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2023 ACCELERATOR AWARDS
Finalist Round Questions and Rubric

Accelerator Awards are open to Creative Youth Development (CYD) music organizations seeking to influence youth-serving systems so all young people have access to learning, creating, and performing experiences that reflect their culture and identity.

Finalist Round Questions were open from September 12-October 21.

Youth Participation
1. Tell us about the youth in your program: Community characteristics, demographics, number of youth served, etc. How have and do the youth in your program get connected to your work, and how do you reduce barriers for participation? What are the goals that you have for your young people, and how do you know when those goals are achieved?

Systems Change
1. Provide data that describes the opportunity gap and/or circumstances of marginalization that your systems change effort is working to address and how this data guides your systems change strategies.

2. What steps are you currently taking toward your systems change goals? What next steps do you plan to take to advance your systems change goals and how will you measure the impact/know if they are succeeding?
    a. Please either supplement information or update information that was shared earlier in this application. Please describe these strategies and tactics in relation to the Macro and Civic Systems you identified in the Round 1 application that your work seeks to change.

Resources and Capacity
1. Describe how you will use $500,000 from The Lewis Prize to advance your Big Idea and systems change work. What expenses will the funds cover and how will this investment contribute to transforming systems or creating new systems that replace circumstances of marginalization with equity for your youth, their families, and community?

General
1. Is there anything else you would like to share? *If you wish to provide new details or answers in response to Round 1 Reader/Semi-Finalist Review Panel comments or questions, please use this space.*

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Uploads

- Applicant Leader's Resume or Curriculum Vitae - include professional, volunteer, and educational background.
  - If, as discussed with TLPM, your organization has more than 1 leader, include resume/CV's for all leaders. Most organizations are only uploading the resume/CV of their Executive Director.
- Board of Directors Roster - for each member, provide: name, Board role (officers/committee chairs), connection to community served, board tenure, profession, & a maximum 100 word description of how their expertise and/or experience compliment and move-forward the work of your Big Idea (Active advisors for fiscally sponsored projects is acceptable). You may instead include a link to your website if this information is listed there.
- Program Staff Leadership Roster - name, position, connection to community served, tenure with the organization/program, & 250 word max. bio for each. You may instead include a link to your website if this is listed there. You do not need to include the leader(s) who's narrative and resume/CV was shared above.
- 2 Letters of Support from Community Partners - Articulate the nuances of the opportunity gap or circumstances of marginalization jointly addressed with the Finalist, the Finalist's role and impact addressing this situation, and how the partnership leverages the strengths and capacities of both organizations and/or their shared wider network.
- A budget detailing how the organization would spend the $500,000 Accelerator Award over a 3-5 year period. *If your organization is awarded the Accelerator Award, this budget proposal may be revised and updated in consultation with Lewis Prize staff.

Musical Merit

- Ask youth musicians from your program to choose one recording or video of themselves performing that they are most proud of. Include a brief caption as to why it was chosen.
- Brief caption describing why your youth chose this media.

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FINALIST REVIEW PANEL PROCESS AND RUBRIC

The Lewis Prize for Music asked Finalist Review Panelists to consider the following as they reviewed the Round One Application, Finalist Application, Site Visit Report and any public material they might view on Finalists' websites or social media. All Panelists shared and discussed their "Yes/Maybe/No" determinations during a four hour deliberation before presenting their recommendations to the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors set the award amounts based on the recommendations and commentary received from the Finalist Review Panel.

Big Idea and Systems Change
- Clarity of vision; progress made thus far; there is a clear connection between the Big Idea and the Systems Change process & progress. The Systems Change work has reached a tipping point to infuse inequitable systems with change, sustaining the transition or is establishing a new standard.

Racial Equity and Equity
- The organization/program has intention and practice, strong policies, and/or a culture that ensures racial equity and inclusion on its board, among its staffing, and in its programming. | The organization shows racial equity and inclusion practices that are accountable to their community. There is little difference between "the organization" and "the community." | Attention and intentionality is given toward other forms of equity.

Youth Leadership & Voice
- Without youth leadership, the organization's culture would feel drastically different. Youth leadership is playing a role in systems change intentions. Indicators: reciprocal relationships; increasing opportunities for young people as they continue through the organization.

Community Partners
- Aligned & mature partnerships that are clearly reciprocal with complementing strengths that increase reach and impact. Partners are aware of and collaborating toward the same systems change goals.

Organizational Leadership
- Board & Staff: centered in community representation, and noticeable collaborative leadership practice that is inclusive of young people.

Organizational Health & Stability
- Resources and capacity (such as relationships, local circumstances, etc.) are in place to pursue their work.

Music by Young People
- Including Youth Expression, Joy, Rigor, & Representation.