

ATHE Focus Group Grants Guidelines 2009/2010 Fiscal Year

Call for Grant Submissions

ATHE announces the availability of a \$9,000 budget line item to be used by its focus groups that seek to expand or continue non-conference operations during the upcoming calendar year. A single focus group may submit an application, but ATHE encourages submissions from two or more focus groups working on a single project. There is neither a minimum nor a maximum amount that must be requested, but the goal of these funds is to provide the maximum benefit to ATHE as an organization. The objective of these grants is to encourage focus group activity extending beyond the annual ATHE Conference held each summer. These funds should foster creative, pedagogical, and/or scholarly activities that hold true to the organization's strategic plan.

These grants are available for distribution and may only support activities that occur between 1 June 2009 and 31 May 2010. Applications may be fully funded or accepted with only partial funding based on how well the application meets the established criteria.

Evaluation Criteria

1. Proposals that best fulfill ATHE's strategic plan (<http://www.athe.org/files/pdf/StrategicPlan2005-2009final.pdf>) will receive priority when determining funding.
2. Proposals generated by at least two focus groups working in tandem will receive priority when funding. However, a proposal by a single focus group may be funded if it supports a significant activity that adheres to the strategic plan of the organization and will benefit members outside of the focus group.
3. The Finance Committee will evaluate these proposals in order to provide the best benefit to the general ATHE membership when considering all submitted proposals. The Finance Committee may fully or partially fund submitted proposals.
4. Proposals submitted by groups that have not yet been awarded a grant will receive preferential consideration when determining funding. However, groups who have received prior grants are still eligible to receive funding.
5. Applications will not be accepted for conference-related events since funding already exists for such activities. Applications for pre-conference event funding or for conference session proposals should be directed to the Conference Committee .
6. Each application should indicate its sponsoring group(s), provide an itemized budget including all proposed sources of support and income, and propose a calendar for the proposed activities. It is the responsibility of the applicant(s) to note how the proposal best fulfills ATHE's strategic plan and how it benefits ATHE's membership.
7. The Treasurer of ATHE must receive completed applications no later than 1 March 09. Applicants will be notified of the funding decision on or about 31 March 2009.

Evaluation Process

Calendar for Grants Awarded for Activity June 2009 – May 2010

15 January 09	Call for submissions posted to ATHECALL and on the ATHE Website.
1 March 09	Submission deadline.
1-15 March	Treasurer reviews proposals, gathers any additional information, and distributes proposals to a grants subcommittee.
15-20 March	The Finance Committee reviews completed proposals and recommends to the GC which proposals to accept or reject and how much funding each accepted proposal should receive.
20 -25 March	The Finance Committee reviews and then votes to approve or reject the subcommittee's recommendations.
31 March	Representatives from focus groups that have submitted proposals will be notified of the Finance Committee's decision by the Treasurer.
1 June 09	Funds become available for accepted groups.
31 May 10	Last day to spend funds.

Examples of previously funded and possible projects includes:

- A regional symposium on theatre pedagogy
- Viewpoints workshop with SITI artist
- Community- based artist initiative
- A project that would collect and publish exercises that develop collaborative skills in our students
- A workshop to develop strategies formalizing production as pedagogy
- A strategic planning meeting for the leadership of several focus groups in order to determine future collaborative activities
- A study that explores the role of the performing arts in urban renewal
- A performance workshop to examine the role of theatre in the community
- Development of web resources
- A research project that addresses pedagogical, intellectual, historical, artistic, cultural, or theoretical problems relevant to theatre studies
- BTA's publication of *Blackstream*
- VASTA retreat for organizational renewal and improvement
- ATME colloquium on actor training and education.

Process of Evaluation

Proposals will be reviewed by members of the Finance Committee. The Treasurer moderates discussion and serves in a non-voting capacity. Funding recommendations are reviewed and voted on by the Operations Committee or Governing Council.