

In regards to the 3 years of financial statements, we have only been around for 1 year and are filing our first 990 this year. Since we have no official financial statements to provide, what kind of information would you like us to submit instead?

Please provide available financial information that will provide the proposal review committee a sense as to the financial stability of your organization. An example might be a simple spreadsheet showing yearly total income, total expenses and operating surplus/deficit annually for as many years possible (apparently 1 year in this case), up to most recent three years.

In regards to the financial references, what kind of references are you looking for and from what types of organizations or businesses?

Financial references could come from a bank, credit union, or similar organization or fiscal agent that your organization is partnered with. In lieu of financial references, references familiar with work your organization has completed similar to the proposed scope of work, are acceptable.

Is the 'Inspiring Opportunities with the Arts' portion of this work contingent upon the NEA grant?

No. The Inspiring Opportunities with the Arts capacity building initiative is to show participants how to integrate the arts, community health, economic development and transportation into placemaking. The overall project scope may be reduced if NEA funding is not awarded. Without the NEA funding, the intent is to be able to deliver all or most of the tasks and deliverables for phase 1 identified on page eight of the RFP. If NEA funding is awarded, the intent is to deliver the tasks and deliverables identified in both phases 1 and 2 on page eight of the RFP.

Is there a funding strategy in place should the NEA Our Town grant not pan out?

Yes. A funding strategy is already in place to provide more than the NEA required 50 percent overall project match.

What do you see as the connection between the work in Ottumwa and the statewide work? For example, is the work in Ottumwa meant to inform the statewide work?

The work in Ottumwa connects to the statewide work in two ways. First, the training in Ottumwa should serve as a train-the-trainer program on creative placemaking, so that knowledge of creative placemaking is provided to Main Street directors, community health professionals, transportation officials, and community development specialist that work across Iowa. Second, the implementation of one or more creative placemaking projects in conjunction with the Ottumwa training will provide a hands-on opportunity for trainees from across Iowa to get hands-on creative placemaking experience.

Assuming the consultant were retained for more than one year, would you see the work beyond June 2018 to be the same or similar to that in 2017?

It is not currently anticipated that a similar large-scale training and hands-on implementation project will take place in 2018. If the National Endowment for the Arts Our Town funding is received, the funding must be used and the project completed within approximately one year from the August 2017 start date.