Program Overview

With the support of Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, The Collins Foundation, The Ford Family Foundation, Meyer Memorial Trust, James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation, M. J. Murdock Charitable Trust, The Oregon Community Foundation, and the Harold & Arlene Schnitzer CARE Foundation, the DeVos Institute of Arts Management at the Kennedy Center is pleased to announce Capacity Building: Portland. This two-year program provides one-on-one, in-depth consultation for each participating organization and group training in fundraising, marketing, artistic planning, strategic planning, and board development.

This competitive opportunity is open to 10 Portland arts and cultural organizations. Strong candidates will articulate an impending opportunity or need that requires a sustained level of capacity building support. For instance, competitive organizations may include those that:

- are on the eve of a major new artistic partnership or program expansion;
- anticipate succession at the staff or board leadership level;
- are approaching or undergoing a complex real estate transition;
- face a financial cliff resulting from the conclusion of support from a primary source of funding;
- have made strides in revenue diversification but need to substantially deepen this practice.

Participants will be selected jointly by the DeVos Institute and the funding group.

Each organization will receive monthly consultations, in person or via phone, from a DeVos Institute advisor assigned specifically to this relationship. To support this consultation process, each organization will develop and execute a “work path,” program goals assigned one-year and two-year benchmarks, in four areas of focus: individual giving, board development, strategic planning, and one other area of importance to the organization. The work path will serve as a “contract” between the participant, the DeVos Institute, and the funding group.

Representatives from each organization will attend a series of five group seminars. The first seminar will be held on Monday, April 28, 2014. In addition, organizations will participate in online master classes to review seminar topics, share progress and challenges, and deepen dialogue on areas of focus between the seminars. (Please see the “Program Components” for more information regarding these activities.)

The program requires that each organization’s board plays an active role — participating in consultations with the Institute advisor, attending the group seminars, and committing to writing or revising the organization’s strategic plan with the staff.

About the DeVos Institute:

Founded in 2001 by Kennedy Center President Michael M. Kaiser, the DeVos Institute’s mission is to train, support, and empower arts managers and their boards locally, nationally, and internationally. Since its inception, the DeVos Institute has advised thousands of individuals, organizations, governments, and foundations throughout the United States and in over 80 countries on six continents.

The Institute operates on the premise that while, as a culture, we spend heavily to encourage artistic talent, too little is spent to train the managers and boards who keep those artists at work. To address this gap, Institute programs partner with public and private leadership in critical arts communities worldwide to provide training and support for the arts entrepreneurs of today and tomorrow.

For more information or with questions, please contact Jeanette Norton, Assistant Manager of Capacity Building, at capacitybuilding@kennedy-center.org or (202) 416-8861.

Applications for Capacity Building: Portland are due Sunday, March 16 at 5 pm PST. Applications should be submitted electronically to Jeanette Norton at capacitybuilding@kennedy-center.org.

The DeVos Institute will notify applicants regarding the outcome of their applications in late March.