



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

South Arts Seeks Firm to Design and Implement Programs Assessment and Evaluation

Purpose:

South Arts is seeking a qualified full-service consultant or firm (Contractor) to develop and implement an assessment and evaluation of our programs. South Arts will partner with the Contractor to facilitate a collaborative, participatory, and human-centered assessment and evaluation design and implementation that will utilize innovative and inclusive methods of qualitative and quantitative data collection, analysis, and reporting.

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. For more information about our grantmaking, conferences/convenings, and other programs supporting artists, arts organizations, and communities, visit www.southarts.org.

Programs Overview:

South Arts' programming is comprised of grantmaking and direct services that support artists, arts organizations, arts leaders, and communities across our region and the nation.

Strategic Goals for Programs:

- 1: Support the artistic and professional growth and success of artists in the South.
- 2: Connect artists and arts professionals in the South to resources that will increase opportunities for success within and outside the region.
- 3: Advance impactful arts-based programs that recognize and address trends and evolving needs of a wide range of communities in the South.

Our current programs include:

Southern Cultural Treasures. In partnership with the Ford Foundation's America's Cultural Treasures program, a cohort of 15 BIPOC-led and -serving organizations from our region will receive substantial unrestricted operating grants and professional development over the duration of this multi-year special initiative.

Creative Placemaking Leadership Summit. In partnership with Creative Placemaking Communities, this annual convening gathers hundreds of arts, cultural, and civic leaders to explore best practices in creative placemaking.

In These Mountains. Through a series of grantmaking programs, K-12 educational offerings, fellowships, and partnerships, this program preserves and perpetuates the traditional arts of Central Appalachian communities in Kentucky, North Carolina, and Tennessee.

Jazz Road. This national regranting program offers direct support to jazz artists to tour their work and further explore their artform through residency opportunities.

Southern Circuit Tour of Independent Filmmakers. In partnership with two dozen Screening Partner venues across the region, 18 or more independent filmmakers tour their films across the region to conduct screenings, meet with audiences, and lead engagement activities.

ArtsReady. This national emergency preparedness program offers arts and cultural organizations the tools and resources to build a readiness plan and secure their critical business functions.

National Leaders of Color. In partnership with our fellow Regional Arts Organization WESTAF, South Arts develops an annual cohort of the next generation of BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) leaders in the field of arts and cultural administration, working with them to build and reinforce the tools necessary to continue stepping forward in their careers.

Southern Prize and State Fellowships. An annual arts fellowship for visual and literary arts offering nine artists per discipline - one per state in our region - \$160,000 in cash awards, as well as residency and other public engagement opportunities.

Presentation Grants, Traditional Arts Touring Grants, and Express Grants. These three grantmaking programs, supported by the National Endowment for the Arts, offer arts organizations funding to present touring artists of various disciplines for public presentations and educational engagements.

Cross-Sector Impact Grants. These grants support collaborative projects between artists, arts organizations, and non-arts entities within their community to emphasize the additive power of the arts across different sectors of society.

Professional Development and Artistic Planning Grants. These grants support the professional growth of arts administrators, presenters, and curators across our region.

Individual Artist Career Opportunity Grants. These grants offer artists funding to take advantage of a major career milestone/opportunity.

South Arts is in an exciting time of expansion and desires to have all future programs evaluated to the aims of the new strategic goals. South Arts values the insight of assessment and evaluation which strengthens our work and community impact. We believe review and reflection of qualitative and quantitative information will benefit our continued work throughout the region.

Scope of Work: South Arts seeks a qualified consultant/firm to design and implement a methodology for the assessment and evaluation of up to six of our current programs and provide guidance for

future program assessment and evaluation processes, and relevant tools. The assessment and evaluation will need to address programs' collective impacts and outcomes, qualitatively and quantitatively. The evaluation should be conducted remotely/virtually; no travel is expected.

As part of the assessment and evaluation process, we are seeking a consultant/firm that will:

- Develop and conduct framework for current program assessment and evaluation
- Collaborate with the South Arts team to facilitate program assessment and evaluation.
- Submit written progress and final reports, each with findings and an analysis/theme within the findings.
- Provide recommendations for future program assessment and evaluation design, data collection, metrics, etc.

Timeline:

Ideally, this assessment evaluation will occur during spring 2024, with deliverables presented to South Arts before June 30, 2024.

Proposals:

Respondents are asked to submit a proposal that provides:

- Relevant education and/or experience in conducting programmatic assessment and evaluation pertaining to arts and cultural organizations.
- Proposed workplan, including approach to assessment, evaluation, and anticipated deliverables.
- Unique strengths and perspectives you bring to the work.
- Proposed fee/budget (inclusive of all expenses)

Required support materials:

- Biography/Resume.
- References – Submit three references (at least two must be from organizations) who can speak to your experience.
- Work samples - Submit two work samples of similar projects.

Selection Criteria:

- Relevant experience in conducting arts and/or cultural organizational programs assessment and evaluation.
- Feasibility of proposed work plan.
- Reference responses.
- Fee.

Contact:

Please send questions or submissions to Hillary Crawford, Assistant Vice President of Programs hcrawford@southarts.org. Proposal along with fee, bio/resume, support materials, and references must be RECEIVED by 5:00 PM (ET) on Friday, April 12, 2024.

South Arts encourages applicants to contact us with questions more than 48 hours before the RFP deadline; due to the volume of requests, South Arts team members may not be able to respond to inquiries submitted after that time.

South Arts is an Equal Opportunity Employer and values diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility.
Alternate formats of this document may be obtained by contacting South Arts at 404-874-7244.