



CREATIVE COMMUNITY FELLOWS PROGRAM

National Arts Strategies believes that arts and culture are vital to community life. We also believe that community is vital to arts and culture. We've seen that the leaders who thrive are the ones who understand and connect with their communities. They partner with other local organizations and take part in civic initiatives. Most importantly, they listen to community members. This kind of connectivity and relevance is the key to sustainability.

With the support of The Kresge Foundation, we've built the *Creative Community Fellows* program for leaders working at the intersection of culture and community. These individuals are using culture to respond to local needs and contribute to healthy neighborhoods. We will give them tools, training and access to others working in this space. This combination will fuel their visions for community change, sparking new ideas and helping put them into action. We will also provide a platform for Fellows to connect their work to their communities and to the field. This will create a global dialogue about the ways in which culture can restore and animate communities.

The Creative Community Fellows program, presented in partnership with the University of Pennsylvania, incorporates a residential and an online track but we are creating a single, unique community of entrepreneurs. All Fellows enter the program with an idea for a cultural project that responds to a problem they want to solve in their communities.

PROGRAM DATES

Application open

March 26 - May 7

Residential convening

July 27-August 3, 2014

Distance learning

Fall 2014

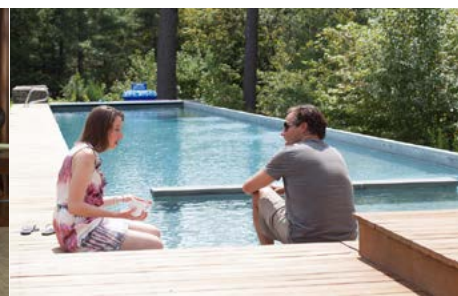
Funder feedback session

January 2015

This program is the result of our partnership with the following incredible institutions:



To learn more or apply, go to artstrategies.org/creative_community_fellows.





RESIDENTIAL TRACK

The residential track brings 22 entrepreneurs together under one roof for a week of learning and fostering connections. Each day, mentors, educators and the NAS team lead workshops that help fellows think about how to move their projects forward. The group will benefit from the network, sharing ideas and experiences in a remote, retreat-like setting that encourages openness, collaboration and connection. Following this session, Fellows will have access to online tools, lessons and discussion to help them further their projects.

Fellows will come together six months later for a two-day feedback session, where they will have the opportunity to make their pitches to national funders who support creative placemaking initiatives. This is a rare opportunity to engage in face-to-face conversations with funders, cultivate relationships and build support for their projects.

ONLINE TRACK

We have designed an online track for 28 program Fellows to accommodate entrepreneurs who may not be able to travel. We will provide them with online tools, lessons and discussion to help them design, lead and pitch their projects. Online Fellows will work with NAS, their individual mentors and the residential Fellows to help test and refine their ideas throughout the program. Fellows will share those ideas online, so that their community stakeholders, other innovators and leaders in the arts and cultural field can engage in an online conversation around the progression of each project. Three fellows participating in the online track will have the opportunity to participate in the in-person feedback session. Those not attending that session will be able to present their pitches and receive funder feedback online.

All 50 Fellows will connect online as a single community, sharing monthly updates on their projects' progress and providing feedback on others' updates. They will also use this online space to share project pitches and get peer feedback. Following the feedback sessions, Fellows will have the opportunity to create a crowd-source campaign to fund their projects.

ELIGIBILITY

- Cultural entrepreneurs dedicated to creating healthy neighborhoods
- Approximately 25-40 years old
- Curious, open & collaborative
- From urban, suburban, rural or international communities
- Do *not* have to be associated with an organization
- Know the community problem you want to solve employing culture as an agent in the solution

PROGRAM TUITION

All tuition, including lodging and meals is completely underwritten. **Fellows are only responsible for their transportation.**

CONTACT

For more information contact **Sunny Widmann** at swidmann@artstrategies.org or 571-482-5789.

To learn more or apply, go to artstrategies.org/creative_community_fellows.

