

NPN/VAN Creation & Development Fund Guidelines
Phase 1: Creation Process
Spring FY18 Deadline: May 18, 2018
 For Projects Premiering between Jan 1, 2019 and Dec 31, 2022



Phase I support of the Creation & Development Fund is funded by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and The National Endowment for the Arts.

◆ **Overview** ◆

The Creation & Development Fund supports the creation, development and mobility of new artistic work resulting 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/VAN direct subsidies, each project is eligible for multilevel support.

Phase I: Creation

Each project begins with an artist; at least two arts organizations (co-commissioners) in different communities across the globe -- one of which is an NPN/VAN Partner; and a vision of new work. In Phase I, each project receives a minimum of \$12,000 to support the very 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

In Phase II, projects are invited to apply for additional development support up to \$10,000 to offset managerial, artistic, and technical costs to deepen the development of the work, build community engagement, or prepare the work for live exchange (travel, touring, presentation, etc.). There are two deadlines per year in which artists can apply for development support. The next Phase II deadline will be August 2018. See Guidelines for more details.

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/VAN offers access to, but does not guarantee*, Artist Engagement Funds to NPN/VAN Partners for artist fees for Phase III. See Artist Engagement Fund guidelines for more details.

◆ **Program Goals** ◆

Program Goals:	Strategies:
1) Holistic support for diverse artistic creation processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to resources for the various stages of the creation and development • Allowing time (three years) for work to develop • Unrestricted funding paid directly to artists
2) Increased visibility and community exchange with new artistic work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-commissioners support a live public exchange with communities and commissioned artists • Funds leverage new opportunities and funding

3) New access to commissioning support and equitable distribution of funds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritization of funding to artists and commissioners who represent historically underinvested in communities (see prioritization criteria) • Prioritization of first-time artists and commissioning organizations
4) Cultivation of new, authentic relationships between artists, communities, and commissioners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-commissioners support artistic work through commissioning matches and community exchange • Prioritization for collaborations between co-commissioners in communities that have not previously worked together

◆ Co-Commissioning Requirements ◆

a) Commissioning Fees

Creation & Development Fund projects begin with an artist or company, at least two commissioning organizations (one of which is an NPN/VAN 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 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
NPN/VAN	\$8,000

b) Commitment to Live Public Engagement

Co-commissioners have a three-year period within 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, gallery exhibition, and community residency as long as it centers live experiential artistic exchange between the community, the artist and the new work. *NPN/VAN offers access to, but does not guarantee, Artist Engagement Funds to NPN/VAN Partners to support artist fees for these exchanges.*

◆ Application Process ◆

Eligibility

- Artistic projects in the early stages of creation & development, to be presented no sooner than January 1, 2019 and no later than December 31, 2022.
- 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 and Mexico.
- At least two co-commissioners (one of whom is an NPN/VAN Partner) in different communities confirmed at the time of application. 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 received a Creation & Development Fund in the last two years (FY16 and FY17: July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2017) are ineligible.

Additional Requirements

- Commissioning fees must be paid out by all co-commissioners by June 30, 2019.
- Artists and co-commissioners must be willing to credit NPN/VAN and co-commissioners for the life of the work in all marketing and promotional material.
- In alignment with NPN/VAN's commitment to creating an arts sector rooted in justice, we are committed to ensuring a space that is free of racism, transphobia, homophobia, ableism, misogyny, classism, or other bias. Our expectation is that all artists and co-commissioners receiving NPN/VAN support will honor this ethic.

Application Timeline – Phase I

May 18, 2018 – Submission Deadline

June 15, 2018 – Award notifications

July 1, 2018 – Earliest date for distribution of Phase I funds

January 1, 2019 – Earliest date for works to be presented/premiered

June 1, 2019 – Latest date for distribution of Phase I funds, including co-commissioner matches

December 31, 2022 – Latest date for works to be presented/premiered

Selection Process

NPN/VAN will convene a peer panel of NPN/VAN Partners and artists to select awards. NPN/VAN will fund nine projects in this application round, prioritizing projects that meet 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
- Artists and commissioning organizations that have not previously received Creation & Development Fund support.
- Collaborations between co-commissioners in communities that have not previously worked together.

Fiscal Sponsorship

Creation & Development Artists in need of fiscal sponsorship should explore the NPN/VAN fiscal sponsorship services. Through fiscal sponsorship, NPN/VAN provides nonprofit status and financial and administrative services to independent artists and artist collectives. By managing sponsorships, NPN/VAN offers accessibility so that artists gain experience with, and support through formal granting systems and private giving that provide financial stability to artists while they practice their art. To request more information about fiscal sponsorship; please contact Steffani Clemons, Local Program Specialist, at sclemons@npnweb.org.

◆ Technical Support ◆

NPN/VAN available and at your service to field any questions or eligibility concerns. Please feel free to contact staff:

- Stanlyn Brevé, Director of National Programs
Stanlyn@npnweb.org, 504.595.8008 x204
- Alec De León, Program Specialist
alec@npnweb.org, 504.595.8008 x209

National Performance Network/Visual Artists Network
P.O. Box 55698
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