- Learning new artistic skills
- Creative partnerships
- Professional development
- Promotional material development
- Research and documentation
- Digital portfolio development (photography, writing and design)

This program will not fund:

- Activities that take place exclusively in schools during class time
- Political campaigns or lobbying
- Fundraising events or pow wows
- Construction or capital improvements
- For-profit organizations

Who is eligible to apply?

- Native artists demonstrating knowledge and experience in their art form, medium or media
- Native organizations committed to preserving and encouraging art and art making in their communities
- Artists and organization leaders who are members of or affiliated with a Native American tribal nation and reside in one of the six New England states
- Artists and organizations who have previously received a Native Arts @ NEFA grant are eligible to apply, if requesting funds for a different project

How will funding decisions be made?

Funding decisions will be made according to the following review criteria:

1. Applicant demonstrates artistic skill, accomplishment and experience
2. The proposed project will address an identified need
3. The project description is well defined
4. The project will have a lasting benefit to one or more communities in New England
5. The project aligns with the overall purpose of Native Arts @ NEFA – to help Native artists support artistic traditions and contemporary art forms
6. Project must occur within one year of receiving funding

Panel comments will be available to applicants, whether funded or not, to assist in the preparation of future proposals.

How will awards be determined?

- Applicants will submit written project proposals and supporting materials following these guidelines, as well as Native Arts @ NEFA Application form inserted here and found online at www.nefa.org/grantprog/nativearts.html.
- A panel of Native arts advisors will review proposals following each application deadline. This panel will make funding recommendations to NEFA's Board leadership.
- The application process is competitive. Awards will be based on submission of a complete application package that fully meets the criteria. Please review all guidelines carefully. NEFA welcomes any questions and will help with your application process.

How can I get assistance or more information on applying?

Grant application informational sessions will be offered in various locations. These sessions will offer guidance for understanding the Native Arts @ NEFA funding guidelines and preparation of proposals, as well as information about other NEFA programs and ways to identify and connect with other available resources.

You may also contact the NEFA office and request assistance by phone or in person. *Contact Dawn Spears, Native Arts Program Coordinator at (617) 951-0010 x 525 or by e-mail at dspears@nefa.org.*

All inquiries are welcome!

Contact Information

Dawn Spears, Native Arts
Program Coordinator
(617) 951-0010 x 525
dspears@nefa.org

Jane Preston, Director of Programs
Rebecca Blunk, Executive Director

New England Foundation for the Arts
145 Tremont Street, 7th Floor
Boston, MA 02111
P: (617) 951-0010
F: (617) 951-0016
www.nefa.org

How To Prepare the Application

Native Arts @ NEFA Application forms are available on NEFA's website at www.nefa.org/grantprog/nativearts.html.

Native Arts @ NEFA Postmark Application Deadlines:

January 15, 2008

(for projects occurring between March 1, 2008 - February 28, 2009)

July 15, 2008

(for projects occurring between September 1, 2008 - August 31, 2009)

Application packets from **individuals** are to contain the following:

1. One completed and signed copy of the Native Arts @ NEFA Application form
2. Project narrative and budget (up to 2 pages) describing the following:
 - Your artistry and your accomplishments to date
 - Your proposed project in relation to the review criteria (the need, the plan and the lasting benefit)
 - How the grant funds will be spent
3. Artist résumé
4. Artist statement (up to 1 page)
5. Images of art work (work samples) related to project (photos, jpeg, slides, CDs and DVDs accepted)
6. Two (2) letters of support
7. Documentation of tribal affiliation or membership
8. Other supportive materials (if available) will be accepted, including press, awards, etc.

Application packets from **organizations** are to contain the following:

1. One completed and signed copy of the Native Arts @ NEFA Application form
2. Project narrative and budget (up to 2 pages) describing the following:
 - Your organization and its accomplishments to date
 - Your proposed project in relation to the review criteria (the need, the plan and the lasting benefit)
 - How the grant funds will be spent
3. Organization history and program overview
4. Images of art work (work samples) related to project (photos, jpeg, slides, CDs and DVDs accepted)
5. Two (2) letters of support
6. Documentation of tribal affiliation or membership
7. Other supportive materials (if available) will be accepted, including press, awards, etc.

NOTES TO ALL APPLICANTS:

- Be sure to make a photocopy of your application for your files.
- **Mail application materials to:**
New England Foundation for the Arts • Native Arts @ NEFA
145 Tremont Street, 7th Floor • Boston, MA 02111
- Applications that are late, incomplete, or sent by fax or e-mail will not be considered. NEFA is not responsible for applications lost in transit.

Application Checklist:

- Completed application form
- Narrative and budget
- Artist résumé or organization overview
- Artist statement, if individual
- Images of work
- Letters of support
- Appropriate documentation of Native heritage