AGENCY: Cullen Foundation

PROGRAM: Focus Areas: Education and Performing Arts. Complete Guidelines for Education can be found at Education. Complete Guidelines for Performing Arts can be found at: Performing Arts

OBJECTIVES: The Cullen Foundation has announced their first funding cycle. The Foundations will support two areas: Education and Performing Arts. The Foundation is NOT funding arts education nor research at this time. UB may submit only 1 LOI for each focus area.

FOCUS AREA 1 – 5-12 EDUCATION (Education)
Types of support:
- Program/project support
- Capital / physical infrastructure

Jack Cullen believed that access to high quality education is critical for an individual and a community’s success. To honor this belief, the Cullen Foundation seeks to significantly enhance education for Erie County students in grades 5-12.

The Cullen Foundation recognizes that despite some progress over the past decades, there are still substantial education challenges that exist in Erie County today, including Math and English proficiency scores significantly below state averages, low high school graduation rates, and lack of college and career readiness. The Cullen Foundation also recognizes that there are no “silver bullet” solutions; instead, the Foundation believes that a portfolio of approaches, interventions, and types of support are necessary to enhancing the education of Erie County students today. Importantly, the Cullen Foundation sees value in all three education sectors active in the county today: traditional public, private and charter. The Foundation will not entertain applications focused solely on arts education at this time.

Over the course of the next several years, the Cullen Foundation will explore:
- ways to provide access to private schools for socioeconomically and racially diverse students through scholarships, both to provide them with a better education and to increase the diversity of experience for all private school students (currently not accepting scholarship applications).
- expanding and enhancing support for teachers and school leaders.
- creating opportunities outside of school for further educational enrichment. Outside of school, the Cullen Foundation will support organizations that provide effective out-of-
school learning opportunities (i.e., summer programming and after-school programming).

**FOCUS AREA 2 - PERFORMING ARTS** ([Performing Arts](#))

Types of support:
- Program / project support
- General operating support
- Capital / physical infrastructure

Jack Cullen was a passionate supporter of the performing arts, and Cullen Foundation seeks to continue Mr. Cullen’s legacy by advancing the theatre and performing arts sector for residents of Erie County.

The performing arts sector in and around Erie County today includes a robust and eclectic mix of organizations that contribute to making the area a vibrant place to live. Cullen Foundation believes that cultivating and growing Erie County’s performing arts community will require supporting a variety of organizations of different types, sizes, and artistic focus. Within performing arts, Cullen Foundation will prioritize music, theater, dance, and other forms of live artistic performance, with particular emphasis on the American musical.

**ELIGIBILITY RESTRICTIONS**: The organization or program fits within the Cullen Foundation’s focus areas (grades 5-12 education or performing arts) with the following stipulations: Organizations serving students in grades K-8 may apply, but they must focus the Cullen Foundation funding primarily on students in grades 5-8. Arts education programs will not be supported. Individual schools (traditional public, private or charter) are not eligible for funding in 2015. Individual scholarships will not be awarded.

**FUNDING INFORMATION**: Grants for Education may be 1, 2 or 3 years, ranging from $25,000 to $100,000 per year (for a $300,000 total maximum). Grants for the Performing Arts may be 1, 2 or 3 years, ranging from $15,000 to $100,000 per year (for a $300,000 total maximum).

**INTERNAL REVIEW PROCESS**: The LOIs are due May 1, 2015 via online system. Due to the limited number of applications, if you or your colleagues are interested in applying, please submit a letter of intent to Dr. Kenneth Tramposch at ovpr.limitedsubmission@research.buffalo.edu by April 13, 2015. The LoI should include a 1 page description of the project and brief biosketches of the project participants. Questions about the Cullen Foundation can be directed to Donald Elick @ donelick@buffalo.edu.