



Field Studies by Arts Service Organizations Rooted in Communities of Color

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

LETTERS OF INTENT DUE: March 23, 2023

PROPOSALS DUE: June 23, 2023

ArtsResearch@wallacefoundation.org

Please note there are two main changes to the 2023 Field Studies RFP:

- (1) We have broadened eligibility criteria for arts service organizations; and**
- (2) We are offering planning grants that are separate from implementation grants.**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Across the nation there are thousands of arts organizations that were founded by, for, and with communities of color. These organizations span artistic disciplines and include organizations serving various roles within, and providing numerous services for, their community/ies. Although there is more variation than likeness across these organizations—involving a range of factors including artistic focus, community served, location, purpose, organizational culture, and mission—research suggests that many have, in their founding missions and continuing practices, and at the core of their organizational strategy, a deep and intertwined commitment to excellence in artistic practice and production along with a strong community orientation (Halley & Valdez, 2000; Voss & Voss, 2021). “Community orientation” has been described, across the literature, as preserving or presenting the artforms of a particular racial, ethnic, or tribal group, supporting artists from the focus community/ies, developing the cultural workforce of that community, and advocating for the community within broader socio-political contexts, among other activities.

Arts service organizations rooted in communities of color play essential roles in the arts ecosystem as they connect, resource, advocate on behalf of, strategize with, and otherwise support artists and arts organizations of color.¹ They represent, support, and advocate for their communities’ cultural workers, organizations, artistic disciplines, and practices in broader national arts and culture conversations and make the case for the critical contributions of arts organizations of color to the field. These organizations also play central roles in documenting the scope, scale, focus, and contributions of their member or affiliated organizations (Bowles, 1993; Matlon et al., 2014; cf Driver, 2020).

¹For the purposes of this open call, the term ‘arts organizations of color’ describes organizations that were founded by and for communities of color. The Wallace Foundation recognizes that no one umbrella term can accurately represent the plurality and diversity of arts organizations that serve communities of color, including Black, Indigenous, Middle Eastern and Arab American, Latinx, and Asian American and Pacific Islander communities.

As a part of The Wallace Foundation's five-year initiative intended to support arts organizations rooted in communities of color as they explore strategies for achieving organizational well-being, The Wallace Foundation invites arts organizations operating as, or exercising functions of, arts service organizations (e.g., directly supporting and advancing arts organizations and artist networks of color) to propose research projects that answer important questions related to the arts communities they serve.

In this second round of Field Studies grants, we are broadening our definition of arts service organizations to encompass arts organizations that are engaged in functions more typically falling within the purview of arts service organizations of color. Thus, eligible organizations will be arts organizations that are:

- founded by, for, and with communities of color
- grounded in one or more artistic discipline
- exercising the functions of an arts service organization by strengthening the broader arts ecosystem by, for example:
 - providing professional development, resources, and networking opportunities for other arts organizations of color or for networks of artists of color
 - providing field research and information services
 - serving as a field advocate for artists or arts organizations of color
- leading or participating in networks or structures that provide the context for you to share and disseminate the results of your study with arts organizations or networks of color that face similar issues your study will address

This broadening of scope is meant to recognize the multiple roles and purposes many arts organizations of color play – for their artistic discipline, for their community, and for their peer organizations.

Please note that this RFP is not designed for entities that are primarily youth arts or arts education organizations, but rather for community-serving organizations, which may include youth. A separate youth arts program at Wallace will have research calls in the future.

Proposed studies should address key issues of importance to the work of arts service organizations founded by, with, and for communities of color. The Foundation invites arts service organizations to submit a proposal for one of three types of studies:

1. A research planning grant to support the development of a research plan for up to a one-year period (up to \$50,000)
2. A research implementation grant (up to \$250,000)
3. A research expansion grant, which proposes to scale up or refine an existing robust research design and implement an expanded research project (up to \$400,000)

2.0 ABOUT THE WALLACE FOUNDATION

Based in New York City, The Wallace Foundation is the philanthropic legacy of DeWitt and Lila Wallace, founders of the Reader's Digest. Wallace is one of the nation's 60 largest independent, charitable foundations. Our mission is to foster equity and improvements in learning and enrichment for young people and in the arts for everyone. We are a national foundation, supporting work across the United States without a focus on any one community or region.

The Wallace Foundation takes an unusual approach for a private foundation. Most of our work is carried out through large-scale, multi-year initiatives designed to accomplish dual goals. The first is to support our grantees (such as arts organizations) to create value for those they serve by developing and strengthening their work at the local level. Our second goal is to add value to the field as a whole by designing initiatives that address important unanswered policy and practice questions, commissioning researchers to document and analyze what is learned by Wallace grantees as they participate in the

initiative, and then sharing these findings with practitioners, policymakers and influencers in order to catalyze improvements more broadly. In this way, we aim to use the development of research-based insights and evidence as a lever to help institutions, beyond those we fund directly, enrich and enhance their work.

Our three focus areas are the arts, K-12 education leadership, and child and youth development. We conceptualize our initiatives as learning collaborations among the grantee organizations, researchers, technical assistance providers, and Wallace staff who together explore questions with implications for practice, policy, and research. Wallace staff, with experience and expertise in program, communications, and research, work collaboratively on all aspects of the initiative.

3.0 THE ARTS AT WALLACE

The Wallace Foundation has a long history of supporting arts organizations. Over the past 25 years, the Foundation has made grants totaling approximately \$335 million to more than 700 programs in the arts with an emphasis on building audiences, increasing accessibility, and strengthening community partnerships. In the 1990s and 2000s several initiatives supported arts organizations, community organizations, and artists to form partnerships and design new ways for arts organizations to engage with their communities and for communities to interface with the arts.

Over time, this work evolved to focus on strategies for audience engagement. Most recently, the 2015-2019 *Building Audiences for Sustainability* initiative focused on exploring approaches to reaching new audiences in ways that contributed to financial health. While summative research on this important work is not yet complete, practical lessons learned include the need to develop more nuanced understandings of target audiences and to more deeply understand the relationship between community relationships and organizational well-being.

Indeed, a study commissioned by Wallace last year found that financially high-performing organizations in the SMU DataArts database called out high quality programming standards, effective management practices, and a community orientation as the cornerstones of their success (Voss & Voss, 2020). In a follow-up study, interviews with organizational leaders of the highest performing arts organizations of color in the database found that these leaders emphasized the importance of a community orientation even more strongly, describing how community was built into their founding missions and was inseparable from their artistic programming standards of excellence (Voss & Voss, 2021). The Wallace Foundation's current initiative focusing on arts organizations and arts service organizations of color is intended to build on prior work, delving deeper into the particular contexts in which arts organizations and their service organizations operate and serve their communities.

4.0 FIELD STUDIES BY ART SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS ROOTED IN COMMUNITIES OF COLOR

In this request for proposals, Wallace expects to fund up to 10 arts service organizations, as defined in section 1.0 above, whose studies collectively will bring definition, depth, breadth, and perspective about the nature of the ecosystem of arts organizations founded by, with, and for communities of color.

We anticipate funding a mix of planning, implementation, and expansion grants. Planning grant proposals will describe a plan for developing a detailed research plan. Recipients of planning grants will be eligible, on a non-competitive basis, for implementation grants upon submission of a complete research plan that meets program criteria described below for implementation grants. Implementation grant proposals will include a detailed research plan, while expansion grant proposals will include results from a prior completed study and detailed plans for expanding on those results. All proposals, including planning proposals, must have identified a research partner, and include letters of support from all proposed partners.

Arts service organizations (ASO) possessing the eligibility criteria set forth in this RFP are asked to

partner with a researcher selected for their expertise in subject matter and methods relevant to the questions the art service organization seeks to answer (see 6.1 Research Team Eligibility and Qualifications below for criteria Wallace will use in its proposal review).

Proposals must be submitted by the ASO with the research partner listed as a subaward or consultant. Submitted proposals should reflect a highly collaborative relationship between the arts service organization and research partner throughout the research process, from development of the research questions and design to dissemination of findings. Each proposed study should describe how the ASO envisions the partnership work taking place.

Shortly after awards are made, we hope to bring together, virtually, each funded research partnership as a cohort for teams to learn from one another in the first of a series of year-round learning community opportunities. At this first meeting, the cohort will be joined by a small team of external research methods advisors and ASO mentors selected by Wallace based on grantees research designs. These program advisors and mentors will serve as a resource to each team, and will provide a technical review of, and methods advice for, each research design. 2022 Field Studies grant recipients will also be present. The purpose of this collaborative work is to maximize efforts to achieve meaningful data and documentation relevant to ongoing field-wide efforts to realize a more sustainable, equitable arts ecosystem.

4.1 Study Purpose

We invite arts service organizations and their research partners to identify and describe the issue(s) they want to address and questions they want to answer through their research project.

Proposed projects should be research studies and not evaluation studies. By “research studies” we mean studies that can advance both theory and practice, and whose results can be informative and/or portable to other settings and organizations. They should shed light on questions that matter to, and also beyond, the immediate submitting organization or community involved in the proposed study.

Topics of research projects could include, but are in no way limited to:

- Structural and contextual features that impact organizations, associations, networks, and collectives founded by and for artists and arts communities of color
- Indigenous organizational models and arts ecologies
- Cooperative fundraising, organizing, and economic models used by arts organizations of color
- Forms of and approaches to assessment of organizational impact by arts organizations of color
- Cross-sectoral work being conducted by arts organizations of color, such as organizational strategies and collaborations intersecting with the fields of community development and public health

The study’s purpose should include the kinds of data collection that are important to the arts service organization and why, and how the resulting research evidence will inform their own work, benefit their members or communities, and build out the knowledge base about the wider field of arts organizations and service organizations founded by, for, and with communities of color. Proposals should be explicit about how the planned research will inform each of these intended purposes.

4.2 Proposal Types

Proposals should, in the first sentence of the narrative, describe whether they are for research planning, implementation, or expansion grants.

4.2.1 Research planning grants

The Foundation will award planning grants of up to \$50,000 to arts service organizations and their research partner who need time to work together to refine their research questions and design. These proposals should be framed around a general research question, which will be refined and elaborated

during the planning process. Teams should make the case for the importance of the question, and how answering it will impact the field. Proposals must include a structured plan for how the research questions and design will be developed—including describing (a) the issues or questions that you need to address together in order to finalize a plan and (b) the structures (teams, meetings, timeline) you will follow to develop it. The final research design you will develop during your planning year should answer the questions/elements described for Research Implementation Proposals in Section 6.2. Qualifications of the partners and evidence of mutual shared interest and respect within the partnership will be important considerations in proposal review.

4.2.2 Research implementation grants

The Foundation will award research implementation grants of up to \$250,000 to arts service organizations and their research partner to conduct a study involving data collection, analysis, and reporting. These proposals should include a review of the literature that makes the case for the need for the study, detailed research questions, and a detailed research design and plan. Proposed projects may employ qualitative and/or quantitative research methods, with a wide variety of study types acceptable based on the study context, identified organizational and field knowledge gap and need, and questions posed. Section 6.2 below lists all required elements for this type of research grant.

4.2.3 Research expansion grants

The Foundation will award research expansion grants of up to \$400,000 to arts service organizations and their research partner to expand completed research projects to include new or more participants, to delve deeper into a topic, and/or to involve new components. These proposals should include a detailed research plan, along with the rationale for the study and its expansion in terms of scale, depth or additional components, how results will be used, and how they will be disseminated. Proposals should make clear how the results of the prior research have been used in the field, and how the expansion will enhance that use. Section 6.2 below lists all required elements for this type of research grant.

4.3 Deliverables

Grant proposals should describe the deliverables their research projects are intended to produce for the arts service organization and for the field. For planning grants these suggested deliverables will be hypothetical, pending the completion of the planning process. Research implementation and expansion grants should have more definition and indicate the anticipated timeline for these deliverables and how the research team anticipates the deliverables being used. Deliverables might include reports, infographics, toolkits, videos, podcasts, research briefs, scholarly publications, and other forms of communication.

4.4 Research and Equity

Wallace views equity as embedding fairness in the formal and informal systems, structures, and practices of our society, giving all people the opportunities and supports necessary to reach their full potential as human beings. The principles that guide us in our equity journey include:

- Our work foregrounds racial equity but is not limited to it. We are concerned with the marginalization of people based on any element of their identity.
- We believe achieving equity requires constructively addressing historical, structural, and systemic causes of racial and other forms of inequity and why they exist.
- Specific definitions of equity will vary from one context to another. As a funder, we are careful to avoid imposing a single definition on grantees.

Wallace is also committed to supporting research that is designed and conducted with and for equity. To inform strategies for change, research proposals should use strength-based approaches and be designed to shed light on structures, systems, processes, or practices that produce or reproduce inequities or overcome them. Research itself should be equity-centered—including partnerships, processes, and

methods that center the voices and perspectives of communities that would stand to use or benefit from the research. Research teams should include principal investigators and other senior intellectual contributors with relevant lived experiences. Theoretical frameworks should be informed by a recognition of systemic forms of exclusion or marginalization. Research methods, from data collection to analysis, should clearly articulate how the use of such frameworks will lead to new insights and understanding at both a practical and conceptual level, what the limitations of the methods are, and how they can support the development of strength-based change strategies. Incentives and recognition should be provided for all research participants.

5.0 COLLABORATION, COMMUNICATION, DISSEMINATION

All Wallace Foundation-funded initiatives have extensive collaboration, communication, and dissemination activities. **Please review this section carefully so that your proposal can appropriately budget for activities and requirements described in this section, and that, if awarded a research grant, you are aware of program expectations.**

5.1 Research Learning Community

Funded research teams will join a national community of arts service organizations and research partners seeking to advance their work and field understanding of arts organizations of color. Over the duration of the grant period, Field Study grantees will exchange learnings with other grantees in their cohort and on a cross-cohort basis, and obtain support from program advisors and mentors. While the content and frequency of learning opportunities will be refined with feedback from funded teams, we anticipate at minimum the following:

- At least two meetings per year between cohort members to exchange organizational and research updates, and to support community-building within the cohort
- At least one meeting per year with research methods advisors and ASO mentors, with additional meetings depending on project needs

5.2 Meetings, Travel, and Research Updates

Proposers should budget time and effort for the following program activities:

- **Virtual Meetings.** For your budgeting purposes we anticipate that meetings could include as many as the following:
 - Two annual 90-minute learning community meetings with other initiative grantees
 - Four 90-minute meetings with research methods advisors and ASO mentors to provide grantees with research guidance and support, with more meetings expected during the first year of the project
 - Monthly 60-minute meetings with your Wallace research officer
 - Two 60-minute meetings, one with Wallace staff to preview findings and one with relevant professional audiences to discuss results
- **Travel.** You are responsible for budgeting all travel costs for your team—including meetings at Wallace, initiative-wide learning communities, researcher specific learning community meetings, and all data collection activities. Please allow for in-person participation in meetings and convenings, as well as travel to study sites. This assumption is subject to change following federal and state public health guidelines.
 - Budget travel costs to send a team of one to three individuals to attend one ASO Field Study-specific learning community meeting each year
 - Budget travel costs for site visits/data collection and dissemination activities as relevant to your plan

- **Written Project Updates.** Proposers should budget time each year for developing and submitting the following updates for Wallace Foundation internal purposes:
 - A short monthly email update listing (in bullet form) research activities of the prior month, plans for the following month, and any challenges or changes that have arisen
 - For implementation and expansion grants, semi-annual analytic memos describing emerging findings or questions

5.3 Publications

Wallace undertakes extensive communications efforts to share lessons from its initiatives, both on its own and with the arts service associations and issue organizations with which it partners. In 2020, research reports on arts organizations were downloaded nearly 46,000 times from the Foundation’s website.

Public-Facing Dissemination Materials. Public-facing dissemination materials (e.g. reports, research briefs, infographics, toolkits, videos, podcasts, etc.) commissioned as part of the projects described in the RFP will serve as the core of the Foundation’s communications about this aspect of the initiative. Generating and disseminating knowledge that can benefit the field more broadly is a crucial aspect of the Foundation’s philanthropic strategy. Wallace therefore expects that the publication contents will not only be rigorously researched but also written or presented in an accessible tone and manner appropriate to our target audience of practitioners, policymakers, funders, and other non-academics interested in the arts.

Wallace anticipates that grantees may produce multiple types of dissemination materials, certain of which may be more appropriate for specific audiences, and does not expect or commit to posting all of these materials on its website. However, we ask that each study produces one public-facing report that details questions, methods, and findings for practitioner audiences. To ensure that reports reach the widest possible audience, we ask you to build in budget and time to submit the report to Wallace’s established editorial review process. Wallace editorial review criteria relate to clarity, claims being supported by evidence, organization of argument, and non-partisanship. This approximately twelve-week editorial review process will produce, for your consideration, comments and suggestions aligned to the four criteria. We also request that you include time and budget for working with a Wallace writer to produce a two-page derivative research brief for the report.

Our editorial review seeks to support rather than replace authors’ own editorial review and quality control. As a result, we assume that drafts of publications will be fact-checked, copy-edited, and proofread prior to submission to Wallace. Crucially, we ask that teams budget editorial and graphics time to prepare drafts for non-academic audiences. We expect authors to factor in the related costs when they make their publication plans. We invite any questions from applicants about our editorial review.

Academic Papers. If relevant, Wallace asks that proposals include related budgeted time for teams to develop academic papers resulting from research efforts. The Foundation expects researchers will share drafts with their partner arts service organizations and others, as appropriate. Please include, as a budget item, costs for making publications open access.

6.0 NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO SUBMIT AND SUBMITTING YOUR PROPOSAL

If you intend to submit a proposal, **we ask that you email us a 1-page statement of intent on or before March 23, 2023.** We will share with those who notify us of their intent any subsequent relevant information, including clarifications that emerge through responding to questions from the field. Send emails (no attachments) to ArtsResearch@wallacefoundation.org declaring your intention to submit. Your email should further include: (i) the names, organizations, and emails of any persons who you would like us to send future information to related to this RFP; (ii) the type of research grant (planning,

implementation, or expansion) you intend to apply for; and (iii) any questions you have about the RFP. You are welcome to share ideas about what you plan to propose if you would like preliminary feedback from Wallace. We also encourage you—if you have any doubts—to describe to us why you believe you qualify as an arts service organization for purposes of this RFP so that we can share with you any questions we feel you should address in your proposal to clarify your status to reviewers.

Please note that submitting a statement of intent is not required in order to submit a subsequent proposal. However, we encourage you to submit these letters so that we can share additional information that may assist you in preparing a successful proposal. If you submit a statement of intent by March 23, 2023, you will also receive notification on how to sign up for office hours to discuss your proposed project with a member of the Wallace Research team.

6.1 Research Team Eligibility and Qualifications

Arts service organizations responding to this request for proposals should demonstrate the following qualifications:

- Through mission, organizational leadership, and communities served, evidence that they have been founded by, with, and for communities of color
- A history of serving the function of an arts service organization; in other words, how all or part of their work is focused on advancing and supporting the broader arts ecosystem of arts organizations of color and artist networks of color.
- Evidence that they lead or are a part of existing structures or networks where what they learn through their proposed project will be disseminated to and shared with others who are grappling with similar issues that the study will address.

Research partners should demonstrate the following qualifications:

- Experience studying arts organizations focused on presenting or advancing art work and practices from communities or community-based organizations of color
- Research and analytical skills appropriate to the project and proposed research designs
- History of producing publications and/or other dissemination material relevant to the research design and focus
- Demonstrated experience working with diverse stakeholders on issues of equity and culture
- Experience working with arts organization directors and leaders
- Excellent project management, writing, publication, and communication skills

6.2 Proposal Requirements, Selection Criteria, and Review Timeline

Research Planning Grants (up to \$50,000 for up to 1 year)

In no more than 10 pages, single spaced, 11 pt font, please provide:

1. An introduction to your organization, its mission, purpose, and stakeholders. In this section, directly address your organization's eligibility for this call and how it meets the criteria described above.
2. A description of the issue(s) and related question(s) that you would like to study. Why is this question important to your organization? How will it be used to advance the needs of the communities you serve? How might addressing this question advance the larger arts ecosystem? What is already known about this topic, and how will what you would be learning through your proposed project build on this existing knowledge?

3. How you plan to work with your research partner to refine your question(s) and develop a detailed research plan. In this section, please describe key activities that you expect to undertake as part of your research planning process, which may include conducting background research or piloting data collection to inform the design and approach of a detailed research plan.
4. The general research approach you are interested in pursuing in the research study. In this section, please describe key activities that you might undertake as part of implementation of the study, including anticipated or potential forms of data collection (for example, survey, focus groups, interviews), and any initial hopes and plans for data analysis, data use, and dissemination along with pandemic-related contingency plans, if relevant.
5. Qualifications of key members of the project team. What experiences and qualifications prepare your team and the organizations leading the project to engage in this project? Describe who will lead or participate in the proposed activities and their roles in the project. Use this section to describe your research partner's qualifications for undertaking the proposed research.
6. To the extent not answered above, your organization's prior experience, if any, in conducting or commissioning research. How have you used prior research, and what lessons have you learned that you would now hope to leverage or avoid?
7. References—References do not count toward the page limit.

Research Implementation Grants (up to \$250,000 for up to 2 years)

In no more than 15 pages, single spaced, 11 pt font, please provide:

1. An introduction to your organization, its mission, purpose, and stakeholders. In this section, directly address your organization's eligibility for this call and how it meets the criteria described above.
2. The need your study addresses, referencing the existing research literature as well as local and field needs expressed in practitioner communities. How will your study address an important knowledge gap for practice and in the literature? Use this section to also address why this study is important to your organization and how you intend to use study findings to advance your organization's work and the arts communities you serve.
3. The theoretical and conceptual frameworks you will draw upon in the design, conduct, and analysis of your study.
4. A detailed research plan (this should be the bulk of your proposal) including:
 - Research questions
 - Research methodology
 - Data collection sources and methods
 - Data analysis plans
 - Pandemic-related contingency plans, for data collection or any other element of the research, if relevant

Please include a table making clear the links between your research questions, data sources, analytic plan, and deliverables.

5. Research deliverables, including intended audience, intended use, and dissemination strategies.

6. Qualifications of key members of the project team. What experiences and qualifications prepare your team and organizations to lead this study? Describe who will lead or participate in the proposed activities and their roles in the project.
7. References—References do not count toward the page limit.

Research Expansion Grants (up to \$400,000 for up to 2 years)

In no more than 15 pages, single spaced, 11 pt font, please provide:

1. An introduction to your organization, its mission, purpose, and stakeholders. How do you typically use data or research-based evidence in your work? Please also use this section to directly address your organization's eligibility for this call and how it meets the criteria described above.
2. A description of your existing study, and what has been learned from it. How have you used the study results, and what do you propose to do to expand it, and why? Why is it important to your organization? How will it be used to advance the needs of the communities you serve? How might expanding the study advance the larger arts ecosystem?
3. The need your proposed expansion study addresses, referencing the existing research literature as well as local and field needs expressed in practitioner communities. How will your study address an important knowledge gap for practice and in the literature?
4. The theoretical and conceptual frameworks you will draw upon in the design, conduct, and analysis of your study.
5. A detailed research plan (this should be the bulk of your proposal) including:
 - Research questions
 - Research methodology
 - Data collection sources and methods
 - Data analysis plans
 - Pandemic-related contingency plans, for data collection or any other element of the research, if relevant

Please include a table making clear the links between your research questions, data sources, analytic plan, and deliverables.

6. Research deliverables, including intended audience, intended use, and dissemination strategies.
7. Qualifications of key members of the project team. What experiences and qualifications prepare your team and organizations to lead this study? Describe who will lead or participate in the proposed activities and their roles in the project.
8. References—References do not count toward the page limit.

Proposal Attachments (for all proposals)

Please also attach, as separate documents not counted toward the page limit:

1. A detailed line-item budget in Excel format. Include full budgets for any subcontracts. Wallace allows a 20% indirect rate on all direct costs.

2. A budget justification briefly explaining each budget line in the Excel document. Please be sure to attend to rationale for honoraria, incentives, or consulting fees. Wallace encourages proposers to provide adequate incentives to research participants.
3. A table listing all senior staff, across all organizations represented in your team, with FTE dedicated to the project and their role or part in the study.
4. Resumes of senior staff or consultants named in your budget. Please limit resumes to 1-4 pages per person.
5. Letters of support from each of your named partners. Letters need to indicate that the partner is committed to the purpose and the role assigned to them.
6. One or two examples of prior research publications/dissemination products produced by your research partner that are relevant to your proposed project.
7. A project timeline.

With the exception of the Excel budget, all of the attachments should be submitted as a single PDF. In fairness to others, we will not review any materials not listed above. Complete proposals are due to Wallace by the end of your day on June 23, 2023. Please send to ArtsResearch@wallacefoundation.org.

6.3 Proposal Selection Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated using the following criteria:

- The study's ability to advance understandings on arts organizations of color, arts service organizations of color, the contexts in which they operate, and how these learnings will enrich the evidence base and provide actionable guidance to you and/or the field
- Quality of the research design in its ability to answer the research questions. For planning proposals, the quality of the process that will be used to develop the design, and the proposed methods and methodological experience of the research partner.
- Qualifications of the project team, including both the arts service organization and research partner(s)
- Quality of the partnership, including depth of engagement of the arts service organization throughout the research process
- Depth of conceptualization and integration of equity into proposed plans
- Relevance, use, and timeliness of the proposed research deliverables for their intended audiences
- Budget

6.4 Review Timeline

The 2023 RFP timeline is as follows:

- March 23: Letters of Intent due
- April: Office Hours with Wallace Research team
- June 23: Proposals due
- July-September: Proposals reviewed
- October: Grantee notification of awards

Please note that this timeline is subject to change.

Questions about this RFP can be sent to ArtsResearch@wallacefoundation.org

References

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