

Fay Slover Fund – Request for LOIs

September 2021

The mission of the Fay Slover Fund is to help create, sustain, and grow efforts to increase access to art in underserved communities. The Fund, established at the Boston Foundation in 2010, awards grants of up to \$25,000 to organizations and programs whose efforts support its mission. **Interested organizations throughout the United States and beyond are invited to submit a brief Letter of Interest (LOI) by Thursday, September 30, 2021**, as described further below.

Grants to date have supported independent nonprofit organizations, programs within existing community arts organizations, programs within other types of institutions, and collaborative efforts. Most programs that receive grants focus on the visual arts. Funds can be used for core program activities including staffing, technical assistance, or capacity-building. Grantees may reapply annually, and there is a total funding cap of \$75,000 (e.g., three years of funding at \$25,000 per year or smaller grants for a longer period). Grants have supported programs in cities and regions in California, Illinois, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, and the Washington, DC Metro area, as well as Italy and South Africa. Examples of programs supported by the Fund include:

- **Studio 6789 at Flower City Arts Center** – This photography and writing project engages urban youth in Rochester, NY. Middle school youth participate in a year-long, intensive photography and writing experience that provides creative, engaging programming, integrated learning and real world applications, greater community awareness, and supportive mentor relationships. Through expansion of the “Of the Community, By the Community, For the Community” program, photographs taken by participating teens are placed permanently in community organizations that serve economically disadvantaged residents, infusing these sites with art. The program reflects the creativity and vitality of Rochester youth.
- **PatioLive! at TeCo Theatrical Productions** (dba Bishop Arts Theatre Center) – Through this Dallas, Texas nonprofit, participating high school students collaborate with older adults as part of a creative aging program, PatioLive! Participants co-create and provide experiential education through service learning to address human and community needs. The program gives a voice to the voiceless, bridges the gap between generations, and contributes community art to support marginalized communities. It creates more opportunities for emerging artists, youth, and older adults, providing a vehicle for self-expression and healing.
- **Creating4Cleveland (C4C) at Cleveland Print Room (CPR)** – Through this nonprofit community darkroom and photographic arts center in Cleveland Ohio, C4C (1) fosters creation of artwork, giving local artists free access to resources and training in a nurturing, supportive environment, and (2) facilitates an artwork donation program for local artists,

placing high quality individual art works in government, social service, and education organizations. Donated works are permanently installed in the community, creating a rich experience for artists and community members.

- **Cameras in the Classroom at Outside the Lens (OTL)** – Through this nonprofit arts organization in San Diego, underserved youth learn photography, film, and digital media arts through hands-on projects exploring identity, family, community, the environment, and the world. OTL amplifies youth voices through these art forms, catalyzing change within themselves, their community and the world. OTL envisions a future where all youth have the access and education needed to understand, evaluate, and create media. Its flagship program, Cameras in the Classroom, is an in-school program that brings communication tools into classrooms across San Diego and beyond to prepare students to communicate in the emerging languages of images and digital media art. The program encourages storytelling and teaches students that participation in their community's future makes a difference. Participants present their photography at exhibitions where audiences can share and explore student work.

Fay Slover Fund Grant Priorities for 2021

The Fay Slover Fund will consider a small number of new funding opportunities in the fall of 2021, with the expectation of awarding grants in December. Priority will be given to community-based programs that:

- Engage youth and/or others with limited exposure to the arts
- Seek to create or expand programming and reach more people
- Work to amplify voices and advance equity in underserved communities
- Demonstrate significant support from sources other than the Fay Slover Fund
- Are well-positioned for long-term sustainability

Letters of Interest

The Fay Slover Fund is advised by an Expansion Committee, whose members serve as advisors to the Fund and review grant applications. With assistance from The Philanthropic Initiative (TPI), the Expansion Committee will consider brief letters of inquiry (LOIs) from interested organizations, and will then invite full proposals where there appears to be a strong fit. Nonprofit organizations that wish to submit an LOI may do so in the form of a 2-3 page letter describing:

- Program history, and, if relevant, relationship to governing organization
- The program's core activities, associated goals and objectives, and impact to date
- How the program addresses the Fay Slover Fund goals and priorities described above
- How a grant of up to \$25,000 would help to create, support, or expand the program

LOIs received by **Thursday, September 30, 2021** will be reviewed by the Expansion Committee, and the Committee will then invite a small number of full proposals for consideration later in the fall. Please send LOIs to Leslie Pine at lpine@tpi.org, and feel free to reach out to Leslie with any questions.