

## **Building Cultural Diversity Program—Frequently Asked Questions**

### **1. How can I tell if my organization is eligible for the Building Cultural Diversity (BCD) program?**

The BCD program guidelines detail the eligibility requirements for applicants. An organization must have:

1. At least 50 percent of their staff comprised of individuals from one or more culturally specific populations;
2. At least 50 percent of their board comprised of individuals from one or more culturally specific populations; and
3. A focus on the arts and culture of one or more culturally specific populations.

Please note that all of these requirements must be met; if your organization does not fulfill all three criteria, then it is not eligible.

### **2. What culturally specific populations are recognized?**

The Ohio Arts Council has identified six groups as culturally specific populations eligible to receive funding through this program: Black/African Americans, Appalachians, Asians, Hispanics/Latinos, American Indians/Alaskan Natives and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders. Other ethnic groups, including people descended from Eastern Europe (Hungary, Ukraine, Poland, etc.), Asia (India, China, Cambodia, etc.), or other areas may also be eligible. Although persons with disabilities and seniors aged 62 or older are also identified by the OAC as specific populations, these groups do not tend to be culturally unique and therefore are generally not eligible for BCD funding. If you have questions about eligibility, please call Patricia Henahan, BCD program coordinator, at 614/728-4441 for further clarification.

### **3. My organization is currently receiving Sustainability or Arts Access operating support. Are we eligible to apply for Building Cultural Diversity funding?**

No. Organizations that receive Sustainability or Arts Access support are ineligible for funding through the BCD program.

### **4. Does it matter which of the program deadlines my organization applies to?**

BCD applications are reviewed quarterly and funds are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. The first deadline of the fiscal year (June 1) will have the maximum amount of funds available for the year. Depending on the number of applications approved for funding, each subsequent deadline will have less funds. Once all funds have been allocated, applications will no longer be accepted. This may occur before the final deadline of the year. Applicants who submit requests earlier in the year may have a better chance of being funded.

### **5. What support materials are required as part of my organization's application?**

After applying online via the OnLine Grant Application system (OLGA), applicants must mail or hand deliver the signed signature page (with original signatures) and support materials to the OAC. Different programs require different support materials. [Appendix H](#) of the *Guidelines* details which pieces are required of every BCD applicant, which are

recommended (but optional) to make your application more competitive and which are recommended only for your specific application. The signed signature page and support materials packet are due by 5 p.m. seven calendar days following the deadline.

**6. What is the match required for the Building Cultural Diversity program?**

There is a 1:2 match required for BCD grants, meaning that applicants must provide one dollar in match for every two dollars awarded by the OAC through the BCD program. This is a lower requirement than other OAC organizational grants, which often require a 1:1 match. At least half of the match must be in cash; the remaining half may be from allowable, appropriate in-kind donations. Applicants should discuss the source of their in-kind donations with program coordinator Patricia Henahan prior to submitting their application to make sure the in-kind support is appropriate and listed correctly.

**7. If I want to carry out staff development and have a special project that needs support, can my organization apply for more than one BCD grant in a year?**

No. Organizations may receive only one Building Cultural Diversity grant per year.

**8. Who conducts the review of BCD applications? Are the meetings open to the public?**

BCD applications are first reviewed by a cross-section of OAC staff members, including members of the Grant Programs and Services office and Grants Administration and Operations office. Their recommendations are forwarded to the deputy director and executive director for approval, with final awards ratified by the OAC board. Meetings are not open to the public, but a summary of comments from the review is provided to each applicant after the meeting, as with other OAC programs.

**9. When can I begin work on my project?**

The starting date for projects must be at least six weeks after the application deadline.

**10. When will I find out whether or not my application has been funded?**

Award notification will take place approximately six weeks following the deadline via e-mail (sent through OLGA to your primary contact person).