

NEA: *Our Town*, Due January 14, 2013

Proposal for City of Lawrence and Lawrence Arts Center *Our Town* Application

City Request: \$2,000 in funding for grant writer

Amount requested of the NEA: up to \$200,000.00      Total amount of Project: Up to \$400,000

**Project Personnel:**

Artist-in-residence R. Luke Dubois

Visiting artist and researcher: Dana Karwas

Project Director Margaret Weisbrod Morris

Digital Media Education Coordinator and Free State Film Festival Director Marlo Angell

Artistic Director: Ric Averill

Advisor Kevin Willmott

**Overview:**

The Lawrence Arts Center seeks to partner with the City of Lawrence on the 2013 NEA *Our Town* grant application requesting funding for arts- based digital media projects and education for all children, downtown and East Lawrence access to broadband, and a city wide film festival. The Arts Center will take the lead on this project that will support community goals and work with community member towards increased economic vitality and cultural tourism following the principles of Creative Placemaking. The Arts Center will work with city staff to devise metrics to measure economic and other impact. Artist Luke DuBois will come to Lawrence as Artist-in-residence to work with local artists, digital designers, and other creative professionals to make this plan happen.

**Free State Film and Music Festival : Culminating Event**

The Lawrence Arts Center's Free State **Film Festival** is a weekend long event inviting dialogue between local and national artists and a broad spectrum of audiences through the shared experience of thought-provoking cinema. The **festival** includes feature **films**, short **films**, panel discussions and an experimental **film** and music video showcase. We celebrate not only the **film** art form, but its relationship to other mediums such as visual arts and music in an effort to reflect the unique culture of the city of Lawrence, Kansas. The 2012 **festival** showcased both national and feature **films** in an effort to stimulate attendance and provide connections between national and regional artists. Feature **films** included the documentary, *Charles Bradley: Soul of America*, based on the rise of soul music sensation whose 2011 album was named one of Rolling Stone's Albums of the Year; *Compliance*, the most talked about **film** at Sundance **Film Festival**; Patrick Rea's local horror **film**, *Nailbiter*; and *Corporate FM*, a documentary on local radio trends. FSFF 2013 will offer expanded **film** offerings, educational opportunities led by visiting artists, and further integration of live music. We seek collaboration with community partners to help us make this a **film festival** of regional and national importance. Committed partners include: Love Garden, the

Lawrence Public Library, St. Luke's AME Church, Warehouse Arts District, The Bottleneck, Through a Glass Productions, The Eyedoctors Optometrists, Watkins History Museum.