



NPN Southern Artists for Social Change Proposal Guidelines & Application Instructions

Application Open: April 4 until July 29, 2022 (5:00 pm Central Time)

Letter of Intent Deadline: July 29, 2022 (5:00 pm Central Time)

Full Proposal Deadline: September 1, 2022 (5:00 pm Central Time)

Award Notification: October 31, 2022

Apply here: <https://npnetwork.smartsimple.com>

NATIONAL PERFORMANCE NETWORK / SOUTHERN ARTISTS FOR SOCIAL CHANGE PROGRAM

Please review the guidelines carefully before beginning the online application. We strongly encourage you to complete your proposal documents in advance. Once you have completed your proposal documents, you must submit them via.

GUIDELINES

VISION & PURPOSE

The National Performance Network's **Southern Artists for Social Change** program envisions a world in which people of color living, working, and organizing for community change in the South have the power, resources, and opportunities to thrive. NPN's mission is to contribute to a more just and equitable world by building artists' power, advancing racial and cultural justice in the arts, fostering relationships between individuals, institutions, and communities, and working toward systems change in arts and philanthropy.

[Southern Artists for Social Change \(SA4SC\)](#) provides \$25,000 project grants to artists and culture bearers of color living, working, and engaging in social change in urban, rural, and tribal communities of Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi. The grant is part of the Surdna Foundation's [Radical Imagination for Racial Justice](#) initiative, which has partnered with eleven organizations nationwide to support artists of color working to advance racial justice within their local communities. As part of this initiative's U.S. South learning cluster, Southern Artists for Social Change is a pilot program to expand NPN's regional support beyond our local community in New Orleans, investing in the Deep South's strong creative legacies and deep community-based practices.

WHAT TYPE OF PROJECTS THE PROGRAM SUPPORTS

SA4SC supports [civic practice](#) projects that bring BIPOC artists and culture bearers into collaboration and co-design with community partners and local residents of color around a community-defined vision. This program supports artists who collaborate with their community members to identify a community challenge or needs, imagine a different future, and practice, test, or design approaches toward that future that center racial justice.

WHO CAN APPLY

Artists and [culture bearers](#) who identify as Black, Indigenous, and/or People of Color (BIPOC) living, working, and engaging in social change in Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi are encouraged to apply. Applicants must be residents of the following states: Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi for at least five years and 18 years of age or older by the application deadline.



**Surdna
Foundation**

Southern Artists for Social Change is a program of the National Performance Network and is supported with funding from the Surdna Foundation's "Radical Imagination for Racial Justice" Initiative.

WHO AND WHAT ARE ELIGIBLE

- Artists and [culture bearers](#) who identify as Black, Indigenous, and/or People of Color (BIPOC) living, working and engaging in social change in Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi.
- Artists and culture bearers with demonstrated practice in any discipline.
- Individual artists, as well as artist collectives, may apply. Artist collectives must have a demonstrated history of creating new work collectively for at least two years, and all members of the collective must meet the eligibility requirements individually.
- Applicants must be residents of Alabama, Louisiana, or Mississippi for at least five consecutive years at the time of both application and payment and must provide a valid state ID.
- Projects should demonstrate a civic practice process to (1) identify a specific community challenge or need, (2) imagine a different future for the community, and (3) practice, test, or design approaches toward that future that center racial justice.
- Projects must include at least two community members (individuals, agencies, and organizations) as collaborators who share in decision-making, shaping the project and project outcomes.
- Grants may support any project phase (research, development, production, etc.), including new initiatives or ongoing work, and a portion of funding should directly support the artist(s).

WHO AND WHAT ARE INELIGIBLE

- Nonprofit organizations
- Recipients of NPN's Creation Fund in the previous three years (2020, 2021, or 2022)
- Artists under 18 years of age at the time of the application
- High school students or college or graduate students currently enrolled in a degree-granting program, at the time of application or during the grant period
- Current NPN staff, board members, or panelists
- Curators and researchers

To learn about the previous Southern Artists for Social Change grantees, click here: SA4SC [Cohort 1](#) and [Cohort 2](#)

REVIEW PROCESS

Step 1: Letters of Intent will be reviewed by NPN staff for eligibility and alignment with program goals.

Step 2: Eligible applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal to be reviewed by a panel of community members and colleagues in the arts and cultural sector in the South. If invited to submit a Full Proposal, you will be asked to provide a budget and timeline and expand on your original LOI narrative.

All applications will be evaluated on the following criteria:

Relevance

- Articulates a clear, compelling community need.
- Articulates an imaginative vision that centers racial justice.

Community Engagement

- Demonstrates civic practice, in which community members shape the process, share in the decision-making process, and have agency over the outcomes. The community's role in identifying challenges, defining a vision for the community, and co-designing strategies are central to civic practice, rather than an artist conceiving a project and then implementing a strategy in the community.
- Demonstrates an understanding of, commitment to, and relationship with the community in which the project is centered.

Collaboration and Partnership

- Includes a set of partners with the necessary resources (skills, networks, etc.) to lead the work.
- Demonstrates strong partnership among collaborators, with collective goals and outcomes.

Strategy

- Is clear how the proposed activities make a bridge from challenges to solutions.
- Is clear how the arts and the contributions of artists/culture bearers inform and have a central role in the process and project.
- Has potential for long-term impact and continued engagement within the community.

Project Management

- Project activities are realistic and feasible within the proposed timeline and budget.
- The budget reflects the project's values, including equitable compensation for time and labor for artists and community members.

GLOSSARY:

Civic practice

The Surdna Foundation uses the Center for Performance and Civic Practice's definition of "civic practice" *as work that brings artists into collaboration and co-design with community partners and local residents around a community-defined vision.* Our peers at Alternate ROOTS define civic practice as "community-based art for social change" *as creative expression that emerges from communities of people working together to improve their individual and collective circumstances.*

Community

Borrowing again from [our colleagues at Alternate ROOTS](#), we define communities as groups of people who share a geography, historical or ethnic traditions, and/or a belief or spirit. NPN's Southern Artists for Social Change program will support projects that take a community-centered approach that includes authentic partnerships between artists and community members and in **which those closest to a community's challenges have the power to make change.** We ask applicants to define the specific community they are engaging, their relationship to that community, and other community members' roles in the project.

Culture bearer

A member of a community who practices that community's artistic or creative expressions. Knowledge of these arts or skills is most often passed from person to person within the cultural group, and the art itself expresses the community's values or aesthetics.

NEED ASSISTANCE

NPN Staff is available and at your service to field any questions through phone calls and email. We will host *open office hours* via Zoom during the month of June. We strongly encourage everyone who is applying to schedule a phone consultation or participation during the virtual open office.

Open Office Hours Dates and Times

Monday morning (9:30 am – 10:30 am)
June 6th, June 13, June 20, June 27

Wednesday afternoon (3:00 pm – 4:00 pm)
June 1, June 8, June 15, June 29

Friday afternoon (1 pm – 2 pm)
June 3, June 10, June 17, June 24

Join Zoom meeting with this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88267935722?pwd=dnIGVUNTWWJvaWh1YVdhcEcya1INQT09>

Meeting ID: 882 6793 5722
Passcode: 206612

Stephanie Atkins (she/her), Director of Local Program

General inquiries

stephanie@npnweb.org

504.595.8008 x702

Brittany Dudley (she/her), Data & Information Associate

Application, technical difficulties, agreement processing, and payments

brittany@npnweb.org

504.595.8008

National Performance Network (NPN)

P.O. Box 56698 | New Orleans, LA 70156-6698

<http://www.npnweb.org>



APPLICATION GUIDE

Letter of Intent Deadline: Online portal is open from April 4 to July 30 (11:59 pm Central Time)

We have recently updated our grants management system and use the Smart Simple platform to accept online applications. We have created this guide to help you navigate the new system. If you experience any technical difficulties, please contact our Data & Information Associate, Brittany Dudley, at brittany@npnweb.org or 504.595.8008 for assistance.

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APPLICATION TIPS

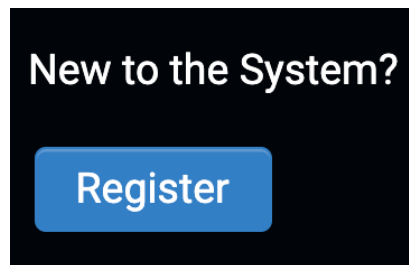
- We know that planning is difficult right now as the future is uncertain. We are okay with uncertainty and are remaining flexible. NPN is committed to funding projects regardless of shifts that may occur.
- Keep it clear and simple! We don't judge applications on grantsmanship, so use plain language and don't feel the need to fill up all the spaces.
- The application should be approached like a plan instead of a competitive application. This is a tool for you to use as you are planning.
- Review the application questions and gather your support materials before working on the online application.
- If working with collaborators, be sure to give yourself enough time to build the project, timeline, and budget together and invite them to collaborate on the application through NPN's online grantmaking system.

STEP 1: ARTIST INSTRUCTIONS

- **1.1 Artist: Setting up an Account**

If you already have an account in our system, log in here: <https://npnetwork.smartsimple.com/>.

If you do not already have an account in our system, go to this link in your web browser <https://npnetwork.smartsimple.com/> and click on the "Register" button to set up an account.



As an artist, you will be asked to apply as an "Individual Artist" or a "Collaboration of multiple artists." Click on each option to see which one is right for you.



Registration

I am applying as:

Individual Artist
All individuals who are applying without an organization

NPN Partner
All applicants applying as a National Performance Network partner

Collaboration of multiple artists
All Individuals applying as a collaboration


Then fill out and submit your information. Then, check your email account to log in using the link provided. You will be prompted to create a password:

Account Activation

New Password:

Confirm Password:

Policy: Password must have at least 6 characters

I'm not a robot 
reCAPTCHA
Privacy - Terms

- **1.2 Artist: Starting the Southern Artists for Social Change Letter of Intent (LOI) Application**

Once you have set up your account, you can click on the “Grantee Home” link to return to the dashboard. Under “My Applications,” select the “Funding Opportunities” button.

1

Funding Opportunities

QUICK TIP: Always “Save Draft” before beginning your application. At any point, you can save your work and return to it later by finding it in the dashboard under the “Draft Applications” button.

1

Draft Applications

PART 2: APPLICATION / LETTER OF INTENT

** indicates a required field. This application will not be accepted without a response.*

TAB ONE: APPLICANT INFORMATION

***Applicant Information**

- Enter the name of the primary contact for this application.
- Enter the title of the primary contact for this application.
- Enter the email address of the primary contact for this application.

TAB TWO: ARTIST / COLLECTIVE INFORMATION

***Artist/Collective Information**

- Primary Contact
- Title
- Artist Website (optional)

- Phone
- Email
- Artist/Collective Mailing Address

Collaborating Artists

In the case of collaborations with more than one lead artist, click the button below to add a collaborator’s contact information.



Using the “Other Personnel” pop-up, enter the following information for each collaborator. To enter additional collaborators, click the “+” button.

- Collaborative Name
- Primary Contact
- Title/Role
- Phone
- Email
- Mailing Address

Other Personnel

i Please name other personnel or collaborators worth noting.

Organization Name	Primary Contact	Title/Role	Phone	Email	Mailing Address
+					

Save
Close

Artist/Collective Name

If awarded, this is how the Artist/Collective’s Name will be listed/credited publicly.

DEMOGRAPHICS

NPN is required to collect certain demographic data about artist recipients of grant funds to understand how our support aligns with the diversity of the arts sector. NPN has adapted some of our demographic categories to align with its funders. As a movement builder, it is important that there is consistent data collection field-wide. These categories and definitions were taken from the Foundation Center’s Philanthropy Classification System. However, we have adapted and supplemented their system in ways that make sense to our constituents and our needs. While we recognize that some of this data may seem personal, we ask that you respond to the best of your ability per the request of our funders. We also acknowledge that the terminology we use is imperfect and constantly evolving. We actively strive to update our demographic terminology as new information becomes available.

LEAD ARTIST DEMOGRAPHICS

*Race and Ethnicity

Do you identify as BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and/or a Person of Color)?

- Yes
- No

***Please indicate if you identify as any of the following:**

- African descent
- Asian descent
- European descent
- First Nations/Indigenous peoples
- Latin American descent
- Middle Eastern descent
- Multiracial peoples

If you'd like to share more details about a specific race, ethnic, national groups, and tribal/band affiliations with which you identify (e.g., African American, Lakota/Dakota, Iranian and Azeri/Persian, Quechua, Mexican, Singaporean, Honduran, Garifuna, etc.), please do:

Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation

***Gender identity:**

- Woman
- Man
- Gender nonconforming, nonbinary, or two-spirit
- Prefer not to say
- Prefer to self-describe

***Do you identify as transgender, nonbinary, or gender-nonconforming?**

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say
- Prefer to self-describe

If you would like to self-describe your gender identity, please do:

***Sexual Orientation**

- Do you identify as LGBTQ+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Queer, plus)?
- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

***Age Demographics**

- Under 30
- 30-39
- 40-49
- 50-59
- 60+

***Disability and Access**

Do you consider yourself a member of the disability and/or deaf community?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

If you'd like to share more details, please do:

Geographic Demographics

***Geographic Demographics - You live in an area that is:**

- Urban

- Suburban
- Rural
- Tribal
- Geographically Isolated
[multiple checkboxes can be checked]

Artist/Collective Member/Collaborator Demographics

Artist Collectives and Collaborating Artists

In the case of collectives or collaborations with more than one lead artist, please input the number of each artist/company member/collaborator (including the lead artist) that identifies as the following.

How many artists are in your collective and/or collaboration?

Race and Ethnicity

- BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and/or a Person of Color)
- Middle Eastern descent
- Asian descent
- African descent
- European descent
- Latin American descent
- Indigenous
- Multiracial

If you'd like to share more details about a specific race, ethnic, national groups, and tribal/band affiliations (e.g., African American, Lakota/Dakota, Iranian and Azeri/Persian, Quechua, Mexican, Singaporean, Honduran, Garifuna, etc.), please do:

Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation

- Female
- Male
- Trans
- Gender non-conforming/non-binary
- Prefer not to say
- Prefer to self-describe

If they prefer to self-describe their gender identity, please do so here:

Sexual Orientation

- LGBTQ+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Queer, plus)
- Heterosexual
- Prefer not to say

Age Demographics

- Under 30
- 30-39
- 40-49
- 50-59
- 60+

Disability and Access

How many artists/company members/collaborators consider themselves members of the disability and/or deaf community?

If you'd like to share more details, please do:

Geographic Demographics

How many artists/company members/collaborators live in an area that is

- Urban
- Suburban
- Rural
- Tribal
- Geographically Isolated

TAB THREE: ARTISTIC INFORMATION

***Artist/Culture Bearer Biography**

Tell us very briefly about your story as an artist/cultural bearer. You can provide details about you and your work, such as where you were born or grew up, your training, career development, accomplishments, or other information that may not be included elsewhere in the application. Keep it simple and concise, no more than a couple of sentences. We will include this bio in our promotional materials if your application is awarded.
150-word limit

***What is your Career Stage?**

Emerging (10 years or less)

Mid-career (10-25 years)

Established (25 years or more)

***Project Disciplines**

Please select as many as apply to the project.

*** Project Disciplines**

Please select as many as apply to the project

- | | | | | |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clay/Ceramics | <input type="checkbox"/> Culture Bearer | <input type="checkbox"/> Dance | <input type="checkbox"/> Drawing | <input type="checkbox"/> Installation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Literary Arts | <input type="checkbox"/> Media Arts | <input type="checkbox"/> Mural | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Oral Storytelling |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Painting | <input type="checkbox"/> Performance Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Photography | <input type="checkbox"/> Printmaking | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Art |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Puppetry | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | <input type="checkbox"/> Spoken Word | <input type="checkbox"/> Textile/Fiber | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Visual Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Other | <input type="checkbox"/> Design | | |

***Discipline Statement**

Describe your artistic/cultural practice. It can be as simple as “I am a new music composer” or give a more detailed explanation of your practice.

100-word limit

***Civic Practice Statement**

How does your practice engage the community? Feel free to describe methods and strategies you use to organize social change through your work, how you came to do your work in this way, or why community-based artmaking is important to you?

200-word limit

The Surdna Foundation uses the Center for Performance and Civic Practice’s definition of “[civic practice](#)” as *work that brings artists into collaboration and co-design with community partners and residents around a community-defined vision*. Our peers at Alternate ROOTS define “[community-based art for social change](#)” as *creative expression that emerges from communities of people working together to improve their individual and collective circumstances*.

TAB FOUR: PROJECT INFORMATION

PROJECT SUMMARY

Please note that decisions will not be based on language, grammar, or writing. There are two options for responding to the project narrative: Option 1: You can submit written responses to the questions below within the online application. Option 2: You can record your responses via YouTube, Soundcloud, Vimeo, etc., and then paste links into the online application.

***Provide a brief general description of the project.**

200-word limit

Note: You can visit the NPN website to read examples of [2022 grantees' project descriptions](#).

***What specific community challenge does your project address? Tell us about the specific challenge your project aims to spotlight and change, its relation to the community affected, and the importance of disrupting this challenge.**

200-word limit

***Imagine your community has overcome this challenge. What would the community look or feel like? What elements would be in place to make your community a more racially just place in the future?**

200-word limit

***How does your project work toward this new future? Feel free to describe strategies, models, and tools that you will use to build this future.**

200-word limit

***Is the project new or ongoing? If ongoing, when did the project start, and where are you in the process now?**

50-word limit

***Does the project focus on a process, creating a product or outcome, or both?**

100-word limit

***Upload a recent photo representing the artist/culture bearer or collective. Please use the blue button.**
The application will not be judged on this photo. If the project is awarded, we will use this photo to promote the award.



***Photo credit for the attached photo.**

Please include the names of people in the photo, the work's title (or activity), and photo credit to the photographer. Example: Onye Ozuzu performing "Project Tool" at Sweet Water Foundation in Chicago (2019). Photo: Erielle Bakkum Photography.

50-word limit

***Image description for attached photo**

Please include an image description of the photo, which will be included with the photo credit for people with a vision impairment or low vision. Briefly describe what can be seen in the image, starting with the most prominent or important thing. If there's no easy place to begin, start left to right. Include text in "quotation marks," but don't repeat any info shared in the caption. Describe prominent physical features of people, including physical disabilities. Do not assume the gender of people in the photo; only use gendered pronouns if you know them. Skin tone should be described so as not to censor visual information—we recommend using

emoji terms: light-skinned, medium light skinned, medium skinned, medium-dark skinned, dark-skinned. When ethnicity is known, this information can be included (e.g., Asian American, Black, Latino/a/x).
50-word limit

Example: A medium-skinned man mid-movement dancing. His feet graze the ground, arched in movement, arms over his head touching the ground, almost in a backbend. He is wearing simple pants and a crown and bracelets on both wrists made of green leaves.

TAB FIVE: COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP INFORMATION

Borrowing from [our colleagues at Alternate ROOTS](#), we define communities as groups of people who share a geography, historical or ethnic traditions, and/or a belief or spirit. NPN's Southern Artists for Social Change program will support projects that take a community-centered approach that includes authentic partnerships between artists and community members, and those closest to a community's challenges have the power to make change. We ask applicants to define the specific community they are engaging, their relationship to that community, and other community members' roles in the project.

Eligible projects are those that include community partners (individuals, agencies, organizations) as collaborators who share in decision-making, shaping the project and project outcomes.

***What is the specific community this project centers? How would you define or describe that community?**

Tell us more about your community. Be as specific as you can with your description.
200-word limit

***What is your relationship with the community?**

Share more about your relationship with, understanding of, and commitment to the community where the project is centered. Why this community of people or place?
200-word limit

***What community partners are involved with the project, and what are their roles in the project?**

(Community Partners can be individuals, organizations, agencies, etc.)
200-word limit

***How do these community partnerships advance racial justice?**

Describe the racial justice work of your community partners. How is your project aligned with the work these partners already doing in the community? Are these BIPOC-led or centered organizations?
200-word limit

***How are the vision and decision-making of the project shared among the partners?**

Describe how decisions are made among community members and partners. Is there a history of collaboration between you and community partners, or are these new collaborators? How will you steward a process to ensure that community members and partners have an equitable voice in the concept, implementation of the project, and its outcomes for the future?
200-word limit

TAB SIX: UPLOADS

COLLATERAL AND SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

***Artist Résumé/CV**

This document should provide an overview of your arts and professional experience, accomplishments, education and/or training, years of activity, and other information about your artistic career with at least five years of demonstrated work in Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana. It's much like a job résumé, except its focus is your art. The résumé must be submitted as a .pdf file (no more than eight pages)



***Work Samples Examples of Artistic/Cultural Practice**

Submit three or more work samples in any combination of images, video, audio, and written works. This is an opportunity to introduce the reviewers to your body of work. Include examples of your strongest work that best represents your artistic practice through the lens of civic practice and socially engaged work. Please make sure your work samples are well-documented, cohesive, and follow the work sample guidelines below. Upload your work samples numbered in the order you'd like the panel to review them.



***Work Sample Description List**

A work sample description list should include a one-two sentence description of each work, its titles, and the year of completion (PDF format). If submitting links to audio or video files, please include these on your Work Sample Description List.



***Tips and Helpful Hints:**

Work Sample Guides

Make sure your work samples are well-documented, cohesive, and follow the work sample guidelines.

Videos

- Maximum of five (5) to ten (10) video files or links
- Panelists will only review a maximum of five minutes total. Trim samples to the selection you want panelists to review or include cue times to excerpt longer samples. Avoid long intros, fade-ins/outs, etc.
- YouTube, Vimeo, etc.
- File type(s): .avi, .m4v, .mov, .mpg

Written work

- Maximum of 10 pages
- Multiple poems, stories, essays excerpts, etc., may be combined into one file.
- File type: .pdf

Images

- Maximum of 10 images
- Recommended 72 PPI/dpi (standard web resolution)
- Submit one image per file; do not collage several angles or multiple images within one image.
- File type(s): .gif, .jpeg, .tiff

Audio

- Maximum of five audio samples
- Maximum of 10 minutes total
- Trim samples to the selection you want panelists to review or include cue times to excerpt longer samples. Avoid long intros, fade-ins/outs, etc.

- Submit one artwork (song, performance, etc.) per file; do not collage multiple pieces within one file.
- Don't submit music scores.
- File type(s): MP3, MP4, M4A, FLAC, WAV, WMA, and AAC

***Proof of Residency - JPG, GIF, or TIFF**

Applicants must be primary residents of Alabama, Louisiana, or Mississippi and hold a current license or state ID. Please upload a photo of your state-issued identification. Please do not upload social security cards, passports, or birth certificates.



TAB SEVEN: COMMUNITY PARTNER

***Community Partnership Confirmation Statement**

A Partner Confirmation is required from at least two community partners involved in the project. **Partner Confirmation forms must be filled out by a community partner, NOT by the lead applicant.**

Community partners will be asked to provide demographic information and a brief response to the following questions:

1. What is your role in the project?
2. How will you share in the decision-making, resources, and/or responsibilities for the project?
3. What about this project excites you?

To complete this step, forward the following link to your partners/collaborators for their completion. We recommend you forward this link well in advance to ensure this step is complete by the deadline.

Partner Confirmation Form: <https://forms.gle/8mbJYBttV1XeYGY19>

Note: Applicants are only responsible for ensuring all community partners submit forms by the deadline. If your community partners have limited access to the internet or need help completing the form, please have them contact the NPN staff for assistance.

TAB EIGHT: OTHER INFORMATION

Is there anything else you would like us to know?

100-word limit

How did you find out about this grant opportunity?

25-word limit

Can you identify community contacts in Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi whom NPN can partner with for community engagement for future rounds?

100-word limit



SUBMISSION

Once you have responded to all questions and attached all uploads, you can submit your application. You will receive an email confirmation.

Greetings @owner.fullname@,

Thank you for completing the NPN Southern Artists for Social Change application. Attached is a copy of your application for your records. A panel of staff will review your application. All applicants will receive notification once the review process is complete. Please be patient as we review all applications.

Best regards,
NPN Staff