



# Challenge America Fast-Track Grants

## Fiscal Year 2013

Challenge America Fast-Track grants enable eligible entities, particularly those **organizations that are small or mid-sized**, to extend the reach of the arts to **underserved populations**—those demographics whose opportunities to experience the arts are limited by geography, ethnicity, economics, or disability.

**Applications must be submitted via Grants.gov, the federal government’s online application system, no later than May 24, 2012.** Applicants will receive notification within approximately six months for **projects starting after January 1, 2013. Grants are \$10,000** and require a one-to-one match. Projects should be focused, distinct activities that are generally smaller in scale and shorter in duration than those supported through other National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) categories.

**Projects are limited to one of the following specific types:**

**Guest Artist:** An arts event or events that will feature one or more guest artists. The project (such as a festival, exhibit, recital, reading, performance, screening, broadcast, lecture) must include the participation of guest artist(s). Artistic staff and resident artists of an applicant organization do not qualify as guest artists. In addition to artists' fees, the project may include public relations, professional documentation, and program enhancements that are integral to the event. Examples of program enhancements include interpretive material, transportation, program accommodations (e.g., sign language interpretation, audio description, Braille, tactile exhibit tours), catalogues, brochures, or publications. Other enhancements such as specific lecture-demonstrations, pre- or post-event talks, or workshops relevant to the proposed arts event also are eligible. NOTE: Projects that involve curriculum-based arts instruction are not eligible. *This project type seeks to fulfill the NEA’s **engagement** outcome: Engaging the public with diverse and excellent art.*

**Cultural Tourism:** The unified promotion of community-wide arts activities and resources to enhance cultural tourism or activities in cultural districts (including promoting the arts to underserved populations). Unified promotion is defined as the professional assessment, design, and/or distribution of public relations tools (calendars, Web sites, brochures, rack cards, signage, etc.) designed to benefit several local organizations. NOTE: Promotional projects for a single organization are not eligible. *This project type seeks to fulfill the NEA’s **engagement** outcome: Engaging the public with diverse and excellent art.*

**Public Art:** The development of professionally directed public art projects. This project type is for visual arts projects only (such as murals, sculptures, or environmental art) that are developed through community engagement. Evidence of community involvement in the planning, design, or fabrication of the work must be apparent. *This project type seeks to fulfill the NEA’s **engagement** outcome: Engaging the public with diverse and excellent art.*

**Civic Design:** Design activities for new or existing cultural facilities or civic spaces. Projects may include the preliminary planning or design process for new cultural facilities or spaces, as well as the engagement of professional design services such as streetscapes, wayfinding signage, or landscape architecture. Work may consist of, but is not limited to, architectural studies, charrettes (design workshops), design competitions, or facility feasibility or predevelopment studies (including universal design projects and accessibility assessments). Activities also may include all design stages for the renovation, restoration, or adaptive reuse of existing structures to be used as cultural facilities. Funding is not available for fund raising, donor research, or actual renovation or construction costs. *This project type seeks to fulfill the NEA’s **livability** outcome: The strengthening of communities through the arts.*

Organizations that apply to Challenge America Fast-Track are not eligible to apply under the NEA’s Art Works category in the same calendar year.

Full application instructions are available at <http://www.arts.gov/grants/apply/>.