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Understanding Arts-Related Opportunities in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)

The National Endowment for the Arts is distributing \$50 million in one-time ARRA funds. There are multiple agencies distributing these funds and organizations may be eligible to apply to more than one source. However, grantees can only receive a single ARRA award. The agencies and grant deadlines are described below:

1. **Direct Grants from the NEA** – The NEA is distributing \$30 million in direct ARRA grants to nonprofit organizations for the specific purpose of preserving jobs in the arts. Grant amounts are \$25,000 or \$50,000. Eligibility was restricted to previous NEA direct award recipients from the past 4 years and the deadline was April 2. Awards will be announced at the end of June.
2. **Sub-Grants through the Colorado Council on the Arts** – CCA is subgranting \$300,000 in ARRA funds, also for the purpose of preserving jobs in the arts. Grant amounts will be \$10,000. Grant guidelines will be posted to www.colorarts.org on May 18. Eligibility is restricted to Colorado nonprofit organizations or state or local agencies that have received a CCA Grant to Artists and Organizations or YouthReach award in fiscal years 2007 through 2010. A list of eligible organizations will be posted to the CCA web site. The deadline is July 16, 2009.
3. **Sub-Grants through the Western States Arts Federation** – WESTAF is subgranting \$540,000 in ARRA funds, to support preserving full time staff positions at nonprofit organizations in the 13 Western states. Additional eligibility restrictions will apply and eligibility will vary by state, based on the state arts agency's eligibility requirements. The application process for Colorado organizations will coincide with the CCA's process, with the same deadline of July 16, 2009. The CCA and WESTAF will offer a joint application; to be considered for WESTAF funding, applicants to the CCA Recovery grant can elect to answer additional narrative questions, which will be related to WESTAF's grant criteria.
4. **Sub-Grants through the Denver Office of Cultural Affairs** – DOCA has applied to the NEA to be a subgrantor of between \$100,000 and \$250,000 in ARRA funds to support preservation of jobs in the arts in the City of Denver. Details are not yet available, but if awarded, DOCA hopes to post guidelines this summer on their web site at www.denvergov.org/createdenver.

In addition to the economic stimulus funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) available to state arts agencies and arts organizations through the National Endowment for the Arts, possible funding opportunities exist in other federal programs. Most federal agencies have developed their procedures for allocating ARRA funds. Information is available on the process for distributing funds, with most decisions being made at the state and local levels. The National Assembly of State Arts Agencies has compiled a list of suggestions and some Frequently Asked Questions at <http://www.nasaa-arts.org/>

1625 Broadway
Suite 2700
Denver, CO 80202
t 303.892.3802
f 303.892.3848
www.colorarts.org