Request for Proposals
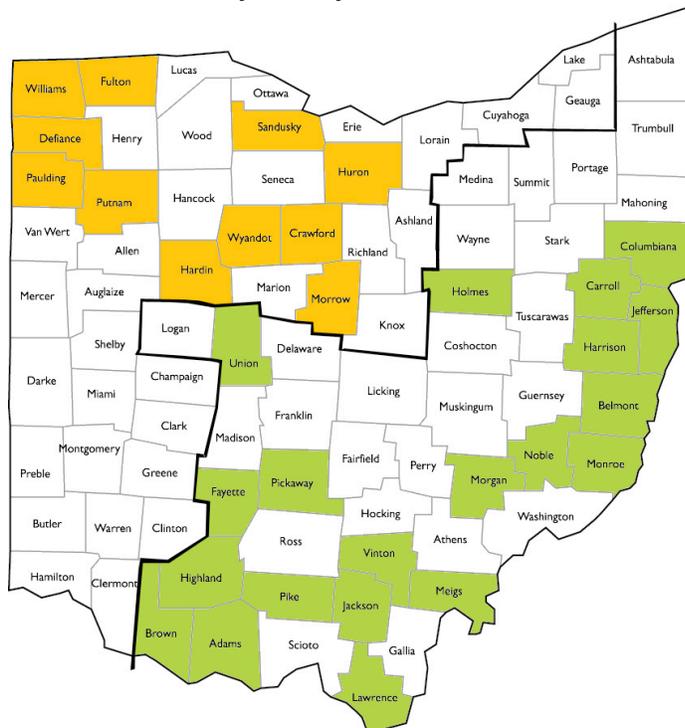# Ohio Arts Council's Fund Every County Initiative (FEC)

Apply by March 15, 2017, for projects that will be completed by June 30, 2017.

Introduction

Throughout the Ohio Arts Council's (OAC) history, the agency has directly funded organizations and individuals in as many as 67 Ohio counties – and as few as 53 – during any given year. As a state agency charged with serving the needs of all Ohioans, the OAC is committed to funding arts and cultural activities that take place in all 88 Ohio counties.

The OAC is prioritizing our work with nonprofit organizations and local governments located in unfunded counties to ensure all Ohioans have access to the arts. The initiative is supported with funding allocated by the Governor and the Ohio General Assembly for the FY2016-2017 biennium.

Fund Every County Initiative Counties

The goals of this initiative are to: 1) reach more Ohioans through the arts; and 2) build and strengthen emerging and existing arts communities in OAC unfunded counties through local government and nonprofit arts organization collaborations.

Grant Awards

Applicants may request between $1,500 and $10,000. Applicants focusing on arts education may request $2,500 - $10,000. No cash match is required for this initiative.

The Fund Every County Initiative (FEC) is designed to support projects in 31 previously unfunded Ohio counties in the arts and/or arts education in a variety of ways (see map).

To learn more or begin an application, contact an OAC Organizational Investment Coordinator. For counties in the western region (gold on this map), contact Jim Szekacs (614-728-4449 or jim.szekacs@oac.ohio.gov). For counties in the eastern and central regions (green on this map), contact Brianna Dance (614-728-4427 or brianna.dance@oac.ohio.gov).

How the Initiative Works

The Fund Every County Initiative (FEC) funds may be used to support artistic or administrative expenses, in addition to other allowable expenses such as marketing, program planning, education, and evaluation. The budget section of the FEC application in ARTIE, the OAC's online grant application system, provides a full list of allowable expense areas. Half of each award will be provided at start of the award period, and half following submission of a final report, due 30 days following the project end date.

Sample project activities might include:
- arts activities taking place at a local festival
- exhibition costs for a seasonal visual arts show
- printing costs for a community theatre's large print programs and sign language interpreter
- a weekly summer concert series
- an artist residency taking place in a school or other community location
- an annual dance production featuring local performers
- personnel costs to hire a local arts council's first paid staff member

Eligibility

All applicants must possess nonprofit status or nonprofit intent, but need not be registered with the IRS as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Applicants must be located in and serve one of the 31 identified FEC counties listed. Applicants may be: 1) arts and cultural organizations in any arts discipline (literature, performing arts, visual arts, traditional arts, multidisciplinary arts, etc.); 2) organizations that provide arts programming (government entities, social service agencies, etc.); or 3) educational organizations (public, private, charter, and parochial schools) that demonstrate a commitment to arts programming in a larger community setting.

Organizations may also choose to work with a fiscal agent (an eligible nonprofit entity that could apply on their behalf) in preparing an application.

Review Process and Criteria

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis, with reviews taking place monthly. Funded applications will meet the following review criteria:

- **Program Quality**: The proposed project demonstrates artistic, educational, and/or cultural value, aligns with organization's mission, and involves qualified personnel

- **Community Engagement**: The proposed project will be accessible to the community being served, well-promoted, and engaging for potential participants.

- **Defining and Measuring Success**: The proposed project has been well-planned, has realistic goals for success, and includes plans to capture feedback on that success from participants.

- **Resource Management**: The proposed project will be carried out by qualified leaders and has a complete and realistic budget.

How to Apply: For more information about this initiative, or to begin the application process, contact your OAC Organizational Investment Coordinator (see map on reverse). Fund Every County Initiative applications are submitted and managed online via the OAC's ARTIE grants system (ohioartscouncil.smartsimple.com); the process is straightforward and simple to complete.

Thank you for your interest – we look forward to working to support your project soon!