

New Guidelines Arts and Culture

The Nathan Cummings Foundation’s Arts and Culture Program guidelines build on our earlier efforts to sustain and share community-building models developed by small and mid-sized, culturally specific and community-based arts institutions. Our new objectives represent an expanded vision that acknowledges the roles that artists and cultural workers play in **stimulating social change**

and championing economic justice in both traditional and non-traditional venues. By addressing art through the lens of social justice, we will continue to affirm artists and arts institutions that value and encourage creativity, innovation and

risk-taking while fostering cross-cultural conversations that transcend race, ethnicity, class, age and geography. We will also support private, public and corporate policies that benefit artists, arts organizations and constituent communities; as well as cross-disciplinary strategies that align the arts community with others with similar or complementary interests.

Goal

To support artistic practices, programs and policies that encourage cross-cultural and multi-disciplinary collaborations, and give voice to the issues and experiences of under-represented communities, in order to build a stronger society.





OBJECTIVE 1

To support arts and cultural organizations partnering with community groups that engage in **responsive processes, collective problem solving, cross-cultural initiatives** or the education of a broader public about social justice issues and shared community concerns. These programs should have **national or multi-state impact** and might include: residencies; new works of performing art or exhibitions of visual art that have more than one committed venue; documentation initiatives that have commitments for comprehensive distribution plans; cross cultural and multi-state collaborations; and the dissemination of existing works that have resonance in other communities.

Note: Where policy affecting the arts may also have an impact on other programs, grants will be made through Interprogram Initiatives for Social and Economic Justice.

Strategies:

- To identify, support and document key projects that involve cultural institutions working collaboratively with multi-generational, multi-ethnic, multi-disciplinary and/or broad geographic communities in response to economic and social justice issue articulated by those communities;
 - To identify and support museums that have re-envisioned their institutions' relationships with underserved constituencies.
- Grantee selection for this program initiative will be made through a request for proposals process.** Unsolicited applications will not be accepted.
- To develop and support a communications strategy that includes the publication and dissemination of research that substantiates the importance of the arts in influencing social change; and the dissemination of information about collaborative projects that lead to effective public education as well as social and political action; and
 - To convene artists and arts administrators to foster information exchange, coalition-building, the development of collective strategies as well as to provide direct support.

OBJECTIVE 2

To defend against adverse public, private and corporate policies, arts censorship, and other **legal and social challenges that impact the wellbeing of the non-profit cultural community.**

Strategies:

- To identify and support arts policy organizations that facilitate discussion between policymakers and grass roots practitioners; and develop policy that is informed by research as well as evolving practices within the impacted communities.
- To identify interventions and practices that will help enable non-profit arts organizations to enter into relationships with corporations that are equitable and mutually rewarding and that affirm the values and mission of the arts organization.
- To support communications strategies, including convenings, research, the development of web pages as well as hardcopy publications that foster access, encourage the exchange of ideas, and educate the field about the state of the arts and the implications of policy decisions for the arts community.

New Guidelines Environment

Although the environmental movement has achieved many successes, the public still bears most of the cost of environmental degradation. Measures such as the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, and the National Environmental Policy Act, have been effective to a point, yet are not comprehensive enough to **deal with the overall threats to the environment and their impact**

on our health. Often specific corporate and other institutional interests, rather than environmental needs, prevail in environmental policies. Without sufficient countervailing forces, the increase in such influences on decision-makers and public

policy can lead to the undermining of the environment. The Environment program's accountability approach will therefore **seek to address the root causes of environmental degradation.** Funding priority will be given to projects with the potential of having state, multi-state, or national impacts.

Goal

To facilitate environmental justice and environmentally sustainable communities by supporting the accountability of corporations, governments, and other institutions for their environmental practices.





OBJECTIVE 1

To **facilitate the accountability of corporations, governments, and other institutions** for their environmental practices.

Strategies:

- To facilitate the development of public policies and other approaches by which corporations, governments and other institutions take responsibility for the real environmental costs and risks of their activities.
- To broaden public constituencies that will encourage corporations and other institutions to internalize the true environmental costs of their activities, by connecting environmentalists to public health, labor, religious, minority, economic development, science, business, youth, academic, social justice and other groups.

OBJECTIVE 2

To **facilitate environmental justice** by ensuring that communities, especially those vulnerable due to low- to moderate-socioeconomic status, race, or ethnicity, are protected from environmental degradation.

Strategies:

- To facilitate efforts which promote the environmental accountability of corporations, governments, and other institutions in communities, especially those vulnerable due to low- to moderate-socioeconomic status, race, or ethnicity.
- To increase public access to information and decision-making about environmental policies.

New Guidelines

Health

A nation's commitment to equal access to healthcare is a reflection of its commitment to equal opportunity for all. Wealth and income are the greatest determinants of health, which is also affected by the **social, psychological, spiritual, and environmental factors that have an impact on individuals, families, and communities**. Absent public and private policies that assure access to basic building blocks necessary to live a healthy life, the chasm between the health and wellbeing of society's most wealthy and more economically vulnerable constituencies widens. Although health factors that are inherited and exacerbated by low- to moderate-socioeconomic status cannot be completely undone by access to quality healthcare and a healthy environment, **increased access can ameliorate the physical and psychological consequences of social and economic injustice**.

The Foundation's commitment is to improve people's health and wellbeing, especially those who **confront barriers due to low- to moderate-socioeconomic status, race, ethnicity, and gender**. We define health broadly and include within our expanded view the link between physical health and the economic, social, environmental and psychological factors that affect individuals, families, and communities. Special attention will be given to efforts that **address the health disparities that exist between the rich and the poor**, build bridges between the common concerns of disparate constituencies, and recognize the strategic importance of employing a variety of approaches (coalition building, research, litigation, to name a few) to produce institutional change. Priority attention will be given to efforts that are national in scope and efforts that have the potential of having a multi-state or statewide impact and can be replicated.

Goal

To improve people's health and wellbeing, especially those who confront barriers due to low- to moderate-socioeconomic status, race, ethnicity, or gender; recognizing the link between physical health and the economic, social, environmental, psychological, and spiritual factors that affect individuals, families, and communities.



OBJECTIVE 1

To **assure access to quality healthcare, goods and services**, especially for those who confront barriers due to low- to moderate-socioeconomic status, race, ethnicity, or gender.

Strategies:

- To support efforts that reduce corporate, governmental, and other institutional practices that create barriers to quality health care, goods and services, especially those confronted by people as a result of their low-to moderate-socioeconomic status, race, ethnicity, or gender.
- To support efforts which increase access to and enhance end-of-life care, especially for those who confront barriers due to low- to moderate-socioeconomic status, race, ethnicity, or gender.

OBJECTIVE 2

To assure that people, especially those that are vulnerable due to low- to moderate-socioeconomic status, race, or ethnicity, can **grow up, live, and work in a healthy environment** and have access to products and food that have not been contaminated in ways that could undermine health.

Strategies:

- To support efforts that address corporate and other institutional practices which have a negative impact on the physical health of workers, especially low-income workers.
- To support efforts to prevent and to reduce corporate and other institutional practices which have a negative impact on health because they degrade the environment of communities, especially low-income communities and communities of color, or contaminate products and food in ways that could be injurious to health.



The Jewish Life and Values Program, reflecting the values of the prophet Micah, **promotes the ethics and practice of social justice** (*tzedec*)

and lovingkindness (*chesed*) as central values underlying contemporary Jewish life. This includes attention to the **ethical and spiritual dimensions of Jewish thought, worship, study and practice**, with a related focus on

effective strategies for activating these values by strengthening the capacity of the community to work effectively for social and economic justice, both in the United States and Israel.

New Guidelines

Jewish Life and Values

Goal

To extend the presence and influence of the values of tolerance, social justice (*tzedec*) lovingkindness (*chesed*), mutual respect, and ethical behavior within the Jewish world both to enhance Jewish life and to assist in the promotion of a more just society.



OBJECTIVE 1

To **promote a leadership and organizational culture** within key Jewish institutions that reflect these values.

OBJECTIVE 2

To **promote a Jewish spirituality and practice** that reflects these values.

OBJECTIVE 3

To promote these values by strengthening the capacity of Jews and the Jewish community to **engage with major issues of social and economic justice** and stewardship of the earth.

OBJECTIVE 4

To promote communication, understanding and partnerships between Jews and peoples of other faith traditions through **programs that focus on shared values and common goals**.

New Guidelines

Contemplative Practice

Goal

To promote the development and dissemination of contemplative practice programs – from all traditions – which address the foundation's core values: concern for the poor, disadvantaged and underserved; empowerment of communities in need; respect for diversity; and promotion of understanding across cultures.

OBJECTIVE 1

To **cultivate the development and teaching of contemplative practices** linked to engagement with areas of concern to the foundation.

OBJECTIVE 2

To enable the **teachers, practitioners and organizations devoted to contemplative practice** to make their work available as a resource for non-profit organizations devoted to social, economic and environmental justice.



New Guidelines

Interprogram Initiatives for Social and Economic Justice

Goal

To support social and economic justice, in order to encourage equitable and sustainable development that promotes democracy; as well as community, cultural, social, spiritual and individual wellbeing. Interprogram will advance this goal by supporting the exploration, development, and implementation of public policy, private efforts, and activities for institutional and systemic changes.

Interprogram Initiatives for Social and Economic Justice grants will be recommended for projects that meet elements of both of the following objectives, and are in support of, or in conjunction with, at least one of the Foundation's other program areas. Funding priority will be given to projects having impacts at the state, multi-state, or national level.

The technological, economic globalization and communications revolutions are causing transformations that create challenges to social and economic justice and the ability to foster equitable and sustainable economic growth that **promotes individual opportunity, social wellbeing and community.**

In addition to their many benefits, these transformations create economic disruptions, insecurities, inequalities, adverse environmental impacts, and health disparities, while sometimes truncating certain kinds of cultural development.

For the past three decades, the approach of public policy to these transformations has been a trend to encourage economic growth by deregulating markets, lowering taxes and shrinking government. Yet the consequences of these approaches sometimes compound and exacerbate the very problems they seek to solve with "economic growth." These approaches, along with the transformations they encourage, have led to a **real redistribution of economic and political power, affecting our culture and values, our communities, the quality of our lives, who receives the benefits, and who bears the risks and costs** of this economic growth. Such approaches give more influence and leverage over public policy to those with large monetary resources, such as large corporations, often potentially overshadowing the needs of other parts of society. Under such policy approaches, pressures of competition encourage these groups and those they influence, **to use their leverage to develop private and public strategies that maximize their share of the benefits, while putting as many of the risks and costs of their activities off on others**, whether they be on government, the community, the people or the environment. This **exacerbates inequities and insecurities of the less powerful**, and contributes to adverse cultural, social, environmental and health-related consequences.



The **accountability and countervailing power needed to balance** these institutions, their interests and influences, has been severely weakened over the past few decades, to the detriment of many individuals and families. An accountability approach would seek to have institutions, especially corporations, "internalize" the risks and costs that they create and from which they benefit. This approach would increase the ability of those who are adversely impacted to deal with these issues and would also **create appropriate incentives for any needed institutional and societal reform.**

Interprogram Initiatives for Social and Economic Justice would seek to create both the possibilities and demand for development of more systematic solutions to these problems, as well as the social basis needed for their implementation.



Objective 1

To **establish the accountability of economic, social or governmental institutions**, especially corporations, for the consequences and effects of their activities on the environment, and on people, their health, wellbeing, cultures, and communities.

Objective 2

To **address these social, political, economic, environmental, cultural or health issues in an integrated way** by:

- bringing together groups — often separated by narrow issue interests and by race, religion, gender, class, ethnicity, and national origin — into crosscutting constituencies based on common economic, social, and ethical concerns; and
- creating both the possibilities and the demand for development of more systematic solutions to these issues, as well as the social basis needed for their implementation.

To apply for a grant, you must be **recognized as tax-exempt under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code**. If you meet this requirement, you are welcome to send the Foundation a **two- to three-page** Letter of Inquiry that satisfies the guidelines of the Foundation.

Before submitting your Letter of Inquiry, please note that the **Foundation does not fund**: Individuals, Scholarships, Capital or Endowment Campaigns, Overseas, Specific Diseases, Local Synagogues or institutions with local projects, Holocaust related projects, Projects with no plans for replication, General support for Jewish education.

How to Apply for a Grant

With your two- to three-page Letter of Inquiry, please include **only** the following information:

1. Basic Organizational Information

include a brief statement of the organization's activities and history;
the organization's tax-exempt letter;

2. Contact Person

name, title, complete mailing address, e-mail address (if applicable),
telephone and fax numbers;

3. Grant Purpose

issues and problems the proposed project will address;

4. Key Personnel

names, titles, and qualifications of staff members who will be
involved in the project;

5. Budget

project and the total organization budget;

6. Request/Term

total dollar amount requested from the Foundation; length of time
for which funds are being requested;

7. Other Funding Sources

other funds raised and pending requests to other funders.

Our staff will review your Letter of Inquiry and respond promptly. Organizations whose projects fit most closely with the Foundation guidelines will be asked to submit a full application. There are two Board of Trustees grants meetings per year — in June and December. Most grant decisions are made during these board meetings.

Please address all Letters of Inquiry to:
The Nathan Cummings Foundation
475 Tenth Avenue, 14th Floor
New York, NY 10018
 212-787-7300 and 212-787-7377 (fax)
<http://www.nathancummings.org>

Program Transitions

