**2019-2020 Request for Contract Proposals**

**VSA Arts Connect All – Professional Development Program**

*February 7, 2019*

A Jean Kennedy Smith Arts and Disability Program

The Office of VSA and Accessibility at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts

**SUMMARY**

**Contract Description:** Implement professional development opportunities of 5 or more hours for educators teaching the arts to students with disabilities, ages 3 to 22, pre-kindergarten–grade 12. Serve 50 or more educators of students with disabilities.

**Contract Amounts:** $3,000–$18,000

**Contract Proposal Deadline** March 27, 2019, 11:59 PM EDT

**Webinar—How to Prepare a Contract Proposal** *(optional to participate)***:**

February 26, 2019, 3:00-4:00 PM EST. To register To register [click here](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_UvCp0A_XSQeoKSnBuzhUQA)

March 14, 2019, 3:00-4:00 PM EDT. To register [click here](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_13hrtUzRRPW5d5XlXfxTjA)

Captioning available at: <http://www.streamtext.net/player?event=JFKCENTER>

*If you are unable to attend a live webinar, by registering you will automatically receive a link to a recording following the webinar’s completion.*

*To request an accommodation or receive these materials in an alternate format, contact: Stephanie Litvak,* [*sslitvak@kennedy-center.org*](mailto:sslitvak@kennedy-center.org)*, at least two weeks prior to the submission deadline.*

**Background**

As the nation’s performing arts center, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts has a goal of providing powerful, culturally relevant educational experiences for all. To this end, the Kennedy Center’s VSA programs extend across the United States to address a variety of disability-related, arts education initiatives in the literary, media, visual, and performing arts (theater, dance, music).

**Program Description:**

The VSA Arts Connect All–Professional Development Program for educators of students with disabilities provides 5 (five) or more instructional hours per educator in trainings, workshops, or courses to improve teaching skills for educators and learning outcomes for students with disabilities\* in the arts.The program engages educators serving students with disabilities in the community and in self-contained special education, and/or inclusive classrooms across schools, school districts, cities, counties, states, or regions.

The program builds skills and knowledge to apply sound pedagogical principles, quality curricula, and arts standards-aligned instruction (see the National Core Arts Standards at <http://www.nationalartsstandards.org/>) that support teaching and learning and that develop artistic skills and cultural literacy of students with disabilities in literary, media, visual and performing arts (theater, dance, music). The program prepares educators to improve arts education, arts integration, student engagement, and academic achievement through the arts.

*\*Ages 3 to 18, or students up to age 22 receiving special education services through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.*

**Scope of Work**

To accomplish the above, eligible and qualified contractors are being sought to perform the VSA Arts Connect All–Professional Development Program at the local, state, or regional level to expand the Kennedy Center’s program impact.

**All VSA programs have the following core components:**

1. Are arts-based, educational, and involve individuals with disabilities or the disability experience.
2. Are physically and programmatically accessible to individuals with disabilities, or are conducted such that requests for accommodation, effective communication, or physical access shall be fulfilled.
3. Have clear and articulated learning objectives and intended outcomes.
4. Address state/national arts education standards.

**In addition, for the VSA Arts Connect All–Professional Development Program, core components include:**

1. Engaging and serving educators teaching the arts to students with disabilities, ages 3 to 22, pre-kindergarten through grade 12.
2. Serving 50 (fifty) or more educators of students with disabilities.
3. Implementing professional development opportunities of 5 (five) or more instructional hours per participant.
4. Building educators’ skills and knowledge of methods, strategies, and frameworks in the following areas to strengthen educator ability to improve student performance and critical skills development:
   1. Current effective teaching practices for educators of students with disabilities
   2. Arts learning for students with disabilities
   3. Academic learning for students with disabilities
5. Modeling instruction using current effective teaching practices that allow educators to design and deliver standards-aligned arts programs to students with disabilities.
6. Demonstrating an understanding of arts-based subject matter; of strategies and techniques that facilitate learning for students with disabilities; and of strategies and techniques that support the full inclusion of students with disabilities in arts programming.
7. Demonstrating an ability to communicate arts concepts and knowledge, as well as the instructional strategies described above, to educators of students with disabilities. Must have substantive involvement in the development or delivery of the program by personnel, consultants, and/or advisors with special education expertise and credentials.

**Contract Amount, Term and Payment Structure**

The Kennedy Center is seeking proposals from contractors to perform a VSA Arts Connect All–Professional Development Program. The Center will accept only 1 (one) VSA Arts Connect All–Professional Development Program proposal per contractor. Contract award is subject to Kennedy Center funding availability for the VSA Arts Connect All–Professional Development Program. Contract award is also contingent upon successful completion of any Kennedy Center 2018-2019 VSA program contract.

1. **Contract Term:** The term of the contract will be for no more than 11 (eleven) months, from October 1, 2019 to August 31, 2020, and execution of the services must take place within this period.
2. **Contract Amount**: $3,000 to $18,000 per contract. The Kennedy Center reserves the right to award less or more than the proposed amount based on the scope of proposal submitted. The contract must be based on a firm, fixed-price quote that contains all information necessary to allow the Kennedy Center to comprehensively evaluate the proposed costs.
3. **Payment Structure:** Payment will be made in 3 (three) parts upon demonstrated satisfactory completion of tasks and receipt of progress reports and invoices from the contractor. Payments will occur on the following schedule:
   * **Payment 1:** 30% of contract amount after October 1, 2019 with receipt of signed contract agreement, payment timing contingent on Kennedy Center’s receipt of budgeted Department of Education funds.
   * **Payment 2:** 30% of contract amount upon receipt of mid-term report and invoice.
   * **Payment 3:** 40% of contract amount upon receipt of final report and invoice.
4. **Reporting requirements**: Written progress reports must be submitted with each invoice (see above). The Kennedy Center reserves the right to request additional progress reports, for amplification and clarification of the submitted progress reports. A final report must be submitted with the final invoice no later than Wednesday, September 9, 2020, at 11:59 PM EDT. The final report must address the actual results of the VSA Arts Connect All–Professional Development Program and report in depth on participation data, program activities, outcomes, and impact, at the end of their programs. The Kennedy Center reserves the right to conduct site visits.
5. **Acknowledgement and Logo**:Contractors will acknowledge their performance of a VSA Arts Connect All–Professional Development program on behalf of the Kennedy Center by using the required credit line and logo on all program-related material and webpages/sites.
6. **Public Performance or Display:** Contractors must inform Kennedy Center staff of any public performance or display of material developed during the VSA Arts Connect All–Professional Development Program.
7. **Training:** Contractors will be required to participate in training and professional development as follows: at least 1 (one) key program staff member must participate in 2 (two) VSA webinars as designated by the Kennedy Center and at least 1 (one), but no more than 3 (three), key staff member must attend the Kennedy Center’s VSA Intersections: Arts and Special Education Conference October 27-28, 2019 in Irvine, California. All travel expenses and registration fees will be the responsibility of the contractor.
8. **Contract Fee Amounts:** Contractors should not include the following expenses in proposed contract fee:

* Food and beverages.
* Production costs such as, but not limited to: rental of performance, exhibit, and culminating event space; purchase of equipment or materials for sets, props, costumes; and purchase of equipment or materials to mount an exhibition (workshop/residency/training classroom space may be included).
* Costs for the purchase of equipment or durable goods (non-durable art supplies exempt).
* Costs for culminating events, public events, receptions, fundraisers, tours, exhibitions, or performances.

1. **Subcontracting:** Subcontracting is permissible only so long as contractor receives advance approval from the Kennedy Center before expenses are incurred and payments made. Contractor should not proceed until receiving written prior authorization. *For the purposes of this RFP, subcontracting is defined as the relinquishing of significant oversight and management to a third party or paying 65 percent or more of the total value of the contract to a third party.*
2. **Contract, Not Federal Grant**: Contract will be partially supported through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education to the Kennedy Center. Although the contract will not constitute a Federal grant or award subject to the reporting and auditing provisions of Title 2 Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance), the expenditure of Federal monies still will be subject to all other applicable Federal guidelines and the Uniform Guidance provisions. The Kennedy Center requires that the contractor will adhere to such guidelines while providing services hereunder.

**Contractor Eligibility Requirements**

1. Eligible contractors may submit proposals to a maximum of 2 (two) different 2019-2020 VSA Requests for Contract Proposals, but the Kennedy Center will issue a contract offer for no more than 1 (one) proposal per eligible contractor.
2. Commercial, for-profit entities, non-United States entities and individuals are not eligible and will not be considered.
3. Contractor must have at least three (3) years of experience operating an arts education program.
4. Contractor must demonstrate past practice or experience in working with and providing services to educators of children or youth with disabilities, ages 3 to 22, pre-kindergarten–grade 12.
5. Contractor must have at least 1 (one) key program staff member, consultant, or advisor with special education expertise and credentials who is substantively involved in the development and/or delivery of the program.
6. Contractor must demonstrate the capacity to identify and recruit educators and/or teaching artists of students with disabilities, ages 3 to 22, pre-kindergarten–grade 12, to participate in the program.
7. Contractor must demonstrate that it has the resources, staff, and capacity to manage and execute the proposed program within the designated timeline.
8. Contractor must comply with any state, local, and, if applicable, school district requirements regarding criminal background checks for program employees, contractors, and volunteers.
9. Contractors must: (a) conduct or be prepared to conduct, upon request, the proposed program in spaces that are physically accessible to individuals with disabilities, and (b) be able and prepared to provide appropriate accommodations and effective communication upon request during all stages of the VSA Arts Connect All - Professional Development Program.

**Proposal Deadline**

1. Proposal Submission Deadline: March 27, 2019, at 11:59 PM EDT.
2. Notification: Selected recipients will be notified by June 30, 2019.

**How to Submit a Contract Proposal**

Contractor may submit only 1 (one) VSA Arts Connect All–Professional Development Program proposal for consideration. It is permissible for other organizations to name the Contractor as partner or collaborator in a separately submitted proposal.

1. Proposals must be submitted online at [**https://thekennedycenter.smapply.io/prog/vsa\_apd\_proposal19-20**](https://thekennedycenter.smapply.io/prog/vsa_apd_proposal19-20)by the submission deadline. Proposals received after the proposal submission deadline will not be considered. The Kennedy Center is not responsible for any delays in transmission of proposals via the Internet.
2. Proposals must be well-written, error-free, and adhere to the word limits indicated in each section of the online proposal form.
3. Attached to this RFP is a list of questions asked on the online proposal form.
4. Information and materials submitted in connection with the proposal process will not be returned, will be treated confidentially, and will not be shared.

**Questions**

Please direct questions about this RFP to:

Stephanie Litvak

Office of VSA and Accessibility, The Kennedy Center

Tel: 202-416-8847, Email: [sslitvak@kennedy-center.org](mailto:sslitvak@kennedy-center.org)

**Review Criteria**

Proposals will be reviewed utilizing the Contractor’s:

1. **Strength**, based on:
   1. Past practice and experience providing quality arts education professional development programs.
   2. Demonstrated ability to identify, recruit and engage educators of students with disabilities, ages 3 to 22, pre-kindergarten–grade 12.\*
   3. Quality and clarity of the program goals and objectives.
   4. Capacity to manage and execute the program.
   5. Appropriateness of the budget and the resources involved.
   6. Qualifications of the personnel involved.
2. **Merit** of the proposed program, including the:
   1. Alignment of the program to the core components of VSA Arts Connect All–Professional Development Program (see page 2 of this RFP).
   2. Quality of the educational experience and skill-building opportunities for program participants.
   3. Number of educators and/or teaching artists of students with disabilities, pre-kindergarten–grade 12, served and per capita cost per educator.

Additionally, the Kennedy Center will take into consideration the geographic range of applicants in order to support its objective of national breadth in education programming.

*\*Please note that organizations without specific programming for students with disabilities, but with evidence of organizational strength in the area of accessibility or inclusive programming will be evaluated on a case by case basis.*

**2019-2020 VSA Arts Connect All–Professional Development Program**

**List of Proposal Form Questions**

**Proposals must be submitted using the online form at**

[**https://thekennedycenter.smapply.io/prog/vsa\_apd\_proposal19-20**](https://thekennedycenter.smapply.io/prog/vsa_apd_proposal19-20)

**by March 27, 2019, at 11:59 PM EST**

1. General Information
   1. Name of Organization
   2. Legal Name of Organization (if different from above)
   3. Mailing address
   4. Physical address (if different from above)
   5. Website
2. Primary Contact for Contract
   1. Name
   2. Title
   3. Telephone
   4. Email
3. Alternate Contact for Contract
4. Name
5. Title
6. Telephone
7. Email
8. I affirm that the Request for Proposals for the 2018-2019 VSA Arts Connect All–Professional Development Program was downloaded and read in full before completing this application.
9. Total proposed contract fee

$\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.00

1. Projected Number of Program Participants (integers only)
   1. Number of educators, teachers, or teaching artists receiving professional development
   2. Number of hours of instruction per educator, teacher, or teaching artist (OK to use an average, 5 hours minimum)
   3. Number of students **with** disabilities indirectly impacted
   4. Number of students **without** disabilities indirectly impacted
   5. Number of students **with** disabilities directly served by a hands-on component (if applicable)
   6. Number of students **without** disabilities directly served by a hands-on component (if applicable)
2. Summary of proposed program (maximum 200 words)
3. What are the program’s goals and objectives? (maximum 200 words)
4. What are the expected learning outcomes for participants of the professional development? (maximum 200 words)

Be specific about what will educators be able to do, know, and understand as a result of the professional development in each of the following areas?

* 1. Current effective teaching practices for educators of students with disabilities
  2. Arts learning for students with disabilities
  3. Academic learning for students with disabilities

1. What are the methods, strategies, and frameworks that support the above learning outcomes? (maximum 200 words):

Be specific about what content you are teaching about in each of the following areas?

* 1. Current effective teaching practices for educators of students with disabilities
  2. Arts learning for students with disabilities
  3. Academic learning for students with disabilities

1. What processes and structures will you use to deliver the professional development? How will you deliver instruction in each of the following areas? (maximum 200 words)
   1. Current effective teaching practices for educators of students with disabilities
   2. Arts learning for students with disabilities
   3. Academic learning for students with disabilities
2. Proposed dates and locations (maximum 100 words).
3. Primary purpose or mission of organization (maximum 100 words)
4. Organizational qualifications
   1. Are you a non-commercial, nonprofit entity?
   2. How many years of experience does your organization have operating an arts education program?
   3. How many years of experience does your organization have providing professional development to educators of students with disabilities pre-kindergarten–grade 12?
   4. Describe experience and capacity to deliver proposed program (maximum 150 words).
5. Personnel
   1. Provide short biographies of key program personnel. Make sure to include the required personnel, consultants, and/or advisors with special education credentials (maximum 100 words each)
   2. Names of key partners/collaborators (those committing significant time, resources, or support)
6. Proposed Contract Fee Justification

Enter below a budget that provides sufficient transparency into the calculation of the proposed contract fee using the following expense categories (see RFP page 3, #8 for unallowable costs)

* 1. Organization program staff (program services/direct costs)

Costs associated with staff working directly on program delivery

* + 1. Enter amount $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.00
    2. Show calculation of (per person x rate x hours)
  1. Contractors & Consultants
     1. Enter amount $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.00
     2. Show calculation (per person rate x hours)
  2. Supplies & Materials
     1. Enter amount $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.00
     2. List items and show calculation
  3. Travel (mileage, airfare, parking, lodging, meals)
     1. Enter amount $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.00
     2. Show calculation (person x trip x rate)
  4. Required VSA Intersections Conference travel & registration (October 27-28, 2019 in Irvine, CA)
     1. Enter amount $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.00
     2. Show calculation (person x trip x rate, estimated registration fee $300 per person and hotel $180 per night)
  5. Other
     1. Enter amount $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.00
     2. List items and show calculation
  6. Sub-total of 16a. through f.
     1. Enter amount $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.00
  7. Administrative overhead (management and general/indirect costs)

Not to exceed 10% of 16g.

Costs associated with your organization’s overall operations and management, including executive director salary when not working directly on program service delivery.

* + 1. Enter amount $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.00
    2. List items and show calculation
  1. Total proposed contract fee amount (add together 16g+h., should match amount in question 5, not to exceed $18,000)
     1. Enter amount $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.00

1. REQUIRED – GENERAL INFORMATION AND DATA

Please check all boxes that apply to the proposed contract work only:

* 1. Type of Professional Development

Pre-Service Training (student teachers/college education students)

Teaching Artists

Classroom Teachers

Special Education Teachers

Mentoring Residency (emerging teacher/artists working with established teacher/artists)

Other: Please specify \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* 1. Program Type (if direct service to students component is applicable)

Inclusive programs (students with and without disabilities participating together)

Disability specific programs (mostly students with disabilities participating)

Other: Please specify \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* 1. Program Venue

Mainstream Classroom

Special Education Classroom

Disability Specific School

Community Setting (not classroom/school based)

Healthcare/Hospital/Therapy Center

Museum/Arts Center

Theater/Performing Arts Center

Other: Please specify \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* 1. Grade Level

Pre-Kindergarten

Elementary School

Middle School/Junior High School

High School

Other: Please specify \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* 1. Artistic Genre

Visual Arts

Video/ Film

Dance/ Movement

Theater/ Drama

Music

Literary Arts

Multi-Arts

Media Arts

Other: Please specify \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* 1. Disability Type

Severe/Profound or Multiple Disabilities

Mobility/Physical Disability

Deaf/Hard of Hearing

Blind/Low Vision

Cognitive (intellectual disability, autism, learning disability)

Mental Illness or Emotional Disabilities

Other: Please specify \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* 1. Nontraditional Learning Methods/Information Dissemination

Distance Learning

Webinar

Significant Information Published on Webpage

Electronic Publication

Conference Presentation

Other: Please specify\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_