



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL



**NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS
EDUCATION LEADERS INSTITUTE**

**JULY 26 - 28, 2010
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**

**CALL FOR STATE TEAMS
DEADLINE – JANUARY 15, 2010**

ISSUED BY THE
ILLINOIS ARTS COUNCIL

A. STATEMENT OF INTENT

The Education Leaders Institute (ELI) supports the design of K-12 education with arts at the core through pioneering thinking and intensive dialogue with national leaders. Established by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), ELI brings together school leaders, legislators, policy makers, educators, consultants, and scholars to envision a healthy national education environment founded on powerful arts education programs. This project enables states to share their challenges on specific topics and receive feedback and insight from one another, while drawing on national experts from fields beyond arts education. By striving to make powerful, sustainable, and thriving arts education systems throughout the nation, participating states strengthen general education for all children.

B. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

ELI allows for innovative partnerships and a national, collegial network to build towards a healthy national education environment. State teams will leave ELI with a vision for arts education in their state. In the 2010 competition, up to five states will be awarded participation.

This environment for thought, learning, and reflection will allow participants to discuss visions of sustainable arts education and debate design principles that guide education throughout the state. In addition to state teams, speakers from various fields (not limited to arts education) will provide expert resources to the teams. Sessions will be designed for guided subject- and state-specific discussions.

ELI emerged from NEA Ohio's School Leaders Institute and best practices from NEA's Mayors' Institutes on City Design (MICD). The success of MICD has led the NEA to develop NEA Governor's Institutes, as well as NEA Education Leaders Institutes. Like MICD, the structure of ELI is a series of symposia, but related to education with arts learning as a foundation. To date, nineteen states have participated in ELI.

ELI participants will:

- Explore ways to strengthen educational leaders' support of the arts;
- Share a common framework through a series of readings to be completed prior to the event;
- Design new systems to support general education with arts as a foundation;
- Create a network dedicated to an ongoing definition of education leadership in which arts has a firm foundation;
- Build new teams of influence for systemic change to include colleagues who have not been traditionally in the arts;
- Begin to articulate a mission and a call to action specific to each state;
- Contribute to the national conversation on building robust arts education systems to contribute to, complement, and deepen American education.

During the Institute, "team coaches" will work with state teams to facilitate their process, by encouraging them to prototype new ideas, while providing them with informational support, educational expertise, and encouragement as they examine existing challenges. "Team coaches"

work with the ELI Planning Team to tailor each institute to the needs and interests of the participating state teams.

NEA partners with the Illinois Arts Council (IAC) who directs and produces ELI. A professional evaluation firm conducts an independent assessment of the sessions, providing feedback on all meeting aspects and helping track outcomes resulting from ELI.

In 2010, ELI will take place in Chicago on July 26 to 28. Participants will be required to arrive on the afternoon of July 25. Travel and lodging costs for state teams will be covered by the hosting agencies. Transportation and housing information will be provided to state teams that are accepted to ELI.

C. THE PARTICIPANTS – STATE TEAMS

Teams from up to five states will be selected from a Request for Proposals. State teams may include from five to six members. Team members should represent diversity of professional experience, including but not limited to general education, arts learning, and educational philosophy. Team members should also be able to effect change in state education and arts communities. State teams are strongly encouraged to include participants with contrasting education philosophies and practices.

Successful applicants will include individuals with the following characteristics:

- Representation of intellectual and practical perspectives from diverse backgrounds in education, particularly arts education, geography, culture and heritage, economics, and other associated sectors;
- Ability and authority to lead towards and effect positive change;
- Interest in being a learner; and
- Willingness to engage in creative and possibly controversial conversations and debates.

Applicants are urged to include individuals who, first and foremost, have a track record of making thoughtful, creative, and provocative contributions to conversations on policies. Team members must represent and have the potential to reach diverse populations, especially those whose opportunities to experience the arts are limited by geography, ethnicity, economics, or disability. State teams must select a team leader to serve as a liaison with ELI staff and their state team members.

Applicants should consider including the following when composing their teams:

- The governor, lieutenant governor or governor's selected representative;
- The chief state officer of the state education agency;
- The arts education director from the state education agency;
- The executive director or arts education director from the state arts agency;
- An elected official or a designee who is a senior-level policy advisor;
- A school-based educator;
- A community-based educator;
- A school board member;
- Youth representative;

- A business or corporate leader who is entrepreneurial and active in the local community;
- A teaching artist or practicing artist;
- Other members appropriate to the state team’s composition.

D. APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

Nonprofit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3), U.S. organizations; units of state or local government; and tribal governments are eligible to apply. Applicants may be nonprofit organizations, local arts agencies, service organizations, higher education institutions, and other organizations that can help advance the goals of NEA through the Education Leaders Institute. States that have participated in a previous ELI are not eligible to apply.

E. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Applicants should use the following checklist to assemble a complete proposal. Submit the original proposal with original signature on the cover page and eight copies of the entire proposal to include copies of the cover page. Unselected applicants to the RFP for previous ELIs may submit a proposal similar to the original with updated information on team members and other areas as applicable. **Applicants are required to submit documents with single space typing, 12-point font, and one-inch margins.**

1. Applicants must complete the Cover Page at the end of this RFP:
 - Enter state team members’ names and contact information. If the Team Leader¹ is other than the one listed on the second sheet of the Cover Folio, please note this on the first sheet.
 - Please do not substitute your own format for this Cover Page.
2. (Maximum two pages) Proposal narrative describing in detail the approach to select active participants for ELI, including:
 - Process of selecting state team members.
 - Background of state team members (include a one-paragraph biography of each team member, the rationale for his/her inclusion, and the role he/she will play on the team and at ELI).
 - Process of the team members’ participation in the preparation of the proposal, including the selection of the challenge to be described in #4 below.
 - History of commitment to arts education. (**NOTE:** The creation of a successful state arts education program is **not** a requisite selection criterion.)
3. (Maximum one page) Background information of the applicant state to include the following:

¹ The Team Leader serves as the liaison between the state team members and ELI staff, and is responsible for coordinating all requested and required documents and activities throughout the pre-ELI process.

- Education demographics of the state: # public school districts; # school-age children; % urban/suburban/rural; demographic composition; % English language learners (ELL); % special education.
 - Legislative information regarding arts education: state standards, graduation requirement, teaching licensure.
 - History of arts education for K-12 populations.
4. (Maximum two pages) Description of an actual critical education (not limited to arts education) issue confronting the state. This will serve as the case study to be examined within ELI. The successful description will demonstrate the ability to frame an issue that is determined to be a challenge within the state, and would include the following components:
 - Introduction of the key issue to be examined, the environment in which the issue occurred, and the stakeholders affected by said issue.
 - Description of the key issue regarding its characteristics such as historical context, strengths and weaknesses, and relevant actions to date.
 - Framing of the question to be asked at ELI.
 5. Statements of intellectual commitment written and signed by each team member, not to exceed 200 words for each statement, describing the member's reason for attending ELI and his/her perspectives on the challenge named. Divergent and non-traditional perspectives are not only accepted, they are welcomed. Team Leaders will collect these paragraphs to include in the proposal.
 6. Statement of attendance commitment signed by the Team Leader on his/her official stationery on behalf of the team to (a) ensure that all team members will attend if the state is selected; and (b) prepare for ELI with the reading of prescribed texts and other materials to frame the context of ELI, selection to be determined.

Submission must be received by January 15, 2010 and mailed to:

Illinois Arts Council
 Attn: Tatiana Gant
 Director, Arts-in-Education Programs
 100 West Randolph Street
 Suite 10-500
 Chicago, IL 60601-3298

Questions may be directed to tatiana.gant@illinois.gov or 312/814-6765.

F. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

Proposals received in response to this solicitation will be evaluated by a Review Committee composed of representatives of the NEA, the IAC, and national advisors. State teams whose proposals are determined the best to fulfill the intent of the Education Leaders Institute will be selected. The review will consider the following:

1. The team's knowledge of the education environment and access to key educators, policy makers, legislators, school and community leaders, and arts professionals within their

- states as demonstrated by previous activities in the required case study and team members' backgrounds. (15 points)
2. The team's ability to craft a compelling question or questions to be addressed at ELI. (15 points)
 3. The team's knowledge of and engagement with education issues and challenges, ability to evaluate obstacles to excellence in arts education, experience in participating in conversations and debates, and commitment to learning and innovation in an education environment with the arts at the core. (20 points)
 4. The degree to which the team's proposal demonstrates an understanding of the conceptual foundation of the ELI and commitment to the ELI process. (15 point)
 5. The team's ability to craft and submit, in advance of ELI, documents that illustrate critical and creative thinking about a difficult state-specific general education or arts education issue. (25 points)
 6. The team's composition and sectors represented correspond with the requirements as described under Section C and reflects the diversity in their states. (10 points)

G. SELECTION NOTIFICATION INFORMATION

The Review Committee shall review and select state teams from the pool of applicants and shall recommend them to the NEA Arts Education Director for final decision. The NEA will also consider the overall representation of state applicants to compose ideal, complementary cohorts and to reflect the diverse national demographics of the U.S. and its territories. Recommended applicants shall be notified by March 15, 2010. States that are not selected for this ELI are strongly encouraged to apply for subsequent ELIs.

COVER PAGE
MEMBERS NAMES AND CONTACT

Complete these forms as the first two pages of the application. Do not recreate this form. These forms are formatted to allow text to be entered. Please note that the completed form cannot be saved. Print out the completed form for the proposal and your files.

CONTACT PERSON IF DIFFERENT FROM TEAM LEADER:

Name:

Title:

Address:

Phone:

E-mail:

NAME OF AUTHORIZING OFFICIAL:

Title:

Agency:

Signature of Authorizing Official:

Date Signed:

TEAM LEADER:

Name:

Title:

Address:

Phone:

E-mail:

TEAM MEMBER:

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