

Council Priorities/Identifying Best Practices and Models

The Council seeks to foster a strong, vibrant New Jersey arts community that offers diverse public programs and services and provides the people of our state with the greatest public benefit possible. Through the statewide planning process, the arts community has resolved to become a better “community of learning and practice.” Toward that goal, the Council has committed to help identify and reward leadership in priority areas and communicate models and best practices. The following is a list of Council Priorities. These are areas of potential leadership from which the Council seeks to identify exemplary ideas, methods, models and practices for tackling specific challenges and doing business better. Applicants will be asked to provide information in this regard and panelists will be asked to identify them from each application. All consideration will be placed within the context of the applicant’s mission.

- Serving the needs of artists, particularly New Jersey artists with exemplary programs, opportunities, services, or presentation of their work.
- Presenting new works of art that strive to make significant contributions to the advancement of the art form.
- Preserving and conserving art forms and cultural heritage through public presentation.
- Promoting cultural diversity and diversifying cultural participation. NOTE: The involvement of and benefit to communities of diverse cultures are considerations in the Council’s evaluation of programs. The wide range of ways applicants can demonstrate a model or best practice includes program marketing and outreach to culturally diverse audiences and communities; programming that is responsive to community needs and to the need to provide audiences with access to culturally diverse programming; support of arts organizations whose composition reflects the community served and/or the art forms produced; and support of ethnically specific arts and modes of expression.
- Advancing and advocating for arts education in New Jersey schools as a basic part of school curriculum and education reform through the arts.
- Offering new and increased opportunities for life-long learning in and through the arts.
- Demonstrating and promoting the public value of the arts.
- Advocating for greater and broader support for the arts.
- Broadening, deepening or diversifying participation among arts stewards (trustees, donors, volunteers), art creators (artists) or arts audiences by addressing the practical, perceptual or experiential impediments to arts participation, especially among underserved communities throughout New Jersey
- Promoting accessibility to the arts for people with disabilities.

- Forging new and expanded partnerships and collaborations that connect the arts to other sectors in more effectively addressing community issues and challenges including, but not limited to economic development, tourism, social services, law and public safety, health and healing, etc.
- Adhering to the highest standards and innovative practices of operational excellence including governance, management, planning, use of technology, and resource development.
- Demonstrating exemplary contribution to the implementation of one or more strategies outlined in the statewide plan for the arts, Arts Plan New Jersey, or planning for organizational strategic development within the context of Arts Plan.