



Next Step Fund Program Director

Job Description

Title: Next Step Fund Program Director

Reports To: Executive Director

Percent Time: 100%

Status: Part-time temporary, exempt, eligible for benefits

Duration: January – December 31, 2019

Salary: \$17,000

MRAC welcomes current qualified employees and applicants to apply for this position regardless of their race, color, religion, creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, marital status, national origin, status as a documented alien, or status as a qualified individual with a disability or protected veteran.

Organization Summary: The MRAC is a nonprofit organization serving formal and informal groups with annual arts programming expenses of less than \$400,000, and artists in Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott and Washington counties. The MRAC is one of eleven regional arts councils throughout the state of Minnesota. The regional arts councils are funded by an appropriation from the Minnesota Legislature, the Legacy Amendment Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund, and by The McKnight Foundation.

MRAC's mission is to increase access to the arts in 7-county metropolitan area communities by providing information, organizational support and grants. It is MRAC's vision that artists, arts organizations and arts activities thrive; that art is integrated into the fabric and identity of every community; and that public value of the arts is understood, acknowledged and acted upon by community members, leaders and policy makers. The organization's goals are to:

- Provide grant applicants and other constituents with clear, thorough, prompt and respectful service and assistance
- Maintain transparent decision-making processes and accessible public information
- Serve constituents with programs and services that reflect MRAC's mission and achieve its vision

Position Summary: The primary purpose of the Next Step Fund Program Director position is to develop, deliver and evaluate programs and services designed to provide project grant support to individual artists in the seven-county metropolitan area.

Responsibilities:

- Primary assigned annual grant program: Next Step Fund (80%)
 - Plan, program, deliver, administer and evaluate services to assigned annual program and accountability areas. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - Ongoing review of program guidelines
 - Program outreach
 - Organize and teach Application Workshops
 - Provide one-on-one grant writing assistance and feedback
 - Review applications for eligibility and completeness. Next Step has 400-500 applicants in one round per year.
 - Assist in panel recruitment
 - Lead panelist orientation sessions
 - Panel facilitation and support
 - Coordinate Board Panel Liaison reading selections and provide support to board members throughout the panel process
 - Plan, forecast and manage expenses within program budgets.
 - Maintain calendar and database for project tracking and management.
- Planning/Evaluation (15%)
 - Assist constituents in fully utilizing MRAC's programs and services with emphasis on the Next Step Fund.
 - Understand the developmental and programmatic needs of artists to ensure Next Step Fund program is relevant and effective.
 - Prepare and present preliminary and final grant round activity reports for MRAC staff and board of directors. Review final funding recommendations for each grant fund before board approval with Executive Director.
 - Prepare grant round activity reports for staff and board of directors
 - Prepare reports for McKnight grant requirements.
 - Overall program evaluation
- Other Related Duties as Assigned (5%)
 - Participate in monthly Racial Equity Task Force meetings and other ad hoc committees as assigned.
 - Participate in strategic planning meetings, and development of work plan to implement strategic plan.
 - Participate in weekly staff meetings.

Qualifications: This is an extraordinary opportunity for an individual to grow and further develop a proven program. The nature of problems encountered in this position are varied situations that require significant analysis or interpretation; general precedents and practices used, but may be modified. Outcomes are monitored by supervisor/manager; incumbent follows precedents and procedures, sets priorities, and organizes work within general guidelines.

Required Skills, Knowledge and Ability

- Bachelor's degree and at least three years program or organizational management experience in an arts, nonprofit, academic or business environment, or an equivalent combination of education and/or experience to total seven years.
- Paid or volunteer experience in three or more of the following areas: finance and operations, development, strategic planning, audience development, arts education, arts production or presentation, communications, volunteer management, and/or board relations.
- Computer proficiency, including use of email, database, spreadsheet, presentation, word processing, calendaring, google research, and web page applications.
- Ability to effectively communicate both verbal and written thoughts, ideas, and facts. Writes and presents information in a clear, concise and accurate way.
- Ability to be facilitative, not proscriptive, in style – nimble in working with groups of many styles at various stages of development.
- Experience working with diverse communities. Demonstrated respect for cultural inclusion, commitment to racial equity, the ability to be objective and supportive, a strong commitment to client service and relations are essential.
- Experience managing a budget, with ability to interpret written and financial information, and analyze data to support conclusions.
- Ability to read high volume of materials.

Preferred Skills, Knowledge and Ability

- Courses or advanced degree in business, arts administration, arts education, nonprofit or grants management.
- Knowledge of, or experience in a variety of artistic disciplines.
- Experience in developing and presenting training.
- Project management skills.
- Prior experience serving on a grants panel or administering grant programs.
- Computer experience with Excel, Foundant, Filemaker Pro, Keynote, Word, Wordpress, Acrobat, Google email, research and calendar.
- Experience in managing budgets between \$680,000 and \$1,500,000.