

Accelerate

Missouri Arts Council **FY2014**

Accelerate strengthens organizations and prepares them for growth and impact. This new approach to organizational support combines comprehensive assessment, a strategic action plan, and funding to accelerate success.

In 3 stages your organization will **ASSESS**, **ACT**, and **ACCELERATE**.

Stage **1**: **ASSESS**

Your board and senior staff will assess your organization in every important area including leadership, programs, fundraising, and operations. Using an online survey, each person will answer 75 questions. The questions are straight-forward and require no study, just a direct response reflecting your organization's situation. The responses will be compiled and you will receive a comprehensive report that identifies the organization's needs and compares against best practices.

Stage **2**: **ACT**

Using information collected from board and staff responses to the survey, the organization will develop a simple action plan. The plan is designed to address the needs identified in the assessment. With the assistance of a MAC program specialist, this report will provide a blueprint for organizational growth and development. The plan will be approved by the organization's board of directors.

Stage **3**: **ACCELERATE**

Once the Action Plan is approved by the organization's board, MAC will help you identify strategies that will utilize the ***Accelerate*** funds provided by MAC and your matching funds. This part will be approved by the MAC Executive Committee. Once approved, funded items must be completed by the end of April. Other action plan tasks may be completed later.

Who Should Participate

The organizations that will benefit the most from ***Accelerate*** are motivated to succeed, ready to engage their board and staff, and invest in their future. They offer significant potential for growth and impact. Organizations must meet MAC eligibility requirements and present, produce or serve the arts as their primary mission.

How This Works

Only 30 select organizations will be invited to participate in the FY2014 inaugural year of ***Accelerate***. Organizations will be selected based on their motivation, engagement and potential. Organizations may nominate themselves. Interested organizations must submit by August 5. Contact Donald Rice (donald.rice@ded.mo.gov or 314-340- 6854) before you submit.

If You Are Selected:

Your organization will commit to:

- Complete all three stages.
- Engage your full board and leadership.
- Invest a minimum of \$1,500 in organization funds.

In return your organization will receive:

- Assessment and report (a \$495 value)
- Substantial MAC staff resource and referral
- MAC **Accelerate** investment of \$1,500 to match your \$1,500 (\$3,000 total) to spend on growing your organization.

The Timeframe

August 5 Deadline for nominations.

August 12 Participants notified of selection.

August 15 Register participants.

September - Stage 1: ASSESS

Oct Complete survey.

Receive and review report.

Nov - Stage 2: ACT

Dec Develop Action Plan.

Obtain organization board approval.

Jan - Stage 3: ACCELERATE

Apr Develop Accelerate funding proposal with MAC.

Submit Interim Report with **Accelerate** funding proposal for MAC approval.

Execute **Accelerate**.

May Complete Final Report and Invoice.

FAQs

What can **Accelerate** funds be used for?

The **Accelerate** funds may be applied to any project whose primary purpose is to strengthen or grow your organization. This might include planning, accessibility, training, technology, equipment, consultants. MAC program staff will work with your organization to develop an appropriate **Accelerate** plan. This will have to be approved by our Executive Committee before the funds can be spent.

Who is eligible to participate in **Accelerate**?

The organization must be Missouri-based, nonprofit and tax-exempt, and primarily present, produce or serve the arts as its mission.

Can we spend more than the \$1,500 we provide?

The match is a minimum of \$1,500, however you may spend more if you wish.

Do we have to provide cash match?

A cash match is required, and like project grants, funds are reimbursed after expenses have been incurred.

Can I apply every year?

This is the first year and we will assess the future of the program based on demonstrated outcomes and our funding. MAC will announce via email newsletter if this program is continued. Sign up to receive emails at www.missouriartscouncil.org.

Can we participate in *Accelerate* even though we have other MAC grants?

Yes, *Accelerate* does not count against your two-grant maximum per fiscal year.

What if we already have a strategic plan?

You may use your strategic plan to inform the Action Plan developed for *Accelerate*.

Can we just do the assessment?

You must commit to all three stages of *Accelerate* to receive the Assessment funded by MAC. However, if you wish to do the needs assessment alone, you may contact Unity Foundation (<http://www.unityfdn.org/cq.html>) and pay the full cost of the assessment on your own.

Can we still apply for a Capacity Building grant instead?

No, *Accelerate* replaces the previous Capacity Building grant.

Why does the board have to participate?

Successful development of an organization depends on a committed and engaged board. For this reason we have required your board to participate in the Assessment and approve the proposed Action Plan.

How long does it take to *Accelerate*?

From the first stage to the end will take approximately nine months. During that time you will complete the assessment, develop an action plan and implement some of the tasks. You are not expected to complete all potential needs revealed by the assessment.