
CreateNYC Language Access Fund

GUIDELINES

Application Deadline: Monday, September 9, 2019 at 11:59pm

The New York City Department of Cultural Affairs (DCLA) is launching the CreateNYC Language Access Fund, a pilot initiative to support cultural organizations' new and ongoing efforts to increase access to cultural programming for audiences whose primary language is not English, including American Sign Language (ASL).

This pilot initiative reflects DCLA's commitment to diversity, access, equity and inclusion, as outlined in the CreateNYC cultural plan released in 2017. Its intention is to expand opportunities for cultural organizations to support access to arts and culture for all New Yorkers by removing language barriers. For the City's FY20 (July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020), the CreateNYC Language Access Fund will award a total of \$500,000 through grants of \$5,000, \$10,000, \$15,000, or \$25,000. FY20 awardees will be eligible for a renewed grant in FY21 (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021). Renewal may be at the discretion of the agency, based on grantee performance and available funding.

Some examples of activity supported by the Language Access Fund include:

- a) Creation and presentation of work meant primarily for non-English speaking audiences, Multilanguage Learners (MLLs)/English Language Learners (ELLs) and/or American Sign Language (ASL) users;
- b) Bilingual arts & culture programming and activities accessible to non-English speakers that are designed specifically for ELLs or ASL users (rather than a portion of a larger program that includes some ELLs or ASL users);
- c) Multilingual audience engagement: communications that have a meaningful impact on programming, including but not limited to supporting the translation of print and online material into languages other than English.

GOALS

The goals of the Language Access Fund are to:

- Support substantive projects that deepen cultural organizations' engagement with audiences whose primary language is not English, as well as Multilingual Language Learners (MLLs)/English Language Learners (ELLs) and/or American Sign Language (ASL) users;
- Support work created and presented in other languages, as well as bilingual or multilingual programming;
- Expand K-12 arts education opportunities and cultural programming for MLL/ELL students;
- Motivate the cultural sector to think creatively and resourcefully about being accessible to and inclusive of individuals that are non-English speakers, ELLs or ASL users;
- Support the translation of cultural organizations' programming and communications into multiple languages, including ASL.

CRITERIA

Grant recipients will be organizations that demonstrate:

- **Clarity of purpose** – Provide a clear articulation of project goals and beneficiaries, and how the project will achieve those goals. Applicants will also be expected to show how the project relates to the organization's mission.
- **Project feasibility** – Demonstrate that the organization has the capacity (personnel, expertise, infrastructure, etc.) to effectively implement and deliver the project within the grant period (FY20: July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020).
- **Impact** – Include a thoughtful explanation of how the project illustrates, increases or deepens the organization's commitment to the inclusion of non-English speakers, English Language Learners (ELL) and ASL (American Sign Language) users. Applicants must also include quantifiable projections about the scope of the project (who/what/when/where/how/how many/how often), and how the organization will define and measure success.

ELIGIBILITY

- Organizations that submitted eligible applications to the FY20 Cultural Development Fund (CDF) and those organizations in a CDF renewal year for FY20 are eligible to apply with one proposal in the FY20 grant cycle. Organizations may not submit multiple proposals. Members of the Cultural Institutions Group (CIG) are not eligible for this grant.
- Awarded projects may commence as early as July 1, 2019, though funding decisions will be sent later than this date, around mid-October 2019. Services must be completed by the end of the City's Fiscal 2020 on June 30, 2020. At the conclusion of FY20, organizations receiving an award will submit an FY20 Language Access Final Report.
- Projects must take place within the five boroughs of New York City.
- Proposals may not request capacity-building support or general operating support. The proposal must include a clear cultural public service that fits within the activities described above. Note that programs that are primarily language classes are not eligible for support.
- Applicants are encouraged to propose new programs, on-going programs, or an expansion of current activities. Projects may align with those included in an organization's FY20 CDF Application (or Renewal), or be separate. If an organization is considering submitting a Language Access proposal for activity that was included as part its FY20 CDF Application or Renewal, please call your Program Officer directly (or the Help Desk at 212-513-9381) to discuss.
- No funding match is required for programs supported by the Language Access Fund, though organizations are encouraged to leverage this funding with outside support to increase programmatic impact.

APPLICATION SEMINARS

The application seminar provides an opportunity to speak directly with DCLA staff prior to submitting a competitive Application to the Language Access Fund. Attendance is first come first served, so be sure to [RSVP to reserve](#) a seat:

Tuesday, August 6 – 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm
Location: DCLA, Room 209

Thursday, August 15 – 10:00 am – 11:30 am
Location: DCLA, Room 209

Wednesday, September 4 – 10:00 am – 11:30 am
Location: DCLA, Room 209

Please direct any program-related questions to createnycsupport@culture.nyc.gov or call (212) 513-9381.

Access/Accommodations: DCLA has an accessible entrance on Reade Street (in the middle of the block between Centre and Elk Streets). For further information or to request an accommodation, please email Sara Cobb at disabilityfacilitator@culture.nyc.gov or call (212) 513-9376. Requests for accommodation should be made two weeks before the event or as soon as possible thereafter.