



**Raleigh
Arts**

2023-2024 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 an eighth 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 in Boston the last week in August. Learning community members receive scholarships of up to **\$2,500** to cover conference attendance costs 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 early August;
- on Monday, August 28 attend either the late day Learning Community preconference meet-up or a LEAD® preconference session;
- attend the full LEAD® Conference in Boston running Tuesday – Thursday, August 29-31;
- 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; 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

**Sunday – Thursday, August 27-31, 2023
The Westin Copley Place, Boston, MA**

Running three full days (Tuesday-Thursday) with two additional days of preconference sessions beforehand that Sunday and Monday, 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.

LEAD® CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIPS

Learning community members will receive scholarships of up to **\$2,500** to fully cover conference registration/fees, travel and accommodations. *Funding may not be used for food, beverages or other incidental expenses. (Note that those costs tend to be minimal as LEAD® feeds attendees exceptionally well!)* Scholarship amounts will be determined based on whether or not learning community members plan to attend preconference sessions in addition to the main conference. If applicant scholarship needs exceed funds available, applicants may be offered partial support. Payment of scholarship funds will be made in one payment after the conference, once recipients have submitted proof of expenses paid that match or exceed the total scholarship amount awarded.

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 26 at 4pm.**

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

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 that responds to application form questions (two-page maximum)

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 23**. Participants will receive a letter of agreement, forms and other documents the following week.

QUESTIONS?

S.A. Corrin

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