

Grantee Name	
	QCC-The Center for Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Art & Culture
Project Title	To support the Queer Arts Summit in San Francisco
Project Progress and Successes	<p>Over the past year, the Queer Cultural Center's staff has held numerous discussions about the National Queer Arts Summit. In August, QCC hired a new Community Engagement Coordinator, Manish Vaidya, who has organized numerous national conferences in the social justice field. The San Francisco Arts Commission recently notified QCC that we had received \$25,000 to support his compensation from April 1, 2015 through March 2016.</p> <p>Vaidya has already made significant contributions to our thinking about the Summit: first, he suggested holding the event in Oakland rather than San Francisco, thereby reducing the venue's rental rates as well as the speakers' accommodations expenses. QCC is currently in discussion with several Oakland hotels and a decision is imminent. He has also been crucial in helping to rebrand the summit and the planning committee will finalize the events name shortly -- currently under consideration are OUTburst and Queer Stages.</p> <p>In order to avoid scheduling conflicts with other major national gatherings, such as the annual Creating Change Conference, NPN and APPAP, our committee decided to hold the event in February or March 2016 rather than September 2015; this date will be confirmed and a contract with the host hotel will be finalized before the end of 2014.</p> <p>Additionally, because of community feedback, our committee has decided to expand the event to include music as a field rather than just jazz and blues. Jazz and blues will still have significance within the Summit; at least one session will directly address needs for jazz and blues musicians and at least 2 jazz/musicians performing in performance showcases.</p>
Challenges / Obstacles / Failures Encountered in the Project	<p>To implement this national undertaking, the primary challenge QCC encountered was identifying personnel with the capacity and experience to successfully achieve the project's goal: to improve the financial condition of LGBT performing artists by enabling them to conduct successful touring. The project's national scope required someone with prior experience planning and conducting national conferences as well as someone who understands how nonprofit arts organizations and individual artists secure tour bookings. QCC has successfully resolved this personnel issue, although it took much longer than originally anticipated.</p> <p>A second challenge encountered was the General Manager's prior commitments to operating QCC's fiscal sponsorship and fundraising services programs. These two fast-growing QCC programs serve emerging Queer artists and are increasingly in demand. They now consume a much larger percentage of the General Manager's time than when QCC first submitted our original proposal two years ago. Vaidya's addition to QCC's staff has provided the capacity and expertise that will enable the</p>

	Project Director to effectively manage and implement this project.
	What was learned from these that might be of benefit to others?
	<p>One of the major lessons we have learned is that the LGBT arts community is not organized nationally, and this is a general characteristic of culturally diverse arts organizations working in the community arts field. While arts foundation and state and local arts agencies staff are somewhat networked, the individuals working in the non-profit community arts field rarely have the time or opportunity to interact.</p> <p>From 1990 to 2009 the NEA did not fund LGBT artists and arts organizations. The members of the national Queer arts community live and work in different cities and regions and do not really know each other. Consequently, the lack of a national Queer arts infrastructure makes organizing a national Queer arts conference a challenge in itself. To succeed, QCC must attract Queer artists seeking to tour, presenters and individuals who make arts policies and funding decisions.</p>
	Links to relevant website(s) and/or project publications, reports, etc.
	http://qcc2.org/national-queer-performance-summit/
	If someone wishes to speak with your organization further about your project, would there be a willing contact? Y/N
	If yes, please provide contact name and information for preferred method of contact (email, phone, etc).
	Y - Kevin Seaman - managing@queerculturalcenter.org