

## **WESTAF Emerging Leaders of Color Application PREVIEW**

WESTAF 2021 Emerging Leaders of Color Professional Development Program

WESTAF (Western States Arts Federation) is a regional nonprofit arts service organization whose mission is to strengthen the financial, organizational, and policy infrastructure of the arts in the western United States. Through innovative programming, advocacy, research, technology, and grantmaking, WESTAF encourages the creative advancement and preservation of the arts regionally and through a national network of customers and alliances. In its work, WESTAF strives to reflect the values, insights, spirit, and knowledge of communities of color, indigenous peoples, and other marginalized ethnic communities in the West and ensure its programs and initiatives incorporate the diverse perspectives of the region.

In 2010, WESTAF established its Emerging Leaders of Color Professional Development Program, which promotes multicultural leadership and equity in the arts by:

- \* Building a cohort of cultural leaders of color in the western United States who are committed to the advancement of the arts.
- \* Engaging diverse, early-career leaders in coursework and activities designed to strengthen competencies and prepare participants for leadership positions in the field.
- \* Providing opportunities for promising arts professionals to establish networks that support their careers and the cultural interests of the communities they represent and serve.
- \* Deepening participants' understanding of the arts in the United States and how public support sustains the vibrancy of the sector.

WESTAF is currently seeking participants for this all-expenses-paid, annual convening to be held online March 18-23, 2021. Candidates will meet the following criteria:

- \* Be under the age of 35 (with some exceptions)
- \* Less than ten years of experience working in the field of arts and culture
- \* Current resident of the 13-state WESTAF region (Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawai'i, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington or Wyoming)
- \* Self-identify as a person of color
- \* Is an arts administrator or a significantly arts-interested community person such as a volunteer or a public official. (This program is not designed to serve individual artists)
- \* Have not had an opportunity to participate in high-quality professional development sessions

With the advice of members of WESTAF's staff, program alumni, and WESTAF's Equity and Inclusion Committee, WESTAF will select up to 24 total participants: one participant from each state in the western region, except California, where up to three participants will be selected due to its large population. WESTAF covers the full cost of the program.

The name and photo associated with your Google account will be recorded when you upload files and submit this form.

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**First Name**

**Last Name**

**Job Title**

**Organization/Affiliation**

**Address**

**City**

**State (Choose One - dropdown)**

**Zip Code**

**Preferred Email Address**

**Telephone (Mobile preferred)**

**Organization website**

**Organization discipline (check all that apply):**

- Crafts
- Dance
- Design (architecture, fashion, graphics, etc.)
- Folk/Traditional/Popular Arts
- Literature
- Media Arts (film, video, audio, etc.)
- Museum
- Music
- Opera/Musical Theatre
- Photography
- Theatre
- Visual Arts
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of years working as an arts professional:**

- Less than 1 year
- 1-3 years
- 4-7 years
- 8-10 years

**You identify your race and/or ethnicity as: \_\_\_\_\_**

(Based on goals of program, this information is useful but not required.)

**You identify your gender as: \_\_\_\_\_**

(Based on goals of program, this information is useful but not required.)

**Please provide a brief biography:**

(Approximately 200 words or less)

**Please provide links to personal websites, blogs or online profiles you would like to share:**

(Optional)

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**Professional Recommendation:**

Please provide an endorsement from a professional contact. (File Upload)

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**Personal Reflection:**

Favianna Rodriguez on cultural inequality

<https://www.fordfoundation.org/ideas/ford-forum/inequalityis/favianna-rodriguez-on-cultural-inequality/>

In the above video, Favianna Rodriguez, an interdisciplinary artist and cultural organizer, challenges the structures that marginalize cultural experiences perceived to deviate from what has been deemed the "norm". As an arts administrator/advocate, describe what you believe your role to be in addressing cultural inequality.

\*Applicants may respond in writing in 300 words or less (within the form) OR in video or audio form in 2 minutes or less (via file upload or YouTube/Vimeo link).