



AMERICAN COMPOSERS FORUM



### First Nations Composer Initiative

332 Minnesota Street, Suite E145, St. Paul MN 55101  
(651) 251-2839, (651) 291-7978, fax

## Common Ground Grant Overview & Guidelines

### Request for Proposals

*COMMON GROUND is funded in part by the Ford Foundation's IllumiNation program through 2011.*

**NEW DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: FEBRUARY 1, 2012**

***FNCI funds the creation of newly composed work by American Indian, Alaskan Native and Native Hawaiian composers, commissioners or performing musicians. Awards are based on artistic excellence, merit and connection to audience and community.***

### Common Ground Overview

The Common Ground program is inclusive, and therefore encourages American Indian, Alaskan Native and Native Hawaiian composers, performers, and sound artists working in diverse genres/mediums to apply. Artists are encouraged to take risks in their creative endeavors. Common Ground is designed to fill the gap in funding for artists who are particularly interested in creating work without the burden of artistic compromise. Common Ground aims to give timely aid to those American Indian, Alaskan Native and Native Hawaiian musicians who are strongly dedicated to their art, who show artistic merit, and who propose an excellent project. We wish to award grants to varied artists from the many genres of music represented in Indian Country, and from diverse American Indian, Alaskan Native and Native Hawaiian cultures.

We are pleased to announce our **NEW funding guidelines**. Individual awards will now range from \$500 to \$5,000.

The program also:

- provides Native musical artists with the opportunity to enrich their work through contact with a variety of communities.
- makes Native musical artists more visible to underserved communities and/or larger non-Native cultural institutions
- assists Native artists in collaboration with non-Native arts organizations in building audiences; thereby increasing demand for their work

### Eligibility:

**Common Ground** is open to **American Indian, Alaskan Native and Native Hawaiian** makers of new music: composers, performers, groups, sound artists, songwriters, etc.

Native Artists must have:

- **Documentation of Tribal/Community Affiliation is required.** This includes Federal and State recognized tribes or communities. (Photo - copies only).
- Accepted documentation: Tribal ID card, Tribal Letter of support from enrollment/governmental office documenting lineage and or ancestry. Letter from Native Organization (adoptees). Please call us if you believe you have special circumstances on the guidelines.

- Committed to building the strength of Native communities by sharing their skills and talents with others.

**Common Ground** gives priority to projects that promote our goal of getting the work of Native Composers and Musicians into the broader community via partnership with the following four constituencies: Native musicians, Native communities, non-Native communities and non-Native cultural institutions.

Full-time students may not apply unless coursework is completed (ABD/thesis status). Individuals may not take a leadership role in more than one project in a 12-month period.

Selection Criteria:

- Significance of the project to your long-term career goals;
- Artistic quality as demonstrated by persistence, commitment, entrepreneurship, and devotion to your artistry, and the significance of the project to the development of the art form;
- The project's feasibility;
- The project's contribution to any of the following: Creation – Performance – Audience/Community Building

New Deadlines are as follows:

- Postmarked by **February 1, 2012** for activities beginning April 2012

FNCI staff will review all applications for eligibility and completeness. Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

An independent panel of 3 professionals familiar with the diverse styles of traditional and contemporary Indigenous music will review all applications and support materials.

Common Ground applicants should keep in mind:

- That your proposal will be scored by peer reviewers. Give them enough information that will allow them to make the best decisions. Include scores and recordings of the work that you are submitting. You may consider sending representative work that can help the reviewers get a sense of your range and abilities.
- While demonstration of financial need is not a requirement for Common Ground. You are encouraged to let the reviewers have any information that would speak to how receiving a grant would enable the project or enhance its success. The aim of the program is to grant funds where they will make a significant difference.
- Include a realistic budget with your proposal.

#### SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

(Submit 4 Copies) **Please answer all questions in 500 words or less.**

1. What do you need the money for, and how much do you need? Be specific;
2. What is the goal of your project? How will you determine the projects effectiveness? Did it do what you expected? How will you know?
3. How does this project develop your artistry?
4. How does your project help you gain wider community recognition?
5. How does your project make an original contribution to the art form?
6. Please describe the artistic and/or cultural significance of this project?
7. Please describe the audience that you will be serving.
8. Outline the educational, outreach and adjunct activities planned around your project.
9. Please describe your promotional and marketing plans for this project.

10. Please provide a detailed budget.

12. Please provide work samples. NOTE: It is advisable that a composer submit samples of his/her work (recordings and/or scores) and that a performer or performing group submits their most recent recordings (CD/Tape) of a new music performance. All other supplemental materials are left to the discretion of the applicant.

PLEASE SEND 4 COMPLETE SETS OF ALL DOCUMENTATION including:

WRITTEN PROPOSAL

RESUMES

ARTISTIC DOCUMENTATION

Send to:

Common Ground Grant Program  
First Nations Composer Initiative  
332 Minnesota Street, Suite E-145  
Saint Paul, MN 55101

Supporting materials will be returned only if a self-addressed stamp envelope is included. Recipients will be expected to submit a project evaluation within four weeks of the project's conclusion in order for final payments to be issued. Documentation of the project, via audio, video, or photography must be included in the final report.

Please contact Jewell Arcoren by email: [jarcoren@composersforum.org](mailto:jarcoren@composersforum.org) or by phone if you have any questions or concerns at (651) 251-2839.

THANK YOU –

The First Nations Composer Initiative (FNCI), a program of the American Composers Forum is dedicated to serving the needs of American Indian/Alaska Native/Hawaiian Native makers of new music throughout Indian Country.