

Is this consultant specifically focused on ARPA funds?

No, the consultant will evaluate all our grant programs, regardless of funding source. However, this RFP itself is funded through ARPA funds.

Will we be sharing the data we already have on our grantmaking?

Yes, we will provide the consultant with all grantmaking data across our various grant programs. It will require the consultant to sift through and organize a lot of raw data.

What are our goals given that the City's procurement system is in transition and historically has been inequitable, and we can't make all the changes we might want to our grant programs?

While there are broader systemic challenges, we have autonomy over our grantmaking processes. Unlike contracting, many of our grantmaking processes don't rely on the City's procurement systems.

What indicators are we looking to have measured?

The specific indicators are outlined in the RFP.

Do we have a working definition of equity that we are planning to share with the consultant?

The City and our office (MOAC) have definitions of equity that can be found [here](#).

Have we done assessments like this before?

Yes, but we've only conducted one evaluation for the Opportunity Fund. Our public art programs have had some evaluation, as well.

Will previous evaluation findings be shared with the consultant?

Yes, any relevant findings from past evaluations will be shared.

Can the consultant be located remotely (outside the Greater Boston area)?

Yes, but the strongest proposals will demonstrate a connection to Boston. For remote consultants, this may involve hiring subcontractors based in Boston or presenting a clear plan for building relationships with local grantees.

What skills is MOAC looking to develop beyond what staff already have?

We are looking for expertise in what data to collect, analyzing our data, and outlining best practices for equitable data collection across all our programs to better demonstrate impact.

Is the budget inclusive of stipends for artists?

Yes, you may include stipends for any participants in the evaluation process, understanding that most of them are nonprofit organizations.

Would the consultant have access to all applicants, not just accepted applicants?

Yes, the consultant will have access to data from all applicants.

What feels insufficient about the way we're currently collecting data?

We lack the time to step back and evaluate the bigger picture. Additionally, we're unable to fully assess the short-term and long-term impacts of our grant programs, which is critical for advocating for continued funding. And we want to better understand what data is important to collect and what is not important to collect.

Who do we have demographic data on?

We have demographic data on both organizations and individuals who have applied to grant programs, though it varies by program. Most of our demographic data comes from our applicants.

Will the consultant observe a live application process or focus primarily on historical data?

Primarily historical data, though there will be some grant programming happening in FY25 and FY26.

What are we hoping for in terms of evaluating the broader landscape of local grantmaking for the arts?

We're open to defining the outcomes with the consultant but are particularly interested in contextualizing our grantmaking within the broader funding landscape. It's been at least 8 years since there's been any evaluation of Boston's arts funding ecosystem, so we understand data is limited. It may be a recommendation to conduct a new study.

Can we explain more about the decision-making process for the RFP?

We score technical proposals before reviewing price proposals. Once the technical evaluations are complete, we review pricing and make decisions based on the most advantageous applicant relative to cost.