

Diversifying Art Museum Leadership Initiative Letter of Inquiry (LOI)
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)
artmuseum.diversity@fordfoundation.org

Who is allowed to submit an LOI?

Eligible institutions are art museums incorporated as non-profit tax-exempt institutions in the United States. Consortia, collaboratives and partnerships are eligible to apply, but one art museum must serve as the lead applicant. Each art museum is eligible to serve as the lead applicant on up to two LOIs but can serve as a collaborating partner on other LOIs for which another art museum is the lead applicant.

Are there any restrictions on who an art museum can partner with on the proposed project?

Consortium partners may include other arts organizations, foundations, non-profit organizations, educational institutions, business and civic leaders, and community organizations, as well as public and local government entities.

Are non-art museums eligible to submit LOIs?

This initiative focuses specifically on art museums and includes art museums that are free-standing, not-for-profit institutions or components of another not-for-profit institution with a mission to study, care for, interpret, and exhibit works of art. Museums which combine an art-focused mission with other disciplines, such as history or science, are eligible to apply.

Can our art museum forward the invitation we received to apply to other art museums who might be interested in applying?

Yes.

Can our art museum submit an LOI for a project that is already in progress?

Yes.

Can our art museum submit a proposal that is focused on diversifying collections, exhibitions, programming, audiences and/or boards rather than diversifying management or curatorial staff, or the staffing pipeline?

The Walton Family Foundation and Ford Foundation recognize that realizing their vision will require diversifying all aspects of museum work. This modest pilot initiative is focused on diversifying curatorial and management leadership only.

Can our art museum submit a proposal focused on another type of diversity besides racial and ethnic diversity, e.g. gender, sexual identity, religion, socioeconomic status and/or dis/ability?

Yes.

How many and what size of grants will be awarded?

The Walton Family Foundation and Ford Foundation have not predetermined the number of grants nor the size of the grants that will be awarded.

As you prepare your proposal, please keep in mind that the program's grant budget totals \$6 million over three years, and that grants must be matched 2:1 (\$2 grant funds/\$1 recipient match) by recipient art institutions in the first year, and 1:1 in any subsequent years.

Are there any restrictions on what the funding can be used for?

All grant funds must be allocated to expenses that will achieve the goals of the project. Subject to funder approval, grants may offer limited support for indirect costs associated with museum systems or overhead, or for salaries and fringe benefits for current museum staff already funded through an applicant's operating budget.

Can our art museum still submit a proposal if our executive director and/or board chair has not reviewed and approved the LOI?

Both the executive director and board chair must authorize the LOI before it is submitted.

Will I be able to save and preview my LOI before I submit?

Yes. When you begin your LOI on the online platform, your draft will be saved automatically. Click the "Finish this later" link in the page header to copy a link with which you can access your draft. You are welcome to edit, preview and print your draft as often as you'd like before the deadline or before you submit your response, whichever comes first.

When is the LOI deadline?

April 21, 2017 at 5pm in the applicant's time zone. Late submissions will not be accepted.

When will we hear about whether we have been invited to submit a full proposal?

Finalists invited to submit full proposals will be notified in early June 2017.

Can our museum receive funding over multiple years? And if so, will the funds be disbursed in one lump sum or in installments?

Proposals can be submitted for funding for 1 year, 2 years or 3 years. The term of the grant and payout schedule will be determined in discussion with grant recipients.

Will there be another grant application round next year?

This pilot initiative will have only one application round, in 2017.

Who do I contact with questions?

Please do not contact staff at the Ford Foundation or the Walton Family Foundation.

You may submit questions until 5pm in your time zone on April 14, 2017 by clicking "Ask a Question" near the top of LOI Instructions page. Please allow up to 3 business days for a response. Before you submit a question, please see if it is answered in this FAQ sheet or has previously been posted and answered on the online platform.

Thank you.