



ART

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What are some of the areas of interest for Field Foundation's Art program area?

A: Field Foundation prioritizes creative production and expression happening by ALAANA-led organizations and within neighborhoods and communities located in our heat map, which is primarily the South and West Sides of Chicago. You can find more details about our general priorities in the Art program [here](#).

In addition to those general priorities, we are seeking requests from organizations that are working in deep and thoughtful ways to empower not only their geographic and demographic communities, but also make moves towards organizational sustainability and thoughtful growth of their organization as a whole. Sometimes that looks like investing in the growth and practice of the individual artists that organizations work with, requesting funds for space or equipment improvements of heat map buildings and hubs of creative production, or requesting funds for ambitious programs that use art as a vehicle to directly address justice issues concerning the environment, wealth gaps, workers' rights, the criminal legal system and prison abolition, immigration, or fair housing. In addition to proposals that demonstrate the endless home-grown creativity of the city, Field Foundation seeks LOIs (Letters of Inquiry) that reflect the multi-faceted approaches, hybrid models, experimental ideas, and risk-taking practices that pave the way for deep community empowerment and transformation, by, with, and for those communities.

Q: Does Field fund K-12 arts education organizations or programs? Or CPS or charter school initiatives or programs?

A: The Foundation recognizes the value and importance of K–12 arts education efforts in Chicago; however, requests focusing primarily in this area are not among our grantmaking priorities at this time. In the meantime, we are making efforts to learn about the current and shifting landscape in order to understand how we can be more impactful within Chicago's vast K–12 arts education landscape with our limited dollars. Until then, we are prioritizing arts education efforts that focus on professional and artistic development opportunities for teaching artists, young adult (ages 16+) creative workforce preparation and opportunities, and intergenerational or family education programs.

Q: Does Field fund public art projects?

A: Yes, Field Foundation supports proposals for public art projects, including murals, sculptures, creative memorials, and other kinds of permanent and semi-permanent installations. We prioritize projects that incorporate public art within a larger vision or plan for the communities to which it's being created with and for, rather than one-time and stand-alone projects.

Q: Does Field fund production costs for exhibitions, plays, or performances?

A: Yes, but similar to how we think about public art projects, we prioritize proposals that include exhibitions, plays, and productions as part of a larger vision or plan for the communities that the organization serves. For example, if a production is the outcome of an apprenticeship program that focuses on workforce development for ALAANA artists and production workers, then that's something we are more inclined to consider for funding.

Q: Are fiscally sponsored nonprofits or projects eligible to submit an LOI (Letter of Inquiry) to Field Foundation?

A: Yes, but if you are using a fiscal sponsor, we recommend contacting the Art Program Officer prior to applying in order to learn more about our requirements for that type of grantmaking.

Q: My Organization serves as a fiscal sponsor for another project. Does that make us ineligible to submit an LOI to Field Foundation?

A: No, you are not ineligible to submit, but we also recommend you contact the Art Program Officer prior to applying in order to learn more about the nuances of serving as a fiscal sponsor.

Q: Does Field accept LOIs from individual artists or projects by artist collective?

A: No not at this time. We only give funds to individuals through our [Leaders for a New Chicago Awards](#).

Q: What size are the grants that Field Foundation gives?

A: In the Art, Justice, Media & Storytelling, and Leadership Investment program areas, grants range from \$10,000 – \$50,000. Our Special Consideration Grants range from \$5,000 – \$10,000.

Q: What does ALAANA mean?

A: ALAANA stands for African, Latinx, Asian, Arab, and Native American. We prioritize funding for organizations that are led by (on the board and staff level) 51 percent or more people from these backgrounds and serving people within these communities. You can read more about our ALAANA priorities [here](#).

Q: What are Field Foundation heat maps?

A: Heat maps outline our geographic priorities within the Chicagoland area. You can read more about our heat maps [here](#).

Q: What kinds of capital projects do you fund?

A: Keeping our heat map and ALAANA priorities in mind, Field Foundation supports a wide range of capital projects including the creation of new artist studio spaces, live/work spaces, the build out of storefront spaces, electronic or cosmetic improvements or repairs, and more. If you're considering submitting a proposal for a capital grant, we recommend reaching out to the Art Program Officer to discuss your project prior to applying.

Q: What are some examples of capacity grants?

A: Keeping our heat map and ALAANA priorities in mind, Field Foundation supports a range of capacity needs for organizations. This could include, but isn't limited to, hiring new permanent or temporary staff, moving a part-time position to full-time, hiring specialists and consultants, purchasing equipment and management tools, and any other request that will directly impact the organization's ability to do its work.

Q: What makes a strong proposal for general operating support?

A: The Foundation supports general operating proposals that provide unrestricted funds to organizations to use as they need. Because of our heat map and ALAANA focuses, we prioritize giving these kinds of funds to organizations headquartered in the heat map and who have majority ALAANA leadership.

Q: What if we are an organization that isn't in your heat map but do a portion of our work there? Are we eligible to submit an LOI to Field Foundation?

A: Yes, it will just be more challenging for your LOI to make it to the full application phase. At least 50 percent of our annual funding goes to organizations that are headquartered in the heat map.

Q: What if our organization isn't ALAANA? Are we still eligible to submit an LOI to Field Foundation?

A: Yes, it will just be more challenging for your LOI to make it to the full application phase.

Q: What is the difference between Field Foundation's Art program and the Media & Storytelling program? Which one should I apply to?

A: Our Media & Storytelling program focuses on fact-based media production. Examples would include non-fiction content in the form of investigative journalism, documentaries, podcasts, radio broadcasts, and the ecosystem, professional development, and distribution efforts that exist around that work. If you're making media that is better categorized as fiction (narrative film, storytelling podcasts, etc.), you would apply to Art. If you have questions about this, we recommend reaching out to the Art Program Officer or Media & Storytelling Program Officer to discuss your project prior to applying.

Q: I've received a grant from Field Foundation before, how do I know if I'm eligible to reapply and do I have to go through the LOI process again?

A: You are eligible to apply one year after you submitted your original LOI application. So, if you submitted an LOI in September 2019 and successfully received a grant, you would be eligible to submit a new LOI in September 2020. If you have questions about whether you're eligible, reach out to your program officer.

Q: I was declined for an LOI and I believe my request was a good fit with Field Foundation's funding priorities. Why was my LOI declined and when can I submit a new one?

A: First and foremost, Field Foundation's LOI pool is extremely competitive. Each cycle we receive over 80 proposals and are only able to put forward around 12 to our board for consideration. Many proposals that are declined are a strong fit for Field Foundation, but we are forced to make hard choices according to our funding priorities, where past funding has been allocated, and many other factors. We recommend reaching out to the Art Program Officer to discuss the specifics of your proposal and for direct feedback.

Q: I still have questions. How do I get those answered?

A: You can contact Field Foundation's staff and program officers by filling out our contact form [here](#).