

Leadership Exchange in Arts and Disability 2014 Conference and Training Scholarships

Scholarships are now available through the Illinois Arts Council Agency (IACA) to attend the Leadership Exchange in Arts and Disability 2014 Conference (LEAD). The conference will be held August 1 - 6, 2014, in Chicago, Illinois. Applications will be accepted from eligible Illinois not-for-profit organizations, units of government and institutions of higher education with staff that are directly responsible for making cultural arts programs and facilities accessible for people with disabilities.

The LEAD conference features dozens of educational seminars on topics such as physical and programmatic access; universal and socially sustainable design; employment; legal issues, such as the impact of federal and state legislation, rules, and regulations on cultural arts organizations; marketing strategies; and planning, leadership, and advocacy. Participants exchange ideas, learn about best practices, and participate in discussions with leaders in the field. Other highlights of the annual conference include accessible performances, technology demonstrations, and resource rooms.

Conference registration and more information is available online at <http://www.kennedy-center.org/accessibility/education/lead/conference.html>

Eligibility

Each applicant must comply with IACA eligibility requirements.

Organizations must:

- Be registered as a not-for-profit corporation in good standing with the Office of the Illinois Secretary of State. Units of government and institutions of higher education are also eligible to apply.
- Hold tax-exempt status from federal income tax under Section 501c3 of the Internal Revenue Code and must qualify as a charitable organization under Section 170(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 as amended. Units of government, institutions of higher education, or Federally-recognized Indian tribal governments are also eligible to apply.
- Have a Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN), assigned by the Internal Revenue Service.
- Be registered with Duns and Bradstreet and have a DUNS (data universal numbering system) number.

Support Level

Applicants may request support for registration costs and travel. Only applicants located 60 miles or more from the conference site may include the cost of accommodations in their request for support.

Request amounts may not exceed \$1,500.

While the IACA intends to consider applications for full funding, should requests exceed the funds allocated, the IACA may contact applicants with an option of partial support.

Deadline

Applications must be received by **Tuesday, May 20, 2014, 5:00 PM.**

How to Apply

Applicant organizations submit the following:

1. [Special Project Grant Cover Sheet](http://www.arts.illinois.gov/files/content/Special%20Project%20organizations.pdf)
<http://www.arts.illinois.gov/files/content/Special%20Project%20organizations.pdf>
2. Narrative (two page maximum) indicating:
 - Request amount.
 - The alignment of your organization with the mission and values of the 2014 LEAD Conference.
 - Identify the proposed attendee and job title.
 - Provide a brief description of the proposed attendee(s)' work duties and work experience.
 - Explain the criteria used to select this individual.
 - Summarize the anticipated benefits of participation in the conference.
3. One page budget detailing:
 - All anticipated expenses.
 - All sources of income, including this request and any additional funds needed to cover expenses beyond the requested amount.
4. Proof of Illinois not-for-profit eligibility.

Review Criteria

Applications that are complete and received by the deadline date will be reviewed against the following criteria:

- Alignment with the mission and values of the 2014 LEAD Conference.
- Appropriateness of attendance as it relates to recent and current professional experiences.
- Potential impact of participation on attendees and their continued work to improve accessibility in programs and facilities for all of their patrons and visitors.

Priority will be given to organizations and individuals whose participation will contribute to the IACA's goal of geographic equity and diversity.

Submitting the Application

Applications must be emailed to Encarnacion Teruel - encarnacion.teruel@illinois.gov, If you have any questions regarding the application, contact Encarnacion by phone: (312) 814-6753 or email: encarnacion.teruel@illinois.gov.

Notification

Notification of a funding decision will be sent in early June 2014. If funded, this notification will include forms which must be completed and received by June 23, 2013 to authorize payment. Once these documents and other requested materials are returned to the IACA, it will be approximately 10 weeks before a check will be issued by the State Comptroller.