



**Raleigh  
Arts**

## **2022-2023 Arts Learning Community for Universal Access**

The City of Raleigh Arts Commission and the United Arts Council of Raleigh and Wake County are partnering for a seventh year to offer a yearlong arts learning community that uses a collaborative approach to advocating for and improving access to the arts for people with disabilities. Up to sixteen representatives of Raleigh and Wake County organizations will be selected to participate in this program (maximum 2 representatives/organization).

This full-year program begins with the Leadership Exchange in Arts and Disability Conference (LEAD®) hosted by the John F. Kennedy Center right here at the Raleigh Convention Center. Learning community members attend this national event free of charge then spend the rest of their year together, benefiting from peer learning as they work to improve accessibility within their individual organizations.

### **PROGRAM COMPONENTS**

Once accepted into the program, this year's learning community members will

- attend the Learning Community's kick-off meeting in mid to late July;
- attend a daylong LEAD® Pre-Conference workshop on Tuesday, August 2, either
  - *Basics Bundle* (an introduction to accessibility in the arts) or
  - *Arts Education Day* (focused on engaging students with disabilities in arts education programs);
- attend the full LEAD® Conference at the Raleigh Convention Center running Wed. – Friday, August 3-5;
- meet every month in facilitated sessions to share lessons learned, discuss issues and achievements in their accessibility work, and explore accessibility topics of mutual interest to the group (attendance at eight meetings required);
- identify individual organizational goals/projects to accomplish during the year to increase accessibility for people with disabilities;
- receive a technical assistance grant to help fund their individual accessibility project; and
- share what they have learned through a group presentation or project for the arts community at large.

### **ABOUT THE LEADERSHIP EXCHANGE IN ARTS AND DISABILITY (LEAD®) CONFERENCE**

**Monday – Friday, August 1-5, 2022**

**Raleigh Convention Center**

Running three full days (with two additional days of preconference sessions), this national conference is a concentrated, immersive educational experience in making cultural environments and programming accessible. LEAD® features over 100 sessions on topics like physical and programmatic access, universal design, arts education for students with disabilities, cultivating institutional buy-in, legal issues, and marketing strategies. Attendees exchange ideas, learn about best practices, and participate in discussions with leaders in the field. [www.kennedy-center.org](http://www.kennedy-center.org).

### **LEAD® CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIPS**

Learning community members will receive scholarships to attend the conference and a daylong pre-conference capacity building workshop on Tuesday, August 2 – either *Basics Bundle* or *Arts Education Day*.

**NOTE: If an applicant is NOT accepted into the learning community, their organization automatically receives a regular LEAD® scholarship instead.**

## ELIGIBILITY

To participate in this program, applicants must *be located within Wake County and be a nonprofit exempt from federal and state income tax* as either (1) a charitable organization with 501(c)(3) designation by the Internal Revenue Service with established arts programming or (2) a unit of municipal government.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

**Deadline:** Applications must be **received** no later than **Friday, May 27 at 4pm.**

Applications may be emailed ([sarah.corrin@raleighnc.gov](mailto:sarah.corrin@raleighnc.gov)), delivered by hand or mailed to Raleigh Arts, by the deadline.

**Mailing Address & Street Address:** City of Raleigh - Raleigh Arts  
127 West Hargett Street, Suite 408  
Raleigh, NC 27601

### How to Apply

Eligible groups must submit the following for each proposed participant (max. two) from their organization:

- Completed Arts Learning Community Application Form
- Narrative (two-page maximum) indicating:
  - 1) Brief description of organization's current accessibility accommodations and/or programming
  - 2) Proposed individual's name, job title, and a description of current work duties and experience
  - 3) Criteria used to select this individual
  - 4) Summarize anticipated benefits of participation for proposed individual and organization as a whole

### Evaluation Criteria

Applications that are complete and received by the deadline will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Track record/commitment of applicant organization to making programming accessible for people with disabilities
- Appropriateness of participation by proposed individual in terms of professional responsibilities and prior ADA experience
- Potential impact of the learning community experience on proposed individual and organization going forward as they continue working to improve accessibility in arts programming and accommodations for people with disabilities
- For previous grant recipients, quality of past grant compliance

## NOTIFICATION

Notification of acceptance into the Arts Learning Community will be made by email by **Friday, June 24**. Participants will receive a letter of agreement, forms and other documents the following week.

## QUESTIONS?

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