

## **2018 ComEd Powering the Arts PROGRAM GUIDELINES**

### Purpose and Overview

Exposure to the arts is vitally important for the health of our communities. Coming together to share a cultural offering is a way to cultivate community and achieve social connection, which inspires and uplifts us all. Arts and culture should be accessible to all. Through this program ComEd and the League of Chicago Theatres look to reach audiences that have otherwise been unable to access the richness of cultural offerings throughout the ComEd service area.

Recognizing that access to art is crucial to the quality of our lives, ComEd has partnered with the League of Chicago Theatres to commit to supporting cultural institutions in northern Illinois with their ongoing efforts to reach underserved audiences in our communities. The new ComEd Powering the Arts Program has been designed to assist local institutions in these efforts by providing funding for some expenses towards these goals.

Exposure to the arts increases creativity across the spectrum of human endeavor. Each experience provides audiences with further opportunities for interactions, whether they are inspired to educate themselves further about the topic or to create a work of art themselves, or perhaps to attend another event. Each exposure at a minimum enhances the quality of life for the audiences but can also, in profound ways, change the lives of audiences.

### Key Dates:

Grant Cycle Opens:

March 15, 2018, 9:00 a.m. CST

### Application Deadline:

May 25, 2018, 5:00 p.m. CST

### Eligible Applicants

Eligible Applicants are nonprofit arts and cultural institutions that are located within ComEd's service territory in the following counties: Boone, Bureau, Carroll, Cook, DeKalb, DuPage, Ford, Grundy, Henry, Iroquois, Jo Daviess, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Lake, LaSalle, Lee, Livingston, Marshall, McHenry, Ogle, Rock Island, Stephenson, Whiteside, Will, Winnebago and Woodford.

Before applying, please check [ComEd's service territory map](#) to ensure your proposed project is located within the service territory boundaries. We are unable to fund projects that are located outside the service territory boundaries.

Schools, school districts, governments, and government run organization are not eligible to apply.

Eligible Applicants must be in good standing with ComEd related to provision of utilities, and cannot have previously received grant/sponsorship funding from ComEd or Exelon within the past two years.

### Eligible Activities

Priority is given to projects that (a) demonstrate the ability to reach significant numbers of underserved audiences; and (b) commit to retaining the underserved audiences after the funding period ends.

Eligible activities could include, but are not limited to:

- Serving audiences that live in an area without immediate access to arts and cultural programs.
- Serving audiences that are limited because of economic circumstances.
- Serving audiences that have special needs such as those that have physical or cognitive disabilities.
- Serving audiences that previously have felt excluded from the work for ethnic or racial reasons.
- Serving audiences that have lacked exposure to arts and culture because of reduced funding for arts programs in public schools.
- Serving senior citizens who have limited access to arts and culture.

### Grant Amounts and Timing

- Grants will be for amounts up to \$10,000 and may be used to pay for up to 75% of eligible activities.
- The grantee must have either secured a source of matching funds or have submitted a pending application for such funds. Matching funds must be in cash. In-kind services cannot be submitted as match. The status of all matching funds, whether secured or pending, must be indicated on both the application form and in the required budget attachments.
- Grants will be awarded once per year.
- Applications are due before 5:00 p.m. CST on May 25, 2018. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.
- Applicants awarded funds for their projects will be expected to fully expend the grant award within 12 months of its receipt. A final grant report is due within two months of the full expenditure of funds.
- An organization that has previously received funding from ComEd is ineligible to apply.

### Grant Conditions

- The applicant's cultural offerings must be open to the general public on a regular basis.
- Within two months of the final expenditure of grant funds, the applicant will submit a final report summarizing the work accomplished with the grant. Accompanying the final report will be photographs

or other documentation of the project. The report must also include an explanation of accounting justifying the use of the grant funds, such as documentation of invoices, cancelled checks, settlement sheets, etc., as necessary for the particular project.

### Applications

Applications are available on-line via <https://leagueofchicagotheatres.org/comedpoweringthearts.html>. For additional information regarding the submission process, please refer to the Program FAQ's. Upon submission of your application, you will receive a receipt confirming that your application has been successfully submitted.

### Advisory Committee

Completed and eligible applications will be reviewed and ranked by an advisory committee composed of members of the region's nonprofit arts and culture community. Final decisions on award recipients and amounts are at the discretion of ComEd.

### Time for Decisions

Decisions on grant awards will be announced by August 8, 2018. All communication regarding your application, including notification of awards and distribution of grant funds, will be directed to the contact person listed on your application. To avoid delays in receiving your notification of award or other important correspondence, please contact [PoweringTheArts@ChicagoPlays.com](mailto:PoweringTheArts@ChicagoPlays.com) right away if your contact person, address, or other important information changes after you submit your application.