

DATE: March 30, 2009

TO: Ohio Arts Council (OAC) Grantees

FROM: Julie S. Henahan, Executive Director
Mary Campbell-Zopf, Deputy Director

RE: The Arts and the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009*

This memo is to provide you with more information about the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act)* federal stimulus funding that will be available through the OAC.

The *Recovery Act* recognizes that the nonprofit arts industry is an important sector of the economy and enables state arts agencies and regional arts organizations, as well as previous organizational grantees of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to apply for *Recovery Act* funds through the NEA. The OAC submitted its request for funds to the NEA on March 13, 2009 and we received a very positive review on March 25, 2009. We expect an announcement of our award amount sometime this week. These funds are a one-time opportunity to preserve arts jobs across the state.

The NEA asks that *Recovery Act* projects funded through state arts agencies "make the arts and arts education widely available." While the overall *Recovery Act* speaks to both job creation and job preservation, the part of the Act specific to the NEA awards states that funds are to be distributed in direct grants "which preserve jobs in the non-profit arts sector threatened by declines in philanthropic and other support during the current economic downturn."

At the federal level the Office of Budget and Management directed the NEA to work to mitigate risk by obligating funds to existing award recipients with the demonstrated ability to deliver the results and meet the accountability objectives of the *Recovery Act*. The NEA *Recovery Act* grant guidelines asked state arts agencies to target an applicant pool that could meet the stated criteria and accountability objectives. We decided that our eligible applicants would be arts organizations that: 1) are currently in the OAC Sustainability applicant pool or will have been recommended for Sustainability funding by May 31, 2009; and 2) must have received at least two grants from the Sustainability and/or Arts Access programs during the last four years (FY2010, FY2009, FY2008 and FY2007).

Sustainability grantees provide a diverse pool of recently adjudicated organizations – nearly 270 organizations with budgets that range from \$30,000 to \$40 million. These grantees have consistently demonstrated that they use public funds resourcefully and responsibly. They also have been asked to demonstrate excellent artistic, educational and cultural value; responsiveness to their community; credible planning and evaluation

strategies; and a high level of financial and managerial accountability. With representation across the state, serving a wide range of Ohio citizens, Sustainability grantees are well-equipped to quickly address this funding opportunity and the expedient distribution of funds through the *Ohio Arts Jobs Preservation Grant* program.

Ohio Arts Jobs Preservation Grant application guidelines and scoring criteria will be posted on the OAC Web site on April 17, 2009 with a grant application deadline of June 15, 2009. Grant awards will be offered in the amounts of \$10,000, \$15,000 and \$25,000. Additional information about the program rationale, and further details about the funding process, are available in the [Ohio Arts Jobs Preservation Grant program FAQ](#).

Please Note: In order to apply for these funds your organization must have a D-U-N-S Number. Dun & Bradstreet (D&B) provides this unique nine-digit sequence, which is recognized as the universal standard for identifying and keeping track of over 100 million businesses worldwide and is required for any organization receiving federal funds. The process is FREE for all businesses required to register with the U.S. federal government for grants. You will receive your number within one to five business days. Visit the following Web site to register: www.dnb.com/US/duns_update/ or call 866/785-0428.

Because this is an “on-year” for the Sustainability program with significant grant activities occurring during April – May, the OAC regional program coordinators will not be your primary point of contact for the *Ohio Arts Jobs Preservation Grant* program. Instead, three OAC program directors with considerable experience working with arts organizations will serve as the primary points of contact for this program. Depending on your OAC region (NW, SW, SE and NE), contact the designated program director listed below for information and guidance as you prepare your grant application.

SE Region

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