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REQUEST FOR INTEREST: Local On-Ramp Teams

The Indiana Arts Commission (IAC), an agency of state government, is gauging interest in a strategy to expand statewide access to the agency's signature creative development program, the On-Ramp Creative Entrepreneur Accelerator. Teams of individuals, for-profit and non-profit organizations, and businesses interested in serving as contracted partners to deliver this capacity building model to local cohorts across the state are encouraged to respond to this request for interest.

About the Program

The On-Ramp Creative Entrepreneur Accelerator (On-Ramp) is a national award-winning program designed to provide intense exposure to ten key areas of entrepreneurship and finance and ongoing mentorship and support to participants. Read more about this high-impact program [here](#).

The annual On-Ramp program typically attracts hundreds of applicants but can only accept a small cohort. Expansion into other areas of the state through local On-Ramp teams can allow for the following:

- A significant increase in the number of creative entrepreneurs able to participate in the On-Ramp Creative Entrepreneur Accelerator;
- Development of a network of statewide teams invested in creative entrepreneurship;
- Connection of entrepreneurs to networks in their communities and regions;
- A new pipeline for entrepreneurial talent for communities and economic development organizations to tap.

Local On-Ramp Teams

Up to five teams may be identified to partner in delivery of the On-Ramp Creative Entrepreneur Accelerator on-site in their local community or region by September 1, 2021. Each team member will be trained and equipped to deliver an experience identical to the education and mentorship provided by the IAC's annual On-Ramp Creative Entrepreneur Accelerator.

Each team will have a lead partner. Ideally, this is a local or regional organization with capacity, experience, and interest in serving creative entrepreneurs in their region. Examples of potential lead partners include community foundations, economic or community development organizations, local or regional arts councils, and educational institutions.

In addition to a representative from the lead partner, the team should include:

- At least one independent creative of any discipline whose creative practice is their primary career and
- At least one individual representing a non-arts organization or public agency.

It is recommended teams also include an individual with a business focus and an individual representing an arts organization.

Local On-Ramp Teams should expect to receive:

- Training provided to teach the On-Ramp curriculum through roughly 30 hours of virtual lectures and practice sessions with lead program facilitator;
- Materials and curriculum to host On-Ramp in their community or region including instructor slides, participant workbooks, workshop management help, etc.;
- Capacity building for each team to support their creative community, grow their own artist support program, and manage fellowship funds if available;
- Support for the three-day On-Ramp workshop to be held in their community or region;
- Compensation for the Local On-Ramp Team.

Local On-Ramp Teams should expect to provide:

- Productive, mutually beneficial partnerships with all On-Ramp Local Team members;
- Full team participation in all virtual trainings, team meetings, and checkpoint projects;
- Planning and hosting of an in-person On-Ramp in their community or region by September 1, 2021;
- Marketing of the opportunity to local or regional creative entrepreneurs;
- An open, equitable and accessible application and selection process for determining their local or regional cohort.

Responding to this Request for Interest

Submit a letter of interest (2 pages max) to Anna Tragesser (atragesser@iac.in.gov) no later than February 12, 2021 with the following information:

- Region or community represented by the Local On-Ramp Team. Include information such as geographic location, artistic/creative disciplines represented, any industry or organizational connections, major strengths or common needs, or whether a local or regional economic development strategy currently includes the attraction, retention, or additional support for creative entrepreneurs;
- Information on lead partner and how this partner is suitable to be lead for this team;
- Name, title, and organization (if applicable) of each member of the team and a brief overview of the experience and perspective this person brings to the team;
- How they would communicate this opportunity to potential cohort members from underrepresented groups such as BIPOC communities, rural areas, veterans, or people with disabilities;
- Any additional resources the team can bring to a Local On-Ramp.

Selection Process and Priorities

Letters of interest will be reviewed by a team of artists, IAC Commissioners, and staff. Pending feedback from this review team, a decision on how to move forward with Local On-Ramp teams will be made at the IAC's March 2021 Quarterly Business Meeting. Selection priorities are as follows:

- Represent or have strong connections with BIPOC communities, rural communities, or underrepresented groups or regions;
- Demonstrate commitment to the commensurate time and focus to training and planning;
- Have a strong vision for how their community will benefit by supporting artists;
- Demonstrate a willingness to leverage additional resources in supporting entrepreneurship in their area;
- Represent a diverse geographic group of [IAC regions](#).