

**Assembly 2007  
Baltimore, MD  
Peer Session Summary**

## **Grants Officers**

### **Session I: Thursday, December 6**

#### **A. Welcomes and Introductions**

Since the first peer session was focused on online grant systems, participant introductions included information on whether or not their organization had an online system.

Several states use WESTAF's system under various names:

- Arizona (EGOR)
- Florida
- Kentucky
- New Mexico
- Ohio (OLGA)
- South Carolina (OSCAR)

eGRANT, a system developed by Carnegie Mellon, is used by several states as well:

- Mississippi
- North Carolina (transitioning to WESTAF)
- Pennsylvania
- Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation – also administers CAMT's CueRate

Other systems/status of some states:

- Alabama – will go online January 2008
- Missouri – currently bidding for a system
- Nebraska – Community Tech Knowledge
- Washington – will go online August 2008 with WESTAF
- National Endowment for the Arts – Grants.gov

#### **B. E-Granting and Online Data Collection**

There were several points that all three presenters made about online grants systems in general:

- An online system reduces printing and mailing costs, eliminates manual data entry, and provides a method of automatic error checking (e.g. adding up budgets correctly)
- Moving to an online system has not necessarily reduced the work of grants staff, but shifted the focus – instead of answering questions about the mechanics of filling out grant applications, staff are able to focus on the content of the application.
- Constituents were fairly quick to embrace this change, particularly for the systems that were developed more recently. Rural constituents were some of the most accepting of this change.

Pennsylvania Council on the Arts

**Bryan K. Holtzapple**, *Grants & Fiscal Officer*

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Pennsylvania uses three systems for its grant applicants:

- eGRANT – for organizations who need to fill out applications, interim and final reports
- CueRate – for individuals applying for fellowships
- PACDP (Pennsylvania Cultural Data Project) – a standardized form to collect financial and other quantitative information from organizations applying to a variety of Pennsylvania grantmakers

Data from eGRANT is exported into Pennsylvania’s AGMS database (ArtsNet Grants Management System) for staff use. OGMS (Online Grants Management System) is the online database used to communicate with the 15 organizations in its Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts regranting program.

Costs: \$100,000 - \$125,000 to develop and host (in 1995), \$25,000 - \$50,000 annual cost for ongoing development and maintenance

Anyone can go and register an account to access Pennsylvania’s eGRANT system. Go to <http://pca.egrant.org>, click on the “Grant Applications” link, then on the button to “Register” and follow the directions to create a new login and password. Further information on can be found by following the eGRANT link under the “Find-It-Fast” drop down list in the upper right of PCA’s website, <http://www.pacouncilonthearts.org>. Please **do not** submit an application from your test account. Doing so will result in extra records when the data is imported. Please use the email links in the system if an application is submitted by accident. For more information, please contact Bryan Holtzapple at [bholtzapple@state.pa.us](mailto:bholtzapple@state.pa.us)

Ohio Arts Council

**Dia Foley**, *Assistant Director, Office of Grants Administration & Constituent Services*

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The shift to an online system occurred during other major shifts at the Ohio Arts Council: a complete revision of funding programs, which resulted in their 28 grant programs being refocused and streamlined down to 10; a new deputy director; staff turnover and reorganization; and a physical office relocation. With these changes occurring simultaneously, the decision was made to have a grant season ‘hiatus’ and develop the online system during this time.

Costs: \$105,000 for initial development in 2003-2004, \$10,000 per year in operating costs

Anyone can go and create a test account through OLGA – go to <http://www.culturegrants-oh.org/index1.php> and follow directions to create an account. To gain access to closed applications, contact Dia Foley at [Dia.Foley@oac.state.oh.us](mailto:Dia.Foley@oac.state.oh.us).

## Nebraska Arts Council

*Elaine Buescher, Grants Manager*

The Nebraska Arts Council developed their current online system with Community Tech Knowledge approximately 1.5 years ago. The prior system had been custom built by a company that had built their website; problems arose with maintaining the system when staff turnover at both the arts council and the contracted company occurred. The decision was made to look for a new system with a more responsive vendor and reliable product.

Cost: \$25,000 initial outlay in 2005 (paid for by state), ~\$5,000 per year plus upgrade fees.

For access to Nebraska's system please contact Elaine Buescher at [ebuescher@nebraskaartscouncil.org](mailto:ebuescher@nebraskaartscouncil.org).

## **C. NEA Grants Office Update**

*Nicki Jacobs, Grants and Contracts Officer, National Endowment for the Arts*

Nicki Jacobs gave a "heads up" to the grants officers about an upcoming change to federal reporting requirements. The Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act will require federal agencies awarding grants greater than \$25,000 to post the details of their awards online on a monthly basis. Much of the required information is already being collected through FDRs. DUNS numbers, which are not required, will be required as a part of this reporting. A pilot program is being developed and states will be contacted in the next few months to participate. Online access to this information will be kept at <http://www.usaspending.gov>.

## **Session II: Saturday, December 8**

### **D. I Have All This Grants Data, Now What Do I Do With It?**

#### Creative Ways to Present Data

*Angela Han, Director of Research, National Assembly of State Arts Agencies*

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This presentation provided examples of how data can be packaged and presented in a variety of ways. Graphs and charts using budget and grantmaking data collected by NASAA from state arts agencies as well as other examples were provided.

#### The New England Cultural Database

*Jane Preston, Director of Programs, New England Foundation for the Arts*

The New England Foundation for the Arts has developed the New England Cultural Database (NECD), an online data warehouse containing financial, demographic, geographic and other information about New England cultural organizations and artists. Financial and descriptive data is provided by public and private funders in member states, Form 990 data, and NEFA surveys.

Counting on Culture, currently only available for Massachusetts, calculates the economic impact of cultural organizations in a community.

Accounts to access the NECD are free and can be created by going to <http://www.necd.org/membership/newacct.aspx>.

Using Data to Make the Case

*Sue Gens, Director, Communications and Government Relations, Minnesota State Arts Board*

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Minnesota, like many state arts agencies, has a challenge in showing their legislators the impact of general operating support grants. Using data collected about their grantees' education and outreach activities, the Arts Board has found an effective way of communicating the work that public funds support around the state.

For further information about the Grants Officer peer sessions at Assembly 2007 please contact Angela Han ([angela.han@nasaa-arts.org](mailto:angela.han@nasaa-arts.org))