



## NPN 2019 Phase I: Creation Fund Guidelines

Application Deadline: May 20, 2019

Award Notification: June 10, 2019

Project Period: For projects premiering between Jan 1, 2020 and Dec 31, 2023

Next Creation Fund Cycle: May 2020, TBD

*The Creation & Development Fund is supported by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the generosity of Co-commissioners*

**NPN MISSION:** *The National Performance Network (NPN) contributes to a more just and equitable world by building power for artists; advancing racial and cultural equity in the arts presenting field; fostering relationship-building and reciprocity between individuals, institutions, and communities; and working towards systems change in arts and philanthropy.*

**NPN IMPACT AREAS:** We envision a world in which

- **artists** have greater power and resources for meaningful, sustainable careers;
- a strong **network** maximizes its collective wisdom, resources, and leadership;
- **communities** have greater capacity for civic engagement, representation, and joy;
- **cultural infrastructure** reflects deeper partnerships and more equitable practices



**NPN PROGRAMMATIC PRIORITIES:** NPN's programmatic priorities represent holistic approaches that deepen NPN's longstanding commitment to racial and cultural justice, artist equity, collaboration and relationship-building, and systems change. We aim to narrow the opportunity gap for artists and organizations, and specifically for people of color, people with disabilities, and native, indigenous, trans and rural populations. When crafting Creation Fund applications, please keep these goals in mind.

### CREATION & DEVELOPMENT FUND (CDF)

The Creation & Development Fund supports the creation, development and mobility of new artistic work that advances racial and cultural justice and results in live experiential exchange between artists and community. The fund provides a framework for relationships to develop over time among diverse artists, arts organizations, and communities. Through the investment of commissioning funds from arts organizations and NPN direct subsidies, each project is eligible for multi-level support.

### PHASE I: CREATION

Each Creation Fund project begins with an artist; at least two arts organizations (co-commissioners) in different communities across the globe -- one of which is an NPN Partner; and a vision of new work. In Phase I, each project receives a minimum of \$12,000 to support the early stages of the creation process. Unrestricted funds allow artists to experiment and take risks while creating work and can be used for a variety of needs such as research and development, materials, paying artists, technical support, and travel.

## PHASE II: DEVELOPMENT FUNDS

Twice a year, NPN invites artists who have received Creation Fund support to apply for additional development support. Development Funds are artist-driven: artists may apply for up to \$10,000 for team-based projects with a co-commissioner of their choosing; or artists may apply for artist support only, up to \$5,000. Development Funds can offset a variety of needs when developing a work for public engagement. Guidelines are flexible in design in order to meet the unique needs of each project. Development Fund deadlines occur in September and March of every year. Please keep this in consideration when applying to the Creation Fund.

## PHASE III: MOBILITY

Once a work is developed, co-commissioners support artists through a public engagement of the new work, focused on live experiential exchange between artists and communities. *NPN offers access to, but does not guarantee, Artist Engagement Funds to NPN Partners for artist fees for Phase III.* NPN Partners should see Artist Engagement Fund guidelines for more details.



### CREATION FUND PROGRAM GOALS

- Advance racial and cultural justice
- Holistic support for diverse artistic creation processes
- Expand access to commissioning support, equitable distribution of funds, and geographic parity
- Honor long-term relationship-building and cultivate new authentic, reciprocal collaborations between artists, communities, and/or commissioners
- Build capacity for the co-commissioning and development of new work

(Left) 2017 CDF Artist Virginia Grise, *Rasgos Asiaticos*,  
Photo: street photographer

## CO-COMMISSIONING REQUIREMENTS

### a) Commissioning Fees

Creation & Development Fund projects begin with an artist or company, *at least* two co-commissioning organizations (one of which is an NPN Partner) in different communities, and a vision of new work. Each organization contributes to the artist's commissioning fee, and there is no limit to the number of co-commissioners a project may have. In Phase I, each artist receives a minimum of \$12,000 of Creation Support.

Fees paid per organization:

Co-commissioning organizations	
With annual organizational budgets less than \$1 Million	\$2,000 each
With annual organizational budgets of greater than \$1 Million	\$3,000 each
<b>NPN</b>	<b>\$8,000</b>

### b) Commitment to Live Public Engagement

Co-commissioners have a three-year period in which they commit to hosting the artist in a live exchange of the co-commissioned work. This exchange can take any format such as a public presentation, performance, exhibition and/or community residency, as long as it centers live experiential artistic exchange between the

community, the artist and the new work. *NPN offers access to, but does not guarantee, Artist Engagement Funds to NPN Partners to support artist fees for these exchanges.*

## ADVANCING RACIAL AND CULTURAL JUSTICE

NPN recognizes there are many strategies to advancing racial and cultural justice and will support a variety of approaches that benefit artists, organizations and communities marginalized by current and historic systems of oppression. Furthering this goal may look like: commissioning an artist of color, indigenous artist, artist with disabilities, or trans artist; supporting a project that deals with issues of racial or cultural justice; supporting a process that builds work with communities who have been underinvested in, etc.

## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Artistic projects in the early stages of creation, to be presented no sooner than January 1, 2020 and no later than December 31, 2023.
- Projects that [advance racial and/or cultural justice](#) and further [NPN Creation Fund goals](#).
- Projects that culminate in live experiential exchange between artists and communities in a public setting, regardless of discipline.
- Artists/companies based in the U.S. and its territories or Mexico.
- At least two co-commissioners (one of whom is an NPN Partner) in different communities confirmed at the time of application. **NOTE:** If the artist is a company member, staff member, or resident artist of one of the co-commissioning organizations, three co-commissioners must be identified (in different communities) to ensure visibility for artists beyond their home base.
- Artists who have not received a Creation & Development Fund in the last two years (FY18 and FY19: July 1, 2016 – present).
- Co-commissioning fees must be available and paid out by all co-commissioners to NPN by June 1, 2020 – *no exceptions*.
- Artists and co-commissioners must credit NPN and co-commissioners for the life of the work in all marketing and promotional materials.
- In alignment with NPN’s commitment to creating an arts sector rooted in justice, we are committed to ensuring spaces, structures, and processes free of racism, transphobia, homophobia, ableism, misogyny, classism, or other bias. Our expectation is that all artists and co-commissioners receiving NPN support will honor this ethic.

## APPLICATION TIMELINE

March 22, 2019 1pm CST – Creation Fund webinar (optional) via Zoom <https://zoom.us/j/914355552>

May 20, 2019 – Application deadline

June 10, 2019 – Award notifications

July 1, 2019 – Earliest date for distribution of Creation Fund subsidies, per completion of grant requirements

January 1, 2020 – Earliest date for works to be presented/premiered

June 1, 2020 – Latest date for distribution of Creation Funds, including co-commissioner matches

December 31, 2023 – Latest date for works to be presented/premiered

## SELECTION PROCESS

NPN will convene a peer panel of NPN Partners and artists to select awards. Please note awards will not be made based on language, grammar, or writing. Additionally, projects will not be judged on artistic merit or

career successes but rather the alignment with NPN's program goals and quality of relationships. NPN will fund 8-13 projects in this application round, prioritizing projects using the following criteria:

- Artists and co-commissioners who represent communities historically underinvested in, including but not limited to communities of color, Native American, indigenous, disability, trans, and rural communities
- Projects that [advance racial and/or cultural justice](#) and further [NPN Creation Fund goals](#)
- Projects that honor long-term relationship building and/or cultivate new authentic, reciprocal collaborations between artists, communities, and/or commissioners
- Projects in the creation phase of development (as opposed to near completion or touring)

## TECHNICAL SUPPORT

NPN staff is available and at your service to field any questions or eligibility concerns. Please feel free to contact: Stanlyn Brevé, National Program Director, [stanlyn@npnweb.org](mailto:stanlyn@npnweb.org), (504) 595.8008 x704

## ADDENDUM A: SAMPLE APPLICATION

Complete Actual Application online through [Submittable](#)

**ONLINE APPLICATION CLOSES: May 20, 2019**

Please review project guidelines prior to completion. Carefully review Eligibility Requirements, Creation Fund Goals, and Selection Process

When completing the application, make sure to focus the request on the creation phase of the project. Please note that applications will not be judged on language, writing or grammar. When completing project narrative you will have the option of uploading a video, audio or text response. Please be prepared to upload a project timeline and budget. You may use the template provided or use your own.

**Questions?** Contact Stanlyn Brevé, Director of National Programs; [Stanlyn@npnweb.org](mailto:Stanlyn@npnweb.org), 504.595.8008 x704

*\*Responses required*

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### ARTIST/COMPANY INFORMATION

*Please provide contact information and demographics of primary artist/company.*

**Artist/Company Name \***

**Primary Contact \***

*Name, title, e-mail and phone*

**Artist Website\***

**Artist Mailing Address\***

*Street Address, City, State, Zip code*

**Other Personnel or Collaborators**

*Please name other personnel or collaborators worth noting.*

**Number of years practicing as Artist/Company\***

- 10 years or less
- 10-25 years
- 25 years or more

**Please indicate if the Lead Artist/s identifies as one of the following\***

- Asian or Asian American
- American Indian or Alaskan Native
- Arab or Arab American or North African or Iranian

- *Black or African American*
- *Hispanic or Latinx*
- *Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander*
- *White or Caucasian*
- *Other, Explain:*

**Other identifiers of Lead Artist/s**

- *Person with disabilities*
- *Transgender*
- *LGBTQ*
- *Rural*
- *Other, Explain:*

**Has the Artist/Company previously received a Creation Fund award? \***

- *yes*
- *no*

**If yes, what year?**

**Is the Artist a company member, staff member or resident artist of any Co-commissioning organizations of this project? \***

*If yes, then at least THREE co-commissioners must be identified*

- *yes*
- *no*

**If yes, please explain.**

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**PROJECT INFORMATION**

*Please provide basic Project information.*

**Project Title \***

*Title of Work*

**Project Start Date \***

*e.g. July 7, 2019; Actual date creation activity begins/began.*

**Project End Date \***

*e.g. September 3, 2021; Date development activity ends.*

**Anticipated date work will premiere \***

*e.g. Feb 2020*

*\*The first public presentation, performance, gallery exhibition, or community residency, etc.*

*Projects must premiere between January 1, 2020 and December 31, 2023.*

### **Project Discipline\***

*Please select as many that apply to this project.*

- Ceramics
- Dance
- Digital/Computer
- Drawing
- Film/Video
- Installation
- Mural
- Music
- Painting
- Performance Art
- Photography
- Printmaking
- Puppetry
- Sculpture
- Site-Specific
- Spoken Word
- Theater
- Other, Explain:

### **Total Project Budget \***

*Should match the total in the uploaded budget.*

### **Total Creation Fund Request (including Co-commissioners Matches)\***

*Commissioners match + NPN \$8,000 match = minimum of \$12,000*

*This amount should match "Total Creation Fund Request" on Project Budget.*

### **Brief Summary of Creation Fund Project: \***

*Tell us very briefly about the project. You will provide a more detailed description later in the application. (100-word limit)*

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## **PROJECT NARRATIVE**

*Please note that decisions will not be based on language, grammar, or writing. There are two options for responding to project narrative. You may respond by completing the following questions or upload video or audio responses. If completing responses, feel free to keep it simple. You do not have to use all the space provided.*

### **Describe the Creation Fund Project**

*Describe the project including a synopsis of the work, artistic goals, target audience, collaborators, and the current stage of development.*

*600-word limit*

### **Describe how the project aligns with NPN's Creation Fund Program goals**

*How will the project advance racial and/or cultural justice? How does the project align with NPN's other Creation Fund Program goals? See guidelines for more.*

*400-word limit*

**Describe your relationship with co-commissioners and how you intend to engage target audiences.**

*Why did you choose to work with these co-commissioners? How will the project build long-term relationships and/or cultivate new collaborations between artists, communities, and co-commissioners.*

*400-word limit*

**Option to upload video/audio responses to narrative questions**

*If you would rather respond to narrative questions via video/audio, please upload here.*

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## **CREATION FUND PROJECT TIMELINE & BUDGET**

*Upload a project timeline and budget. You may use the template provided or create your own. If you are using your own project budget, make sure to include all project expenses and income, indicate if income is pending or confirmed, and include this request (including co-commissioners matches). There is no minimum income- projects will not be judged on funds raised.*

**Creation Fund Project Timeline & Budget\***

*Upload*

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## **CO-COMMISSIONER INFO**

*Please provide Co-commissioner's information in the next section, including contact info, organizational demographics, dates funds are available, and date work will be presented. You will need to collect this information from each Co-commissioner.*

*Each project must have a minimum of two Co-commissioners in different communities. If the artist/company is a company member, staff member or resident of any Co-commissioning organizations, a third co-commissioner is required.*

*If the project has more than five Co-commissioners, please upload a document providing the same information for other co-commissioners at the end of this section.*

## **CO-COMMISSIONERS INFO**

*Complete info on form for each Co-commissioner*

**Co-commissioner Name: \***

**Primary Contact: \***

*Name, title, email, phone*

**Mailing Address: \***

*Street address, City, State, Zip code.*

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**Website: \***

**Please indicate if more than 50% of your staff identify as only one of the following:\***

- *Asian or Asian American*
- *American Indian or Alaskan Native*
- *Arab or Arab American or North African or Iranian*
- *Black or African American*
- *Hispanic or Latinx*
- *Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander*
- *White or Caucasian*
- *None of these categories describes more than 50% of our staff*

**Please indicate if more than 50% of your board identify as only one of the following:\***

- *Asian or Asian American*
- *American Indian or Alaskan Native*
- *Arab or Arab American or North African or Iranian*
- *Black or African American*
- *Hispanic or Latinx*
- *Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander*
- *White or Caucasian*
- *None of these categories describes more than 50% of our board*

**Please indicate if more than 50% of the artists you work with identify as only one of the following:\***

- *Asian or Asian American*
- *American Indian or Alaskan Native*
- *Arab or Arab American or North African or Iranian*
- *Black or African American*
- *Hispanic or Latinx*
- *Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander*
- *White or Caucasian*
- *None of these categories describes more than 50% of the artists we present*

**Please indicate if more than 50% of your audience, to your knowledge, identify as only one of the following:\***

- *Asian or Asian American*
- *American Indian or Alaskan Native*
- *Arab or Arab American or North African or Iranian*
- *Black or African American*

- *Hispanic or Latinx*
- *Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander*
- *White or Caucasian*
- *None of these categories describes more than 50% of our audience*
- *Not sure, we don't have this data*

**Co-commissioning fee to Artist:\***

- *\$2,000 - For organizations with annual budgets less than \$1 Million*
- *\$3,000 - For organizations with annual budgets more than \$1 Million*

**Date co-commissioning fee will be available?\***

*e.g. July 2019*

*Co-commissioning fees must be paid by June 1, 2020*

**Anticipated presentation\* date: \***

*\*This exchange can take any format such as a public presentation, performance, exhibition, or community residency as long as it centers live experiential artistic exchange between the community, the artist and the new work.*

*Works must be presented between January 1, 2020 and December 31, 2023.*

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**ADDITIONAL CO-COMMISSIONERS (if applicable)**

*If there are more than five co-commissioners, please upload additional information here.*

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**Anything else you would like us to know?**