

Arts and Cultural Heritage Grantee and Prospective Grantee Worksheet

Minn. Stat. 129D creates expectations and guidance for grantees of arts and cultural heritage funds. Below are questions to help guide funding decisions for the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund based on statutory and constitutional requirements.

1) How does your funding request relate to one of these areas:

Arts, arts education, or arts access

Minnesota's cultural Heritage

Minnesota's history

The funding request can be closely aligned with one or more of the specified areas—arts, arts education, arts access, Minnesota's cultural heritage, and Minnesota's history—by showcasing how the initiatives supported by SPNN (Saint Paul Neighborhood Network) fulfill these objectives, in accordance with Minn. Stat. 129D.

Arts, Arts Education, and Arts Access: SPNN's Spotlight Shorts program serves as a prime example of how funding supports arts and arts education. It provides emerging artists with the opportunity to develop their skills in cinematography, lighting, and editing, emphasizing storytelling in documentary filmmaking. This program, supported by the Minnesota State Arts Board and the National Endowment for the Arts, not only aids artists in their creative endeavors but also offers stipends, reinforcing arts access by removing financial barriers.

Minnesota's Cultural Heritage: The Fresh Vantage program highlights SPNN's commitment to preserving and promoting Minnesota's cultural heritage. This initiative supports filmmakers whose works cover a wide range of stories, from the exploration of Indigenous issues and shamanic traditions within the Hmong American community to narratives about immigrants establishing a cultural arts center. These documentaries serve as a vehicle for sharing and preserving the diverse cultural heritage of Minnesota's communities.

Minnesota's History: SPNN's Media Active program engages youth and young adults in creating media content for various organizations, including those with a focus on social justice. This program not only equips participants with valuable job skills and leadership experience but also plays a crucial role in documenting and sharing stories that reflect Minnesota's historical and contemporary social dynamics. The program's focus on BIPOC and LGBTQIA communities ensures that diverse perspectives and histories are represented and acknowledged.

These programs underscore SPNN's role in leveraging arts and cultural heritage funding to support a broad spectrum of initiatives that enrich Minnesota's artistic landscape, provide educational opportunities, enhance access to the arts, and preserve the state's rich cultural heritage and history. Through these efforts, SPNN demonstrates a strong alignment with the statutory and constitutional requirements outlined in Minn. Stat. 129D, effectively contributing to the broader goals of the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

- 2) Do you have a plan for measurable outcomes and evaluating the results of your project or program, please explain?

Yes, Saint Paul Neighborhood Network (SPNN) employs several methods to ensure measurable outcomes and evaluate the results of its projects and programs, aligning with the expectations set by Minn. Stat. 129D for grantees of arts and cultural heritage funds. These methods are evident in various SPNN initiatives:

Digital Literacy & CTEP Customized Assessments: SPNN, through its Community Technology Empowerment Project (CTEP), leverages the Northstar Digital Literacy assessments alongside customized assessments created by CTEP members. These assessments are designed to suit the goals and learning needs of participants at various service sites, ensuring a comprehensive approach to measuring digital literacy skills across different modules, including essential computer skills, internet navigation, and more.

Digital Readiness Survey: To understand and address the digital readiness among participants, SPNN designed and administered a digital readiness survey. The survey helped identify patterns and narratives related to digital readiness and literacy, allowing SPNN to tailor its computer literacy instruction to meet the current digital needs of Twin Cities residents effectively.

UROC Partnership for Educational Program Development: In collaboration with the University of Minnesota's Urban Research and Outreach-Engagement Center (UROC), SPNN works on developing technology education curricula and community education initiatives. This includes creating and implementing education programs for a diverse range of learners and evaluating the impact of these programs to recommend improvements.

These approaches illustrate SPNN's commitment to establishing clear, measurable outcomes for its projects and programs. By developing tailored assessments, conducting thorough surveys, and collaborating on education program development, SPNN not only adheres to statutory requirements but also ensures the effectiveness and relevance of its initiatives in serving the community's digital and educational needs.

- 3) Does this project or program rely on current scholarship, best practices, or new technologies and if so how?

SPNN actively incorporates current scholarship, best practices, and new technologies into its projects and programs to align with the expectations and guidance set by Minn. Stat. 129D for grantees of arts and cultural heritage funds.

One example is the partnership with the University of Minnesota's Office of Broadband and Digital Inclusion through the AmeriCorps Community Technology Empowerment Project (CTEP), which focuses on bridging the digital divide in Minneapolis and St. Paul. This initiative involves developing a technology education curriculum tailored to the needs of the North Minneapolis community, emphasizing the integration of best practices and new technologies in education. The program also includes building partnerships with community organizations to support local education initiatives, highlighting a commitment to leveraging current scholarship and best practices for community benefit.

Furthermore, SPNN conducted a Digital Readiness Survey to understand the digital divide in terms of access and readiness to use digital technologies. By analyzing over 400 respondents, SPNN identified gaps in digital readiness and literacy, and the findings were used to enhance computer literacy instruction across the Twin Cities. This approach indicates SPNN's reliance on data-driven strategies and current research to inform its programs and address community needs effectively.

Additionally, the New Angle Fellows program supports underrepresented and emerging documentary filmmakers by offering skills and knowledge enhancement based on current industry standards. The program includes training in pitching, grant-writing, and documentary production, utilizing best practices and fostering innovation among filmmakers. Fellows also receive stipends and access to SPNN equipment, further encouraging the use of new technologies in their creative projects.

These examples demonstrate SPNN's commitment to employing current scholarship, best practices, and new technologies to fulfill its mission and contribute to the arts, cultural heritage, and education within its community, in alignment with statutory requirements.

- 4) What other sources of funding have you used for this project or program in the past, or a similar project or program in the past? What other potential sources of funding do you have already for this project or program? What other funding can you get to complete the project or program?

Saint Paul Neighborhood Network (SPNN) has successfully utilized various sources of funding for its projects and programs, emphasizing a mix of foundation support and grants from arts and cultural organizations. For example, SPNN received a \$15,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to support its "Candy Fresh" program. This grant enabled SPNN to produce episodes of the program and initiate an apprenticeship model, offering mentorship and paid opportunities for new and established media makers.

Moreover, SPNN's Documentary Programs, including Doc U, Spotlight Shorts, and New Angle Fellows, have been made possible through grants from several notable foundations such as the McKnight Foundation, the Jerome Foundation, and again, the National Endowment for the Arts. These programs offer various training, mentorship, and support for emerging filmmakers, from beginners to those with a few years of experience. Specifically, the New Angle Fellows program, designed to support underrepresented documentary filmmakers, is backed by both the Jerome Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts, highlighting a strong reliance on funding from arts-focused organizations to facilitate these initiatives.

In addition to these sources, the Fresh Vantage Program, which offers post-production grants to emerging artists, is funded by a grant from the Raymond J. Christensen Foundation of the St. Paul & Minnesota Foundation, showcasing SPNN's ability to attract and utilize funding from a diverse range of philanthropic organizations to support its media and documentary programs.

This multifaceted approach to funding, incorporating both national and local grants, ensures that SPNN can continue to rely on a solid foundation of support for

current and future projects. By leveraging these funds, SPNN not only sustains its existing programs but also aligns its initiatives with current scholarship, best practices, and the incorporation of new technologies to meet the expectations set forth by Minn. Stat. 129D for grantees of arts and cultural heritage funds.

- 5) Is the project located in Minnesota? What cities, towns, or regions of the state benefit from this project or program?

The project is indeed located in Minnesota, specifically targeting the Twin Cities metro area, which includes Minneapolis and Saint Paul. Saint Paul Neighborhood Network (SPNN) actively serves these cities through a variety of media and technology programs designed to empower community members by providing them with the tools and training necessary to tell their stories, enhance job skills, and increase civic engagement.

Moreover, SPNN's impact extends beyond the immediate urban centers of Minneapolis and Saint Paul to include the suburbs surrounding the Twin Cities. By offering access to media production resources, educational programs, and platforms for free speech, SPNN plays a vital role in fostering a more informed, engaged, and creative community across a broader geographic area. This expanded reach ensures that a diverse array of voices and stories from across the region are heard, aligning with Minn. Stat. 129D's guidance for promoting arts, cultural heritage, and civic engagement throughout Minnesota.

The organization's comprehensive approach includes not only direct programming within the cities themselves but also collaborations and partnerships that extend its resources and services to a wider audience, including suburban communities. Through initiatives like the Community Technology Empowerment Project (CTEP), SPNN addresses the digital divide and enhances digital literacy among new immigrants, low-income families, and other underserved groups, further underscoring its commitment to statewide cultural and educational development.

- 6) If your organization has ever received any arts and cultural heritage funding before, list the fiscal agency, year and award amount. Did you fulfill the reporting requirements for the LLC website?

N/A

- 7) If you have any arts and cultural heritage funding from the previous biennium, please complete these questions.

What funds have been distributed?

What has not been expended yet?

What programs have been supported by the funding so far?

How does the existing arts and cultural heritage funding celebrate diverse communities in Minnesota or serve diverse communities?

Does the funding support free access or reduced-cost access to participants?

Does the proposal include a competitive grant program? *

N/A

Please provide information on any grants awarded with this funding including individuals and organizations, program and project names, and award amounts as an attachment.

*Priority for arts and cultural heritage funding must be given to proposals involving grants that will be competitively awarded. Minn. Stat. 129D.17