

## OVERVIEW

The Native Arts and Cultures Organization (NACF) is seeking an evaluation consultant / team to support the organization in measuring the social impact of select programming as well as inform the further development of programming for the Center for Native Arts and Culture.

Specifically, this consultant / team will be skilled in evaluation models that are supportive of and rooted in Indigenous values, with approaches that: are directed by Native communities and artists; recognize the impact of settler colonialism on Indigenous Peoples; and promote social change impacts.

## ORGANIZATIONAL BACKGROUND

The Native Arts and Cultures Foundation (NACF) advances equity and cultural knowledge, focusing on the power of arts and collaboration to strengthen Native communities and promote positive social change with American Indian, Native Hawaiian, and Alaska Native peoples in the United States. The Native Arts and Cultures Foundation was founded in 2007, following a preliminary feasibility study demonstrating a deep need to support Native arts and cultures in the United States. Since its launch in 2009, NACF has been fortunate to collaborate with a wide variety of arts and non-arts organizations across the nation, ranging from tribal to educational to arts to presenting to exhibiting artists. Over these years, they have also developed strong, positive relationships with grant-makers, funders, donors, as well as local and federal government agencies.

Through its program initiatives, the Native Arts and Cultures Foundation supports Native artists and culture bearers through a variety of projects that engage the community on issues of social, environmental, and cultural focus. From nationally recognized fellowships to public art and social change projects, NACF lifts the voices and impact of American Indians, Native Hawaiians, and Alaska Natives. NACF supports artists to create new work, develop their arts practice, and produce projects in collaboration with communities. This support includes financial resources, artist training and professional development, presenting and promoting artist work, and project management.



## CENTER FOR NATIVE ARTS AND CULTURES

At the close of our first decade of programming in 2019, NACF On February 26th, 2021 NACF received the gift of the Yale Union Laundry building in Portland, Oregon. The historic building will become the new headquarters for NACF and has been renamed the [Center for Native Arts and Cultures \(CNAC\)](#). The overall vision for CNAC centers on creating a vibrant gathering place for Indigenous artists and local partnerships for events, exhibitions, art-making, and cultural ceremony and celebration.

# STRATEGIC PLANNING BACKGROUND

Embarking upon an intensive strategic planning process in 2019, NACF conducted an internal data review looking carefully at a subset of 120 final awardee reports and surveyed 252 artists and organizations that received support from NACF between 2009 and 2019. Through this review, they learned that the overwhelming majority of awardees were responding to the following: social, political, environmental, spiritual, economic, and food justice issues through a Native lens, drawing increased attention to Native communities, perspectives, and challenges, shifting a national narrative of invisibility, misunderstanding, and misappropriation. Based on this research and the feedback provided by survey respondents, and conversations with stakeholders, NACF has defined one overall focus area: Catalyze Native peoples, artists and cultures bearers to influence positive social, cultural, and environmental change. [\[NACF Strategic Plan\]](#)

Four priorities have been devised to guide NACF's future work to assist Native artists, cultural leaders, and partners:

- PRIORITY 1**      Develop and Advance Artist Social Change Work
- PRIORITY 2**      Increase Artist Visibility, Reach and Access
- PRIORITY 3**      Make the Center for Native Arts and Cultures (CNAC) a Thriving Place for Programmatic and Partner Work
- PRIORITY 4**      Educate Philanthropy, Stakeholders and the General Public About Native Peoples, Cultures, Arts & Humanities

In addition, in February 2020, a first-of-its-kind gathering took place in Washington, D.C., co-hosted by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), and the Native Arts and Cultures Foundation (NACF). Native Arts and Culture: Resilience, Reclamation, and Relevance brought together over 225 attendees including members from more than 40 tribal nations, representatives from over a dozen federal/state/regional entities, many Native artists and students, and non-profit professionals and funders who support Native peoples.

The purpose of the convening was to be immersed in all this complexity together with governmental partners who provide resources to Native America—for arts and archives, archeology and linguistics, and education and wellness—in order to listen, learn, and interact together. It was understood that this was to be the first convening of its kind, but not the last, and that there would be subsequent convenings with broader participation, informed by learnings and recommendations from this one. The gathering highlighted promising practices as well as common challenges in creating, sharing, curating, researching, and resourcing Native American, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian arts, humanities, and cultural heritage.

The findings from this convening were compiled into a comprehensive report that offers a set of field recommendations for future action. The recommendations point toward critical areas of work and they are an invitation for all to keep planning and working together. [\[Native Arts and Culture Conference Report\]](#)

# EVALUATION STRATEGY

The evaluation strategy as outlined below will look deeply at NACF's grantmaking programs and processes, convening outcomes, and programmatic direction for CNAC. The process will be guided by Indigenous research strategies and grounded in Indigenous values of relational connections, personal responsibility, and collaborative learning for the wellbeing of the group and society.

In addition, it will consist of both usual and nontraditional “measures” of social change, queries and observes aesthetic quality impacts with data gathering techniques that include interviews with the artists, artists’ collaborators, community partners, and program attendees; print, web, and social media tracking; surveys; and participant observation.

## EVALUATION SCOPE OF WORK

The specific programmatic components that NACF would like an evaluation consultant / team to focus on are the following:

- **GRANT PROGRAMS:** Develop performance measures and evaluate the impact of NACF’s new grant’s programs (SHIFT and LIFT) and the effectiveness of the Suite of Services provided to grantees; assess the ease and accessibility of the grantmaking process for applicants;
- **CONVENINGS:** Develop performance measures and an evaluation tool to measure the impact of NACF’s local/regional/national convenings;
- **CNAC PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT:** Conduct community engagement opportunities to solicit input for the development of programming for CNAC. Develop performance measures and an evaluation plan to gauge the effectiveness of CNAC programming.

## GRANT PROGRAMS

### SHIFT

[SHIFT - Transformative Change and Indigenous Arts](#) is a multi-year grants program supporting artist and community-driven projects that respond to social, environmental or economic justice issues through a Native lens. The program focuses on efforts that are built upon community cultural assets, resilience and strengths and draw increased attention to Native communities, perspectives and challenges, shifting a national narrative of invisibility, misunderstanding and misappropriation. In its inaugural year, 15 projects will be awarded at \$100,000 each and each grantee will participate in a series of trainings as well as offered a variety of services to support their success.

- Develop performance measures for the SHIFT grants program (January 30, 2022)
- Engage the first cycle of 15 grantees to evaluate the impact and outcomes of their projects (October 31, 2023)
- Engage the first cycle of 15 grantees to evaluate the effectiveness of the Suite of Services offerings (October 31, 2023)
- Provide a summary report of findings and recommendations for the next cycle of awards and Suite of Services offerings (December 31, 2023)

### LIFT

The [LIFT-Early Career Support for Native Artists](#) grants program provides one-year awards to early career Native artists to develop and realize new projects. LIFT encourages artists to uplift communities, advance positive social change, point courageously toward environmental sustainability, and foster communal meaning making. In its inaugural year, 20 projects will be awarded at \$10,000 each and each grantee will be required to participate in a series of capacity building trainings.

- Develop performance measures for the LIFT grants program (December 31, 2021)
- Engage the first cycle of 20 LIFT grantees to evaluate the impact and outcomes of their projects (July 31, 2022)
- Assess the first cycle of 20 LIFT grantees to evaluate the effectiveness of the Suite of Services offerings (July 31, 2022)
- Provide a summary report of findings and recommendations for the next cycle of LIFT awards and Suite of Services offerings (September 30, 2022)

## OVERALL GRANTMAKING PROCESS

- Engage a cross-section of the 2021 cycle of SHIFT and LIFT applicants to solicit feedback on the grantmaking process to gauge strengths and areas for improvement that could be implemented for the next cycle. (December 31, 2021)
- Engage NACF staff to solicit feedback on the grantmaking process. (December 31, 2021)
- Provide a summary report of findings that highlight areas of strengths, as well as recommendations for areas of improvement for the grantmaking process (January 30, 2022)

## CONVENINGS

In order to present and promote Native generative narratives and increase educational efforts, the goal of NACF's convening efforts is to: benefit the field and gather diverse stakeholders that focus on Native cultural approaches to learning; include elders, wisdom keepers, community leaders, artists and culture bearers; and reimagine approaches to address systemic racism, social change, and philanthropic inequities through an arts lens.

- Develop performance measures and an evaluation tool to assess effectiveness of convenings (April 30, 2022)

## CNAC PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

- Conduct a survey of local Portland and Oregon artists to inform the prioritization of programming activities, convening strategies, and evaluation frameworks pertaining to the activation and use of the building. (January 30, 2022)
- Using the findings of the above-mentioned survey, research conducted by NACF with partner organizations on convening strategies, and other national survey information on Native artists, conduct at least six (6) focus group sessions (virtual or in-person) with the following cohorts: (March 31, 2022)
  1. Portland Native artist group that includes up to 20 individuals whom NACF has already engaged with at CNAC;
  2. NACF national cohort of Native artists;
  3. Portland Indian Leaders Roundtable (PILR); Local Tribal representatives and community leaders from the surrounding nine tribes;
  4. National affiliated Native arts organization partners;
  5. Portland Arts organizations and associations, Native and non-Native;
  6. Local businesses and neighbors within the vicinity of the CNAC building.
- Provide a summary of findings and recommendations for the programming of the CNAC building (June 30, 2022)
- Create an evaluation plan and tools to measure the effectiveness of the CNAC building programming (December 30, 2022)

# PROJECT TIMELINE & DELIVERABLES

<b>December 31, 2021</b>	Develop performance measures for the LIFT grants program.	
<b>December 31, 2021</b>	Engage a cross-section of the 2021 cycle of SHIFT and LIFT applicants to solicit feedback on the grantmaking process.	At least 50% response of applicants
<b>December 31, 2021</b>	Engage NACF staff and panelists to solicit feedback on the grantmaking and review process.	4 staff 10 panelists
<b>January 30, 2022</b>	Develop performance measures for the SHIFT grants program.	
<b>January 30, 2022</b>	Conduct a survey of local Native Portland and Oregon artists to inform the prioritization of programming activities, convening strategies, and evaluation frameworks pertaining to the activation and use of the CNAC building.	60 respondents
<b>January 30, 2022</b>	Provide a summary report of findings that highlight areas of strengths, as well as recommendations for areas of improvement for the grantmaking process.	1 summary report for grantmaking
<b>March 31, 2022</b>	Conduct six (6) focus group sessions pertaining to the programming of the CNAC building.	6 Focus Groups 70 people
<b>April 30, 2022</b>	Develop performance measures and an evaluation tool to assess effectiveness of convenings.	1 evaluation tool for convenings
<b>June 30, 2022</b>	Provide a summary report of findings and recommendations for the programming of the CNAC building.	1 summary report for CNAC programming
<b>July 31, 2022</b>	Engage the first cycle of 20 LIFT grantees to evaluate the impact and outcomes of their projects and to evaluate the effectiveness of the Suite of Services offerings.	20 LIFT Grantees
<b>September 30, 2022</b>	Provide a summary report of findings and recommendations for the next cycle of LIFT awards and Suite of Services offerings.	1 summary report for LIFT
<b>December 30, 2022</b>	Create an evaluation plan to measure the effectiveness of the CNAC building programming.	1 evaluation plan for CNAC programming
<b>October 31, 2023</b>	Engage the first cycle of 15 SHIFT grantees to evaluate the impact and outcomes of their projects and to evaluate the effectiveness of the Suite of Services offerings.	15 SHIFT Grantees 15 Project Partners
<b>December 31, 2023</b>	Provide a summary report of findings and recommendations for the next cycle of SHIFT awards and Suite of Services offerings.	1 summary report for SHIFT



*“The work of NACF continues to be incredibly significant to creating true equity for Native artists. The organization values not just the work of Native Artists, but their sense of community and approaches to gathering and art making. The transformative, lasting impact of NACF’s work is difficult to measure, as the catalysts are true catalysts for many things to come.”*

–Christopher K. Morgan (*Native Hawaiian*), National Artist Fellow

## SCORING CRITERIA

Proposals will be measured using the following criteria:

- The depth of knowledge and/or experience and success working with Indigenous communities;
- Demonstrated expertise in creating evaluation strategies with/by/for communities of color;
- Experience working within and evaluating the arts and cultures sector;
- The articulation of an authentic and culturally competent approach to the outlined scope of work;
- Ability to complete the deliverables within the time frame and budget parameters.

## PROPOSAL FORMAT

One PDF that includes all submission requirements and up to two project deliverable attachments

## SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

### 1) NARRATIVE:

- Applicants should thoroughly answer the following questions using a 12pt. Font and one- inch margins:
- Describe your knowledge and/or experience working with Indigenous communities to develop evaluation strategies [500 words max];
- Describe your experience evaluating art and cultural programs [500 words max];
- Describe your approach to the evaluation process outlined in this RFP [500 words max];
- Describe how you will authentically engage the local Portland Indigenous community [500 words max];
- Describe any recommended deviations from the proposed scope of work, budget and timeline and why [500 words max].

### 2) BUDGET AND BUDGET NARRATIVE:

Applicants should submit a detailed budget not to exceed a range of \$100,000 to \$150,000 with appropriate expenditure explanations.

### 3) CATEGORICAL BUDGET:

Applicants should utilize the scope of work and provide a cost breakdown by the three separate evaluation categories as outlined below:

### 3) CATEGORICAL BUDGET (continued):

#### GRANTMAKING

Develop performance measures for the LIFT grants program by 12/31/21.	
Engage a cross-section of the 2021 cycle of SHIFT and LIFT applicants to solicit feedback on the grantmaking process by 12/31/21.	
Engage NACF staff and panelists to solicit feedback on the grantmaking and review process by 12/21/21.	
Develop performance measures for the SHIFT grants program by 1/30/22.	
Provide a summary report of findings that highlight areas of strengths, as well as recommendations for areas of improvement for the grantmaking process by 1/30/22.	
Engage the first cycle of 20 LIFT grantees to evaluate the impact and outcomes of their projects and to evaluate the effectiveness of the Suite of Services offerings by 7/31/22.	
Provide a summary report of findings and recommendations for the next cycle of LIFT awards and Suite of Services offerings by 9/30/22.	
Engage the first cycle of 15 SHIFT grantees to evaluate the impact and outcomes of their projects and to evaluate the effectiveness of the Suite of Services offerings by 10/31/23.	
<b>TOTAL COST:</b>	

#### CONVENINGS

Develop performance measures and an evaluation tool to assess effectiveness of convenings by 4/30/22.	
<b>TOTAL COST:</b>	

#### CNAC PROGRAMS DEVELOPMENT

Conduct a survey of local Native Portland and Oregon artists to inform the prioritization of programming activities, convening strategies, and evaluation frameworks pertaining to the activation and use of the CNAC building by 1/30/22.	
Conduct six (6) focus group sessions pertaining to the programming of the CNAC building by 3/31/22.	
Provide a summary report of findings and recommendations for the programming of the CNAC building by 6/30/22.	
Create an evaluation plan to measure the effectiveness of the CNAC building programming by 12/30/22.	
<b>TOTAL COST:</b>	

#### 4) BACKGROUND OF CONSULTANT(S), AGENCY OR FIRM:

Applicants should utilize the scope of work and provide a cost breakdown by the three separate evaluation categories as outlined below:

- Brief introduction of the consultant(s), agency or firm [300 words max]
- List of key staff with bios, roles and relevant experience [300 words max].
- Description of 2-3 similar or comparable projects from the past five years. [500 words max].
- Two client references.
- Attach up to two examples of previous project deliverables or web links to the final product.

#### **PROPOSAL SUBMISSION DUE**

September 6, 2021 by 5pm PST

#### **PROPOSAL FORMAT**

One PDF that includes all submission requirements and up to two project deliverable attachments

#### **SUBMIT PROPOSALS TO**

Barbara Mumby-Huerta at [bmumby@nativeartsandcultures.org](mailto:bmumby@nativeartsandcultures.org)

#### **PROPOSAL REVIEW**

Proposals will be reviewed by NACF staff and a final decision will be made by October 1, 2021.

*NACF may follow up with applicants for additional information if necessary.*

#### **QUESTIONS**

Barbara Mumby-Huerta at [bmumby@nativeartsandcultures.org](mailto:bmumby@nativeartsandcultures.org)