

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background:

In January 2022, Denver Arts & Venues (DAV) received a grant award from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) for \$500,000. The grant is named the, "American Rescue Plan Grants to Local Arts Agencies for Subgranting." This program was designed specifically for local governments and other large organizations to help redirect support to medium and small cultural and arts organizations.

The purpose of the 2022 Denver Arts & Venues Recovery Fund is to provide up to \$15,000 grants to non-profit arts and cultural organizations located in the City and County of Denver whose 2021 annual revenue was \$1,000,000 or less and who suffered losses as a direct result of the COVID-19 crisis and have reopened or plan to reopen. Denver Arts & Venues also aims to provide funding for organizations that remain financially vulnerable to COVID-19 impacts, organizations owned or led by members of historically marginalized communities, and organizations supporting historically marginalized communities.

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:

DAV is seeking City Council approval of an agreement with Redline under contract THTRS-202263194, to distribute NEA grant funds on behalf of DAV.

- DAV 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.
- In May of 2022 DAV released an RFP for payment administration services which was awarded to Redline. This service provider will issue payments to awardees at the direction of DAV.
- A&V will collect final expense reports and supporting documentation from all awardees.
- Redline is responsible for distribution of payments and issuance of any federally required tax documents to recipients.
- Redline will distribute \$492,500 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 one and one-half percent (1.5%) administrative fee - \$7,500 of the total grant value. This fee is below the average administrative fee of four to five percent.

Eligibility Criteria:

Funding will be awarded to selected non-profit 501(c)(3) organizations located in the City and County of Denver whose 2021 annual revenue was \$1,000,000 or less and whose main mission and focus is on arts, culture and the creative industries, including performing arts, theater, dance, music, visual arts, film, photography, arts and cultural education, and more that meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Must have been fully operational on or before March 1, 2020
- Must be operating as a non-profit 501(c)(3) entity
- Must be located in the City and County of Denver
- Have 2021 revenues that did not exceed \$1,000,000
- Must be able to show loss of income and/or increased costs directly due to COVID-19