

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## **Background:**

As part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Denver Arts & Venues (A&V) is distributing one-million dollars in assistance to small, non- and for-profit creative businesses, venues, organizations, and individual artists currently operating or residing in the City and County of Denver. This round of assistance is focused on aligning with the RISE Denver initiative to assist recipients with recovery and restarting businesses.

The Denver CARES Artist Restart and Recovery Fund will provide grants of \$1,000 to individual artists and the Denver CARES Arts & Culture Restart and Recovery Fund will provide up to \$25,000 to non or for-profit organizations and businesses, supporting those experiencing severe financial distress.

RedLine is a non-profit contemporary arts and community organization which frequently provides administration of grant programs and distribution of funding in the cultural sector. Other organizations that receive similar services from RedLine include the State of Colorado (as Colorado Creative Industries) and the Bonfils-Stanton Foundation.

## **Current Request:**

A&V is seeking City Council approval of an agreement with RedLine under contract THTRS-202159015, to distribute \$1 Million in CARES dollars on behalf of A&V.

- A&V is solely and wholly responsible for administration of the grant program, review of applications, determining awardees and determining amounts of awards.
- The program involves an open and competitive application process. Organizations will be evaluated on factors such as severity of need and cultural impact.
- These services are similar to those provided by Mile High United Way and other local community non-profits in facilitating grant programs of other city agencies.
- \$150,000 has been earmarked for artist assistance in amounts of \$1,000 each. \$850,000 has been earmarked for organizational and business assistance with awards of up to \$25,000 each.
- A&V will collect final expense reports and supporting documentation from all awardees.
- RedLine is responsible for distribution of payments and issuance of federally required tax documents to recipients.
- RedLine will distribute one million (\$1,000,000) in assistance funding to recipients awarded by Denver A&V.
- RedLine will set-up a restricted account and manage book-keeping for CARES funding.

- RedLine will receive a two percent (2%) administrative fee - \$20,000. This fee is below the average administrative fee of four to five percent.

### **Eligibility Criteria:**

#### **Artists:**

Grants are open to all self-identifying artists working in one or multiple disciplines whose income has been severely impacted or who have experienced additional costs directly due to COVID-19, and who need immediate assistance.

Practicing artists:

- Must be a resident in the City and County of Denver since January 1, 2020.
- Should be able to demonstrate a sustained commitment to their creative work and career
- Must be able to verify their art as a primary income-generating activity
- Must provide proof of loss of income or increased costs directly due to COVID-19
- Must list intended use of funds
- Must be 18 years of age or older to apply
- Must retain all grant and expenditure documents for five years (if funded)

#### **Arts & Culture Businesses and Non-profits**

Funding will be awarded to selected small and mid-size organizations, creative businesses and venues in Denver with at least 75% of their work focused on supporting arts, culture and the creative industries, including performing arts, music, visual and fine arts, and film, meeting the following eligibility criteria:

- Must have been fully operational on or before March 1, 2020
- Can be operating as a non-profit or creative for-profit entity
- Be physically located in the City and County of Denver
- Have 2019 revenues that did not exceed \$5,000,000
- Must be able to show loss of income and/or increased costs directly due to COVID-19
- If the organization or creative business runs a venue or space it must meet at least one of the following criteria:
  - Typically, does live programming such as music, dance, comedy or film screenings driving at least 75% of business throughout the year
  - Space which includes education and/or training of visual or performing artists, or other creative industries