



Native Arts Initiative – Supporting Native Arts Grants

Application Deadline: **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2017, 5 p.m. Mountain Time**

General Information

About First Nations Development Institute & the Native Arts Initiative (NAI)

For 37 years, First Nations Development Institute (First Nations), a Native-led 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, has worked to strengthen American Indian economies to support healthy Native communities by investing in and creating innovative institutions and models that strengthen asset control and support economic development for American Indian people and their communities. First Nations began its national grantmaking program in 1993. Through mid-year 2017, we have successfully managed 1,345 grants totaling more than \$28.9 million to tribal and community institutions across Indian Country. For more information, visit www.firstnations.org.

First Nations established the [Native Arts Initiative \(NAI\)](#) (formerly called the Native Arts Capacity Building Initiative) in 2014 with the goal of stimulating long-term perpetuation, proliferation, and revitalization of artistic and cultural assets in Native communities. The NAI is working to achieve this by strengthening the enabling environments in which Native-controlled nonprofit organizations and tribal programs operate to support emerging and established Native artists and sustain traditional Native arts in their communities.

Under the NAI, First Nations provides selected grantees with organizational and programmatic resources, including direct grants and technical assistance and training. Since 2014, First Nations has awarded more than \$1 million in grant funds to a variety of eligible Native-controlled nonprofit organizations and tribal government programs under the NAI.

Grant Overview

First Nations is pleased to announce this 2017 NAI request for proposals (RFP). Native-controlled nonprofits and tribal government programs located in one of the following regions are eligible to apply for an NAI Supporting Native Arts Grant as part of this current funding cycle:

- 1) Upper Midwest (North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota and Wisconsin);
- 2) Southwest (New Mexico, Arizona and Southern California). For a list of eligible tribal communities in Southern California, please [click here](#).
- 3) Pacific Northwest (Oregon and Washington).

During this funding cycle, First Nations will distribute approximately **15 Supporting Native Arts Grants of up to \$32,000 each**.

Selected Native-controlled nonprofit organizations and tribal government programs must have existing program initiatives in place supporting Native artists and the field of traditional Native arts as well as a demonstrated commitment to increasing the intergenerational transfer of knowledge of traditional Native artistic practices and perpetuation and proliferation of traditional Native arts.

To learn more about First Nations' Native Arts Initiative, please visit the First Nations' website [here](#).

Grant Period

The grant period for this funding opportunity will commence December 1, 2017, and end November 30, 2018.





Grant Award Ceiling

Total requests for project budgets within this funding opportunity should not exceed \$32,000.

Grant Submission Deadline

Applications are due **Thursday, October 19, 2017, no later than 5:00 p.m. Mountain Time**. Unfortunately, First Nations cannot make any exceptions to the application deadline. Partial applications, incomplete applications due to user error, or faxed/emailed/mailed applications will not be considered unless they have received prior approval.

Application Review and Selection Timeline

First Nations will make final selections and notify all applicants regarding the status of their proposal on or before **November 30, 2017**. Notifications will be emailed to the project contact listed in the application. If you do not receive an email notification by this date, please contact grantmaking@firstnations.org.

Eligibility

Type of Eligible Entities

Tribal government programs, Tribal § 7871 entities, Native-controlled nonprofit organizations, and Native-controlled community organizations located in one of the regions listed in the Geographic Eligibility section are eligible to apply. Applicants located in an urban area are eligible to apply if they are located in one of the geographic regions listed below **and** are able to demonstrate a close tie to one or more tribal communities located in one of the eligible geographic regions. Native community organizations located in one of the eligible geographic regions may submit applications through an eligible sponsoring organization or tribe if the sponsor can provide written authorization confirming its willingness to act as the fiscal sponsor. First Nations defines "Native-controlled" as an organization in which a majority of the Board of Directors and leadership team are Native American, Alaska Native or Native Hawaiian.

Examples of eligible applicants include, but are not limited to:

- Federal- and State-Recognized Tribal Governments (e.g. Tribal Arts Programs, Tribal Cultural and Heritage Departments, Tribal Museums, Tribal Economic Development Departments, etc.);
- Native-controlled 501(c)(3) nonprofits;
- Native-controlled community organizations with fiscal sponsorship; and/or
- Tribal § 7871 entities.

Please note: Grants will not be made to individual Native American artists or for-profit organizations.

Geographic Eligibility

Eligible applicants are those Native-controlled organizations or tribal government programs that are located in and serve tribal communities in one of the following regions:

- 1) Upper Midwest (North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota and Wisconsin);
- 2) Southwest (New Mexico, Arizona and Southern California). For a list of eligible tribal communities in Southern California, please click [here](#); or
- 3) Pacific Northwest (Oregon and Washington).

Program Eligibility

Eligible applicants must currently have existing program initiatives in place that support Native artists, increase access to and awareness of traditional Native art and artists, and increase the intergenerational



transfer of knowledge of traditional Native artistic practices. Priority will be given to applicants whose work supports the creation of traditional Native art forms such as beading, quilting, sculpture, woodworking, regalia-making, pottery, weaving, painting, basketry, quill work, jewelry-making, and silversmithing. Tribal programs or organizations who *solely* serve Native artists and the field of Native arts in the following art mediums are not eligible for funding under the NAI and this RFP at this time: theater, writing, poetry, singing, dancing, digital photography and videography.

If you have questions about eligibility for this funding opportunity, please consider registering for and participating in one of the upcoming Application Q&A Webinars that will be offered by First Nations (see the Help section for more information). In addition, our [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#) document provides further insight regarding general applicant eligibility.

Application & Required Attachments

All applicants must complete the First Nations online grant application, including submission of necessary attachments, no later than **Thursday, October 19, 2017, at 5:00 p.m. Mountain Time.**

First Nations recognizes that some of our most rural and remote applicants may have limited access to high-speed internet. Any exceptions to use of the online system must be made at least two weeks in advance of the application deadline by submitting an email request to grantmaking@firstnations.org. Please include your name, organization, contact information and the name of the RFP for which you are applying. If you do not have access to email you can call our office at (303) 774-7836 and ask to speak with a member of the Grantmaking Department.

Download instructions for First Nations' Online Application System [here](#). Access First Nations' Online Application system [here](#).

The following attachments must be uploaded during the online submission process:

- **Tax-Status Documentation.** A copy of the organization or fiscal sponsor's IRS Determination Letter if the applicant is a 501(c)(3) organization or a community organization using a fiscal sponsor. Tribal programs and governments may submit proof that they are a federal- or state-recognized tribe. This document should be uploaded as a PDF file.
- **Timeline.** ([Download Required Timeline Form](#)) A detailed project timeline that documents important project activities for each identified objective. Include staff who will be responsible for the implementation of the project activities and when they will be completed. The form provided is in Excel format and it must be uploaded as an Excel file or PDF file.
- **Description of Board of Directors.** Native-controlled nonprofits should submit a list of their Board of Directors, with tribal affiliation of each director where applicable. Community organizations with fiscal sponsors should submit a list of their leadership team, with tribal affiliation of each team member where applicable. Tribal programs and governments should submit a list of their Tribal Council in lieu of a Board of Directors. This document should be uploaded as a PDF file.
- **Description of Key Leadership Staff.** Native-controlled nonprofits and community organizations with fiscal sponsors should submit a list of key staff who will be responsible for overseeing and implementing the proposed project. Tribal programs and governments should submit a list of key staff responsible for overseeing and implementing the proposed project. This document should be uploaded as a PDF file.
- **Budget.** ([Download Required Budget Form](#)) An estimated budget for the proposed project with a detailed cost breakdown that is reasonable and directly related to proposed grant activities and



includes one or several line items addressing costs of at least \$2,000 to support required project evaluation activities. This form must be uploaded as an Excel file.

Selection Criteria & Allowable Activities

First Nations seeks projects that meet the spirit of this initiative and demonstrate:

- A clear focus that aligns with the project design and the organization or program’s stated mission;
- Proper alignment with stated funding priorities and eligibility guidelines;
- A clear plan of action with specific, measurable and realistic goals and objectives;
- A logical and sequential development of the project implementation timeline;
- Direct engagement of target audiences within the planning, implementation and evaluation process.
- An accurate, reasonable and consistent project budget;
- Commitment to periodic assessment, documentation and dissemination of progress and final results; and
- Sufficient organizational capacity to successfully implement and evaluate the proposed project.

Allowable activities under this funding opportunity include those which strengthen Native arts programming and/or organizational infrastructure.

Examples of Activities Supporting Arts Programming

- Master/apprentice artist opportunities
- Archiving and collections/ preservation efforts
- Promoting artist-focused convenings
- Artist business plan and entrepreneurship training
- Communal artist spaces for Native artists
- Artist-in-residence opportunities
- Artist-led workshops and arts classes
- Artist financial literacy and business development training
- Strengthening Native-led juried art show and market capacity and artists’ capacity to enter art work
- Artists cooperative development

Examples of Activities Supporting Organizational Infrastructure Growth

- Governance training for organization’s Board of Directors
- Organizational strategic planning
- Strengthening technological and informational systems
- Financial management
- Organizational and/or programmatic marketing and communications plan
- Strengthening project management systems

Grant Requirements

Post-Award Grantee Orientation Webinar

Selected grantees must participate in a mandatory Grantee Orientation Webinar, which will be held in December 2017. First Nations will email selected grantees with registration information for this webinar at the beginning of the grant period. During this webinar, First Nations will provide grantees with an overview of the Native Arts Initiative, grant requirements and deadlines.





Capacity Assessment & Individual Technical Assistance

Selected grantees must participate in a basic organizational or programmatic capacity assessment at the beginning of the grant period. First Nations will email grantees a link to access the Capacity Assessment survey. The Capacity Assessment survey will take grantees about 20 to 30 minutes to complete and will help inform the content of individualized training and technical assistance (TTA) plans and site visits by First Nations to be carried out during the grant period. Survey responses will also help First Nations measure the impact of NAI grants on grantee projects. First Nations and individual grantees will work together to craft TTA plans and design training curricula for TTA site visits to ensure that TTA provided is tailored to the priorities of each grantee.

Reporting & Evaluation

Reporting: Grantees will be required to submit one progress report midway through the grant period and one final report one month after the end of the grant period. Each report will consist of three parts: a narrative section, a budget section, and an evaluation section with data-tracking tool attachments. To complete these reports, grantees will be expected to report on the progress of their approved project objectives and budget as well as gather data that will provide information on changes in Native artists' knowledge, skills, and networks served by grantee organizations and programs as well as improvements in the capacity of grantee organizations and programs where applicable. First Nations will provide grantees with specific instructions for submitting these reports to First Nations at the beginning of the grant period and before each report is due. The reports will enable First Nations to:

1. Further understand programs and projects serving the field of Native arts and artists;
2. Communicate grantee stories and promising models, including accomplishments, challenges, impact, and programming practices; and
3. Measure the impact of funding support on grantee programs.

Evaluation: During the funding period, First Nations will work with selected grantees to support and strengthen their evaluation capacity. Selected grantees will be required to participate in two 1.5-hour Evaluation Training Webinars, which will be held in December 2017 and January 2018. Grantees will receive registration details for the Evaluation Training Webinars at the beginning of the grant period. During the webinar trainings, First Nations will provide grantees with information on developing basic evaluation plan components (e.g. a basic logic model) and strategies for ensuring that program work and evaluation plans are integrated. First Nations will also provide grantees with strategies for gathering data that will be requested in First Nations' progress and final narrative reports as well as using a tracking tool (Excel format) to gather programmatic data about artists, events and grantee organizations.

Required Budget Allocation for Evaluation Activities

Each applicant must set aside a **minimum of \$2,000** of their proposed requested funding for project evaluation activities. These funds must be used to carry out project evaluation including but not limited to survey distribution and collection, data tracking and management, and reporting as well as participating in two evaluation training webinars. ***This amount, totaling at least \$2,000, must be included in all applicant budgets and within the specified grant ceiling of \$32,000.***



Help

Application Q&A Webinars

First Nations will host three optional, informational Question & Answer (Q&A) webinars for interested applicants prior to the application deadline. These Q&A webinars will provide interested applicants with information about the goals of the Native Arts Initiative, eligibility criteria, allowable grant activities, and NAI grant requirements. During the webinars, First Nations will also discuss specific questions in the grant application and sample responses. Attendees are encouraged to ask questions they may have about the NAI and this funding opportunity.

Participation in these webinars is NOT mandatory, but applicants are strongly encouraged to register for and attend one or all of the webinars. *First Nations' staff will award several gift cards to lucky, randomly selected webinar attendees through a virtual raffle drawing at the end of each webinar.*

APPLICATION Q&A SESSIONS WILL BE HELD ON:

- August 30, 2017, 1 p.m. Mountain Time (1 hour)
 - Registration URL: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2962341995258647809>
- September 14, 2017, 11 a.m. Mountain Time (1 hour)
 - Registration URL: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4020422925388433665>
- September 27, 2017, 11 a.m. Mountain Time (1 hour)
 - Registration URL: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4458969735196796929>

Additional Questions

Should you have any additional questions about the RFP or this specific funding opportunity, please contact Catherine Bryan by email at cbryan@firstnations.org.

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