



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

SOUTH ARTS SEEKS A REMOTE CONTRACTOR TO EVALUATE IN THESE MOUNTAINS, CENTRAL APPALACHIAN FOLK ARTS & CULTURE INITIATIVE

About South Arts: Headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia, South Arts is a nonprofit regional arts organization empowering artists, organizations, and communities and increasing access to arts and culture.

In partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts and the State Arts Agencies of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee — with additional funding from other public and private donors such as the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, the Ford Foundation, and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation — South Arts supports artists and organizations through a rich and responsive portfolio of grants, fellowships, and programs.

About In These Mountains: Launched in 2018, [In These Mountains, Central Appalachian Folk Arts & Culture](#) (ITM) is a multi-component, multi-year initiative that supports the folk arts and culture in Appalachian Regional Commission counties in Kentucky, North Carolina, and Tennessee. ITM has developed a series of strategic partnerships and opportunities that further projects, programs, and organizations that promote sharing, teaching, learning, preserving, documenting, and supporting the continuity of the folk arts and traditional culture of Central Appalachia.

Scope of Work:

South Arts values the insight of evaluation which strengthens our work and community impact. We believe review and reflection of quantitative and qualitative information will benefit our continued work in Central Appalachia.

The contractor will design a methodology for collecting, analyzing, and assessing five years (FY19-23) of resource investment in existing, expanded, and new programs and opportunities. The evaluation should address/assess all program components including 1) partnerships, 2) individual artist awards and fellowships, and 3) grant opportunities. The evaluation should address effectiveness and impact with recommendations for component improvements, expansion, contraction, or elimination. The evaluation should be conducted remotely/virtually; no travel is expected.

Partnerships: Since its inception ITM has worked with 15 strategic partners (Appalachian State University, Appalshop, Berea College, East Tennessee State University, Hindman Settlement School, Junior Appalachian Musicians, Kentucky Arts Council, Mars Hill University, National Association of Black Storytellers, North Carolina Arts Council, North Carolina Folklife Institute, Pine Mountain Settlement School, Tennessee Arts Commission, University of North Carolina, and Western Kentucky University.) These partnerships have yielded folk arts education classes, undergraduate and graduate student tuition

assistance and stipends, fieldwork, archival deposits, mentor artists and apprentice collaborations, and community scholar training design and planning.

Individual Awards & Fellowships: The Folk & Traditional Arts Master Artists Fellowships, Black Appalachian Storyteller Fellowships, and Emerging Traditional Artists Program have provided monetary resources to provide artist support, virtual and in-person professional development, and presentation opportunities.

Grant Program: ITM Project Grant recipient organizations have received funds, with no match requirements, to support a variety of apprenticeship, archival, documentation, festival, music series, and workshop programs and projects.

South Arts will provide access to FY19-23 final reports and data submitted by ITM partners, and contact information for partners, award and fellowship winners, and grant recipients.

Required Skills:

- Advanced experience and understanding of Appalachian Studies, Cultural Anthropology, Ethnomusicology, Folk Studies, or Oral History.
- Previous evaluation experience.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills.
- Ability to meet established deadlines.
- Professional, initiative-taking, highly organized, and self-directed.
- The candidate will provide updates to Teresa Hollingsworth, Director, Traditional Arts, as requested.

Deliverables: A written report will include review and assessment of all ITM components. The evaluator will meet with South Arts staff to review the report.

Timeframe:

- Proposals will be accepted through **5:00 PM ET, Friday, September 15, 2023.**
- Contract award will be made no later than September 29, 2023.
- Written report due December 31, 2023.
- Report review with South Arts staff anticipated the first week of January 2024.

Proposals:

No specific format is required for a proposal. Proposals should include the following:

- Proposed approach to assessment, evaluation, and anticipated deliverables.
- Relevant experience with arts administration, folk and traditional arts programs, community programs, and/or grants management.
- Any further information that would help South Arts understand your expertise.

- Proposed fee/budget (inclusive of all expenses)
- Resume
- Three relevant references

Please send questions or submissions to Teresa Hollingsworth, Director, Traditional Arts at thollingsworth@southarts.org by **5:00pm ET on September 15, 2023**.

South Arts is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

About South Arts:

South Arts is a nonprofit regional arts organization. Our mission: advancing Southern vitality through the arts. South Arts was founded in 1975 to build on the South's unique heritage and enhance the public value of the arts. Our work responds to the arts environment and cultural trends with a regional perspective. South Arts offers an annual portfolio of activities designed to support the success of artists and arts providers in the South, address the needs of Southern communities through impactful arts-based programs, and celebrate the excellence, innovation, value, and power of the arts of the South. For more information about our grantmaking, conferences/convenings, and other programs supporting artists, arts organizations, and communities, visit www.southarts.org.