

## **Creator Fund webinar Q&A – Nov 30, 2022**

### **What do you consider "limited funding" Is there a specific percentage, for example?**

We will not fund projects that are 100% funded already.

### **How will "need" be determined?**

Need is determined by reviewing your response on how you want to use the money and the urgency of support right now. Panelists will use the answer to the questions below along with the budget/income information supplied in order to gauge the urgency of support.

- How would they use the money in service of this project?
- Why do they need our support?
- Why is it important for them to lead this work right now?
- Is self-awareness of the artist communicated in their response to application questions?
- Do the music creators pay themselves and their collaborators?
- Would this work happen without New Music USA's help?
- Why is funding from New Music USA crucial at this time?

### **Would a US born and based artist collaborating with an organization outside of the US be eligible? Or would the recording of all elements of the project need to be done in the US?**

You may collaborate with international artists/organizations, however the funds would not be able to support international collaborators directly. Your project can have an international reach and elements but the funds from this grant cannot be used to pay for international expenses.

### **How do you define "professional"?**

Panelists will be looking at biographies, websites, social media, to determine professional level work. Does not need to be your full financial income.

### **Is the professional background of collaborators assessed with as much scrutiny as that of the lead applicant?**

The panelists review the lead applicant's professional background and evaluate the strength of the collaboration.

### **Is a smaller chamber ensemble considered an organization or an individual?**

A member of the ensemble could be the lead applicant of the Creator Fund grant with members of the ensemble serving as collaborators. If this is the case make sure to outline what makes the collaboration on this project special. Organizations are often institutions that work regularly with and support the development of music creators and artists.

### **Do we need to know the exact collaborators? For instance, I'm writing music and don't know yet who will be performing my music.**

The short answer, yes. You will be required to identify at least one collaborator. They may be tentative depending on funding, but you will need to identify at least one.

**If a music creator applies and plans to collab with performers, can funds not be shared among creator and performers?**

Funds can be used how best you deem necessary for the project. The funds can support the time you need to create new material and initiate new collaborations with your proposed artist(s). The funds can pay your performers or other collaborator fees too.

**Does resource creation fall within the parameters of the fund? (i.e. creating a database of new music, YouTube tutorials on writing for specific instruments, etc.)**

Yes.

**In regards to proposals for research and development of a project: When asked "What impact will this work have for you?" Is this regarding the completion of the FINAL project or results of the research and development stage.**

It could be either or both. Include what you feel helps articulate your project proposal's impact.

**If my collaborator is my husband, in that case, can I still apply? I am a performer but my husband is a music creator. We've been working together for a long time, but this is the first time we've applied for a grant. Also, if I apply for this, is it still acceptable?**

Yes, that's fine. Music Creator refers to any individual composer or artist who is creating their own original music. We consider everyone who is creating original material – songwriters, producers, composers, improvisers – to be music creators. Individual performers may apply if their collaborator is a music creator as outlined. Please note this fund encourages new collaborations so be sure to articulate what makes this project special.

**Does the fund cover domestic travel to meet my collaborator if they live in another state? Would the fund support travel costs so I can work with my collaborators in person? I live on the east coast and they live on the west coast?**

Yes.

**Could you explain more about the intent behind the questions stating, "Would this project happen without the support of New Music USA?"**

Discerning which projects or aspects of a project that are least likely to happen without the support of NMUSA (i.e. new explorations), gives more information to determine need. Our hope is that funding will help spur new explorations and growth rather than simply continuing existing practice. For example, a group that performs or tours regularly may continue that work with or without support from this program, however if there is an area of exploration that they may be looking to move into or help move them forward (i.e. taking time to workshop or experiment) that might be something that would need additional support and may not happen without it.

**What if we have applied for funds from other sources but have not heard back from them by the NMUSA deadline? Are we eligible to apply, or do applications to other funders count against us?**

Yes, you may apply. Your project can have other funding, other funding does not count against you; however, your project cannot already be 100% funded.

**Can the final presentation of the project (i.e. A live performance) take place in 2024?**

Yes. Your application should share the urgency of receiving the grant in 2023 and the timeline. The work you apply for may be in progress or may not have yet commenced. The activity can be process or performance-oriented, rather than leading to a definitive final outcome. Activities and use of the funds should be in process and/or planned as of April 2023. If awarded, an update on your progress and experience will be required by the end of August 2023. It's up to you to tell us how long you think this work will take.

**Would sound engineers count as possible collaborators?**

Yes!

**What is a project timeline? Activity of some kind of music begin no later than April 2023, but how long would we have to complete the project (and what is "completion" if you're applying for process bases project?**

Generally, projects take one to two years to complete depending on many factors. The work you apply for may be in progress or may not have yet commenced. The activity can be process or performance oriented, rather than leading to a definitive final outcome. Activities and use of the funds should be in process and/or planned as of April 2023. If awarded, an update on your progress and experience will be required by the end of August 2023. It's up to you to tell us how long you think this work will take. You will be asked to submit a final report when the project is completed.

**Does recording have to take place within the US?**

The funds will cover expenses within the US. The funds cannot be used for international collaborators. Your project can have an international reach and elements, but we cannot pay for those portions of the project.

**It seems like you want applicants to demonstrate that the project wouldn't be able to take place without the support of the award, but you also want the project to have started before awards are made. Can you clarify?**

The work you apply for may be in progress or may not have yet commenced. Activities and use of the funds should be in process and/or planned as of April 2023. The activity can be process or performance-oriented, rather than leading to a definitive final outcome. If awarded, an update on your progress and experience will be required by the end of August 2023. It's up to you to tell us how long you think this work will take.

**Will partial awards be given? Or will it only be the requested amount or nothing? Is it common to receive only part of the funds they applied for?**

Partial amounts are definitely a part of what we do. If there's not enough funding to give a full award, we'll give a partial award. We will use your budget as a guide to make as meaningful award as possible if full funding is not available.

**Regarding work samples, are continuous clips preferred Or are highlight reels/montages preferred to show different moments?**

Panelists prefer full work samples as much as possible, depending on how long they are. Movements of works or full works are fine. If it is a long work we suggest providing cue points to guide the panel's listening. You may submit highlight reels, but refrain from those being the only sample.

**If a project is under-way are samples desired from an existing work? How recent should the work samples be? Are the project samples from the current ongoing project, or other samples from our work history?**

Samples from a previously completed project or the current ongoing project are acceptable. We would consider work samples from up to 4 to 5 years ago as recent. More importantly, the sample should be relevant and represent the work that you are doing now.

**Is there length guidance for video?**

Video and audio applications/narratives are recommended to be no longer than 5 minutes. Project samples may be any length, however if they are very long we recommend providing cue points to guide the panel's listening.

**When will funds become available?**

Funds would be available shortly after notification, April/May 2023

**Do in-kind donations made toward the completion of an existing work that have already occurred need to be disclosed as funding?**

In-kind donations do not need to be disclosed as funding. It is up to you if you'd like those to be included.

**Is it preferable for panelists to see three diverse examples of the applicant's work or at least one example of a collaborator's work?**

Up to you. Use your judgement of what shows the best of your project proposal. We definitely want a work sample of the person that's applying and that of collaborators.

**Is the 500-word limit for each question or for all the questions as a whole?**

The 500-word limit applies to the whole narrative.

**If a performer is listed as a collaborator in multiple music creators' projects, how does that affect the application? What if the performer also has their own project that they applied with?**

- Each lead applicant may only submit one request.
- If the lead applicant appears on another application as a collaborator, only one project containing the applicant will be selected for an award.

- If a collaborator appears on more than one application, only one project containing the collaborator will be selected for an award.

**Can I collaborate with a person outside of the US?**

Yes, however be mindful that funding can only go to a US based artist. You can have a collaborator not based in the US, that's fine, but funding will only go to the US based artist.

**Is this fund specifically for performance-based work? Do you award any funds for resource-type projects, like new music databases or educational tutorial video creation?**

The funds can be used for resourced projects like you mentioned. Proposals can be process- or performance-oriented.

**Is there somewhere we can look at work created by past awardees? Check out our list of awardees on the Creator Fund page on our website, which links to their own pages.**

You may find information on our past awardees at <https://newmusicusa.org/get-funding/all-grantees/>

**Should CV's or bios be included anywhere in the application or should they just be available on personal websites?**

In the Contact Information area of the application there is an opportunity to supply a 150 word bio. You will also be able to provide links to websites and social media handles.

**Can/should we include a letter of commitment or support from our collaborators?**

It is not required.