Announcement from the Office for Sponsored Programs

Request for Interest in proposal submission

To: Research Faculty

Date: January 15, 2014

RE: National Endowment for the Arts
FY 2015 Grants for Projects: Challenge America Fast-Track
Art Works

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) has limited the number of proposals that may be submitted by an organization to the above referenced announcements to one (1) per organization.

From the agency website:

If an organization applies to the Challenge America Fast-Track category, it may not submit another application to the Art Works category.

We would like to determine if there is a need for a pre-proposal internal competition.

The agency deadline for the Challenge America Fast-Track solicitation is May 8, 2014. For more information and a link to the agency announcement, please go to http://pivot.cos.com/funding_opps/117521.

The agency deadlines for Art Works are February 20, 2014 and July 24, 2014. For more information and a link to the agency announcement, please go to http://pivot.cos.com/funding_opps/149281.

Those interested in submitting a proposal should email Angie Shotts at ashotts@fa.ua.edu by 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, February 5, 2014. The subject line should indicate “NEA” and your Associate Dean for Research should be copied on the email. A statement of interest is all that is required at this time.

Should an internal competition be necessary, you will be notified of the process and due date for a pre-proposal submission as soon as possible after deadline for interest notification. Please contact Angie Shotts in the Office for Sponsored Programs at 348-8070 or your respective Associate Dean for Research if you have any questions.

Challenge America Fast-Track Introduction

The Challenge America Fast-Track category offers support primarily to small and mid-sized organizations for projects that extend the reach of the arts to underserved populations -- those whose opportunities to experience the arts are limited by geography, ethnicity, economics, or disability. Age alone (e.g., youth, seniors) does not
qualify a group as underserved; at least one of the underserved characteristics noted above also must be present. Grants are available for professional arts programming and for projects that emphasize the potential of the arts in community development.

This category encourages and supports the following two outcomes:
- Engagement: Engaging the public with diverse and excellent art.
- Livability: The strengthening of communities through the arts.

Art Works Introduction

The guiding principle of "Art Works" is at the center of everything we do at the NEA. "Art Works" refers to three things: the works of art themselves, the ways art works on audiences, and the fact that art is work for the artists and arts professionals who make up the field.

To make "art work," the NEA has included the advancement of innovation as a core component of its mission as a way to ensure the vitality of the arts. We recognize that arts and design organizations are often in the forefront of innovation in their work and strongly encourage innovative projects which are characterized as those that:

- Are likely to prove transformative with the potential for meaningful change, whether in the development or enhancement of new or existing art forms, new approaches to the creation or presentation of art, or new ways of engaging the public with art;
- Are distinctive, offering fresh insights and new value for their fields and/or the public through unconventional solutions; and
- Have the potential to be shared and/or emulated, or are likely to lead to other advances in the field.

Through the projects that we support in the Art Works category, we want to achieve the following four outcomes:

- Creation: The creation of art that meets the highest standards of excellence,
- Engagement: Public engagement with diverse and excellent art,
- Learning: Lifelong learning in the arts, and
- Livability: The strengthening of communities through the arts.