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2009 Arts Presenters/MetLife Foundation
Awards for Arts Access

MetLife Foundation

Program Background

The Arts Presenters/MetLife Foundation Awards for Arts Access honors those performing arts venues that demonstrate a depth and breadth of inclusion that permeates every fiber of the organization - from planning and evaluation to mission, leadership, budgeting, outreach and programming. Awards recipients understand that embracing a culture of accessibility and inclusively creates a welcome space for all audiences.

Read more about our findings in arts access from the 2005 awards in the white paper, [Beyond the Ramp: Accessibility as an Organizational Asset](#).

Accolades for excellence and innovation are recognized with a \$10,000 cash award each at the Arts Presenters Members Conference Awards Ceremony Luncheon. In addition, the recipients are featured in various Arts Presenters publication and participated in an arts access panel discussion at the Annual Members Conference.

Arts Presenters/MetLife Foundation Awards for Art Access

[Click here](#) for Arts Presenters/MetLife Award for Excellence and Innovation in Access

Arts Presenters/MetLife Award for Arts Access in Underserved Communities

Deadline for Entries: Friday, October 17, 2008

Award: Two (2) recipients of \$10,000 each

Award Ceremony: Monday, January 12, 2009

This award honors an organization that is dedicated to innovative project-based strategies resulting in practices and programs that increase access to the arts for people in underserved communities, whether they are rural, inner-city, communities in transition or new communities. It broadens the scope of access initiatives to differentiate how organizations effectively respond to the changing demographics of this country and engage underserved populations in all aspects of programming. Please note: This is different from the Award for Excellence in Innovation and Access.

Eligibility:

- Performing arts presenting facilities in the United States open to the general public are eligible to apply for this award
- This is not a grant application. The award does not support plans to be implemented in the future. This award recognizes accomplishments that have taken place over a specified period of time.
- Organizations that have received a cultural access grant from the MetLife Foundation since 2005 are not eligible to apply for this award.

Review Criteria:

An independent panel of arts professionals will review all entries for the *Arts Presenters/MetLife Award for*

Increasing Arts Access in Underserved Communities. Award recipients will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- The degree to which the organization includes access for a certain demographic of people. For example: recent immigrants, people from diverse backgrounds, a range of physical abilities, varied socioeconomic backgrounds, and/or across the age and demographic spectrum
- The degree to which the organization has developed new and innovative forms of partnerships to involve groups and individuals not previously engaged
- The degree of civic leadership and collaborative efforts around identified access issues in the community
- The depth and breadth of accessibility present in the organization's visioning, and in its planning and evaluation of programs and services
- The degree to which the strategy has had a significant impact on the community and on increasing participation from artists and/or audiences not previously engaged
- The evidence of numbers served with supporting materials that may include evaluation samples and/or outcomes.
- The artistic merit and quality of the program and its partners
- The degree to which the activities presented are project-based and represent a distinct, community-specific solution.

Submitting an Entry

- The deadline for applying is **Friday, October 17, 2008** by 5 pm EST
 - Applications will only be accepted online.
 - [Apply Now!](#)
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Arts Presenters/MetLife Award for Excellence and Innovation in Access

Deadline for Entries: Friday, October 17, 2008

Award: \$10,000

Award Ceremony: Monday, January 12, 2009

This award honors an organization that has been consistently dedicated to the implementation and evolution of its arts access strategies by the creation of programming or an organization-wide tool or practice that has been developed in response to new technologies, recent demographic changes to a community and/or an on-going dialogue to engage community members in planning for and providing access to the arts for everyone. Please note: this is different from the Award for Arts Access in Underserved Communities.

Eligibility:

- Performing arts presenting facilities in the United States open to the general public are eligible to apply for this award
- This is not a grant application. The award does not support plans to be implemented in the future. This award recognizes accomplishments that have taken place over a specified period of time.
- Organizations that have received a cultural access grant from the MetLife Foundation since 2005 are not eligible to apply for this award.

Review Criteria

An independent panel of arts access professionals will review all entries for this award. Award recipients will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- The depth and consistency of accessibility present in the institution's programs and activities
- The comprehensiveness of accessibility planning and evaluation, and the integration of that planning into the overall vision of the organization
- The degree to which the organization moves beyond compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act
- The degree to which the organization's strategies address the accessibility needs of older audiences and artists, and artists and audiences with disabilities
- The evidence of numbers served with supporting materials that may include evaluation samples and/or outcomes.
- The artistic merit and quality of the program and its partners

Submitting an Entry

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2005 Awardees:

The Kentucky Center; Access Services - Award for Excellence in Arts Access

The Flynn Center for the Performing Arts - Award for Innovation in Arts Access

2006 Awardees:

The Museum of Contemporary Art - Award for Excellence in Arts Access

The Kennedy Center - Award for Innovation in Arts Access

2007 Awardees:

Mixed Blood Theatre Company, Minneapolis, MN - Award for Excellence and Innovation in Access

University Musical Society, Ann Arbor, MI - Award for Arts Access in Underserved Communities

2008 Awardees:

Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra - MetLife Award for Arts Access in Underserved Communities

Myrna Loy Center/Helena Presents - MetLife Award for Arts Access in Underserved Communities

Victory Gardens Theater - MetLife Award for Excellence and Innovation in Access

Resources

[The National Endowment for the Arts \(NEA\)](#) and organizations like [VSA arts](#) and the [National Arts and Disability Center](#) feature downloadable publications that highlight issues of arts access and review strategies for planning successful and accessible arts programming.

MetLife Foundation

The MetLife Foundation was established in 1976 by MetLife to support various educational, health and welfare and civic and cultural organizations across the country. Recognizing the arts' contribution to the health, vitality and development of our communities, the Foundation is committed to increasing access to the arts and promoting diversity and inclusion. For more information about MetLife Foundation, please visit www.metlife.org.

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