

Thank you for considering People In Action for the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund opportunity. We are thrilled to provide further insight into our organization's multifaceted initiatives that cater to the diverse needs of the Saint Paul community and beyond.

We are excited to present or share information about the questionnaire you shared about our organization's wide-ranging initiatives to enrich the Saint Paul community and nearby areas. As we align closely with the goals of the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund, we appreciate this chance to provide a comprehensive response to your questionnaire detailing our multifaceted approach to community service and cultural enrichment.

1) Central to our funding request is the promotion of arts accessibility, the celebration of Minnesota's diverse cultural heritage, and the fostering of community engagement. Somali Fest is a prime example, an annual cultural festival featuring an array of events that include an outdoor celebration, a week-long soccer tournament, and year-round smaller events. These not only offer arts education but also serve as a dynamic platform for community bonding and cultural expression.

2) We are proud to announce the expansion of our arts programming, which now includes poetry nights hosted in various small businesses and community spaces throughout the Twin Cities. Additionally, we are planning to launch an annual statewide Poetry Slam competition. Our arts initiatives also encompass painting and writing workshops for youth and artists, providing a safe and nurturing environment for self-expression and community interaction.

3) People In Action has implemented a strategic plan to track and evaluate the outcomes of our programs. This includes collecting attendance data, soliciting participant feedback, and engaging in community dialogue to ensure our efforts are practical and beneficial to the diverse populations we serve.

4) In response to the opioid crisis, we have developed a comprehensive opioid program focused on outreach and raising community awareness. Our on-the-ground street response team is actively involved in outreach, distributing Narcan, and sharing vital information on assisting and potentially saving lives. They also guide reporting emergencies and navigating various situations related to opioid incidents.

5) A combination of funding from local businesses, community donations, grants from small foundations, and partnerships with small and minority-owned firms sustains our organization. These collaborations are integral to creating economic opportunities and fostering community growth. Our open office policy invites individuals from various backgrounds, ensuring an inclusive space for all.

6) While People In Action has not previously been funded for arts and cultural heritage projects, we are committed to the highest standards of financial transparency. We will adhere to all reporting requirements to ensure accountability and transparency in our operations.

People In Action organization is passionate about making a significant and lasting impact in our community through arts and education, cultural festivities, community engagement, and proactive responses to public health challenges. We are excited about the potential partnership with the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund and the opportunity to further our mission to empower individuals and strengthen communities.

We thank you for considering People In Action as a potential partner and look forward to the possibility of working together to enhance the lives of those in our community.

Warmest regards,
Daud M.
Co-founder/Chair
People In Action MN