

# the lewis prize for music

community | collaboration | leadership

## 2023 ACCELERATOR AWARDS

### Round One Application 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.

The mission of The Lewis Prize is to partner with leaders who create positive change by investing in young people through music. Our vision is for every young person, regardless of who they are or where they live, to have the opportunity to access music programs from a young age. We believe this can only be achieved through equitable systems change. We aim to award ambitious organizations and leaders who are already strengthening young people through rigorous and diverse music programs and influencing systems so all young people can develop greater agency over their lives and contribute positively to their communities.

Round One applications were open from March 25--June 3, 2022.

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### Eligibility Questions

1. Are you, the leader of the organization, writing this Application?
  - a. "Leader" is defined as someone who reports to and is solely supervised by the Board of Directors.
2. Have you been the leader of this program/work beginning in or before 2020?
  - a. "Leader" is defined as someone who reports to and is solely supervised by the Board of Directors.
3. Do you, the leader, or another leader who reports to and is solely supervised by the Board of Directors, reside in the local region of where the work/program is located?
4. Does your program/work take place in the United States or it's territories, and the young people it serves reside in the US or it's territories?
5. Are most of the youth whom you serve in the age range of 6-21 years old?
6. Does your program/work serve youth outside of school hours? School music programs do not meet the eligibility.
7. Does your program provide consistent, ongoing participation opportunities that sequentially build skills and relationships over time, ideally multi-year? One time classes, short term workshops, and/or summer camps do not meet the eligibility.
8. Does at least 50% of the time youth are in/at your program devoted to music learning, creating, or performing?
9. Is your organization an independent 501(c)(3) or do you have a partnership with a 501(c)(3) as a fiscal sponsor?
10. Has your program/work been in operation since or before 2017?
11. Does your Board of Directors and/or senior management staff have at least 40% of its members who reside in or represent the community that you serve?

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## Name and Basics Information

1. *First Name*
2. *Last name:*
3. *Telephone number (to be reached during summer/fall 2022):*
4. *Leader's email address:*
5. *Additional email address of someone else from your organization to receive communication regarding this application. \*optional to answer*
6. *Name of your organization:*
7. *Name of the specific music program (if different/more specific than listed above). \*optional*
8. *Address of your organization/program:*
9. *Music organization/program's website:*
10. *Social Media handles:*
11. *What musical genre(s) does your organization/program work in?*
12. *Founding year of your organization:*
13. *Founding year of your music program, if it's different than the founding year of the organization. \*optional*
14. *Year you started reporting to the Board of Directors of your organization.*
15. *Your organization is a 501c3 or is it fiscally sponsored?*
16. *Your organization or Fiscal Sponsor's IRS issued EID number (ex: xx-xxxxxxx)*
17. *What were your total organizational expenses reported in your last 1099-IRS filing?*
18. *What percentage of your organization's overall yearly budget is for youth music work?  
\*Some organizations are multi-service organizations.*
19. *What is your program's general schedule and frequency, and specific numbers of young people involved.*
20. *What justice-oriented practices does your organization currently have in place?*
  - a. None
  - b. Scholarship/tuition underwriting for youth and families with need
  - c. All free program
  - d. Culturally responsive pedagogy
  - e. Majority culturally specific program
  - f. Representation amongst the board that reflects the community/youth served
  - g. Representation amongst upper level staff that reflects the community/youth served
  - h. Representation amongst teaching staff that reflects community/youth served
  - i. Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Plan/Policy in place
  - j. Geographic accessibility (or transportation support for young people)
  - k. Alumni teaching artists/staff
  - l. Youth Council
  - m. Youth board membership
  - n. Alumni board membership
  - o. Other

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21. What direct services beyond music programming do you provide?

None	Justice Reform	Workforce Training
Academic Support	Material Wellbeing and Needs	Youth Employment
COVID-19 Education	Mental Health	Other Comm. Organizing
COVID -19 Vaccine Education	Social Connection	Other
Food security	Technology Access	
Housing Support	Transportation to or from program	
Income Support	Voter Engagement	

We aim to support a diverse group of leaders and organizations. The following information will be used for data collection, research, and for purposes of ensuring support for organizations that are led by and/or uplift the voices and artistry of people of color, rural communities, and women leaders.

1. *What is your gender identity? \*optional to answer*
2. *What is your racial identity? \*optional to answer*
3. *Are you the founder of the organization?*
4. *What is the population of your city/town?*
5. *What is the population of your county?*
6. *What is the name of your county?*
7. *State/territory*
8. *Based on your best estimate, what percentage of your organization's young people are from communities that macro and/or civic systems have historically marginalized?*

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1. **Organization Overview:** *Tell us about your organization, young people, team, music program, and wellbeing supports. Share how your program is relevant to your community.*

**Rubric for General Program Overview: No scoring**

2. **Systems Change:** *Does your work focus on macro and/or civic systems change?*
  - a) *Macro*
  - b) *Civic*
  - c) *Both*

**Rubric for Systems Change: No Scoring**

3. **Big Idea:** *What vision, or Big Idea, do you have that reimagines or intervenes with systems to achieve equity? Please speak holistically of your work, and not just about a specific program or activity.*

**Rubric for The Big Idea/vision: 0-5**

- There is discernible alignment between the Big Idea, Systems Change Category(ies) chosen above, justice alignment list (General Information), and organization/program description.
- Goes beyond the organization to impact the wider community/nation/world's condition in order for young people to thrive through equitable access to music

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learning, creating, and performing.

- Big Ideas that solely focus on building up the strengths and capacities of young people to be resilient without also addressing the societal structures that marginalize are not considered systems change initiatives by The Lewis Prize.

4. **Racial Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion:** *How is your organization representative and accountable to your community in respect to racial equity, diversity, and inclusion (REDI)? How are REDI practices a part of your day-to-day programming, organization, and governance?*

**Rubric for Equity and Inclusion: 0-5**

- The organization/program has a strong culture, habits, and/or policies that ensures racial equity and inclusion as a way of being, including 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.”

5. **Youth Leadership:** *Tell us how your organization centers young people’s voices within a) their artistic practice and b) organization decision making.*

**Rubric for Youth Leadership: 0-5**

- Youth engagement and leadership is integral to the organization’s Big Idea and systems change goals.
- Leadership responsibilities for young people increase as they mature and have more experience, such as youth employment within the organization.
- Mentorship, alumni involvement, and intergenerational music making or work is apparent.

6. **Partners:** *Describe the partners that you work with in solidarity to pursue your Big Idea and achieve systems change. Who are they, and how do you work reciprocally and intentionally together toward the Big Idea?*

**Rubric for Partners: 0-5**

- The partners clearly work in solidarity to pursue the Big Idea with shared values and equity priorities.
- The partners have clear roles that intentionally and reciprocally combine their strengths toward the Big Idea.

**Is there anything else that you’d like to share with the Lewis Prize?** Please share it here (75 words) \*optional:

**Rubric for Additional Information: No scoring**

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## **MEDIA SAMPLES**

1. *A video (or audio) upload or link of your young people performing music from the last 2 years that displays all or most of the following elements:*

- Rigor/Musical Artistry
- Personal expression
- Youth leadership
- Cultural identity
- Enthusiastic engagement of the young people performing.

### **Rubric for Work Sample One: 0-5**

Score 1 pt for each example you experience or perceive for a max. of 5 pts

- The young people are challenged and are meeting that challenge.
- Young people bring their own expression to the music in a truthful way that it becomes fully their music.
- The young people look fully present and engaged.
- Includes characteristics of appropriate cultural representation.
- It sounds good and you want to hear it again.

2. *A video (or audio) upload or link of a rehearsal, youth or family interview, or program experience that showcases:*

- *Artistic and developmental growth*
- *Social interventions that show youth leadership*

### **Rubric for Work Sample Two: 0-5**

Score 1 pt for each example you experience or perceive for a max. of 5 pts

- Youth engagement and leadership
- Developmental Growth
- Positive personal/social Impact
- Community Collaboration
- Equity and Inclusion