



Creation Grant Criteria for Artistic Excellence | Additional Support for Creative Work with Specific Cultural Origins and Content

This document provides additional information regarding cultural origin and content in the criteria for artistic excellence and is borrowed from "[Aesthetic Perspectives: Attributes of Excellence in Arts for Change](#)" (see page 21) by Animating Democracy, a program of Americans for the Arts:

"Related to cultural integrity, is the serious issue of cultural appropriation, or the use of cultural forms, content, processes, and stylistic elements by person(s) from outside the cultural contexts in which they originate. In egregious instances, artists and promoters with access to privilege have profited from the use of appropriations while those at the source of the material continued to struggle in obscurity, with lineage and ownership of cultural property left uncredited and uncompensated. Ethical practice is governed by an awareness of historical and contemporary inequities and practices of respect, remuneration, and reciprocity."

As you're writing your application, you might consider the following:

- "How are the artist(s) connected to the community that is the focus of the work? What history and relationship does the artist have with the knowledge, traditions, and practices they are engaging in? What is the artist's cultural relationship to the aesthetics and techniques of the project?"
- "If the artist(s) are not of the community or culture in which the work is rooted, how are they dealing with questions of privilege or potential for appropriation?"
- "How have members of the community/population/locality been engaged in meaningful ways in the development and/or presentation of work? How has that engagement been expressed?"