

**ARTPRIDE NEW JERSEY SEEKS CONSULTANT TO IMPROVE AND EXPAND EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION EFFORTS**

**BURLINGTON, N.J. (February 2020)** – The ArtPride New Jersey Foundation has released a request for proposals to advance equity, diversity, and inclusion strategies of the state’s largest cross-discipline arts service organization. The nonprofit, which supports hundreds of large and small cultural institutions throughout New Jersey, seeks an outside consultant with cross-sector experience and an understanding of the arts industry to work with staff, trustees, and other partners to progress EDI efforts.

“The issuing of this request for proposals demonstrates the commitment that ArtPride New Jersey has made to lead by example in advancing equity and inclusion in the arts by first looking within itself,” said Taneshia Nash Laird, President & CEO of Newark Symphony Hall. Laird co-chairs ArtPride’s EDI Committee with Bob Wagner, Principal Bassoonist of the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra. The EDI Committee includes the organization’s trustees, members, and other key stakeholders from across the state.

In late 2017, ArtPride’s Board of Trustees approved a strategic plan that included a primary goal of improving and expanding its EDI practices within its walls and throughout its field. Specifically, the following objectives were detailed in the plan:

- Increase diversity within ArtPride’s staff, board, and membership.
- Determine how ArtPride can best support its members to address this priority, and begin to pilot initiatives to advance this effort.
- Create strategies in three arenas:
  - Improving the approach to equity, diversity, and inclusion in ArtPride’s own board, staff, and membership.
  - Providing leadership and support to our member organizations that activates change within the field.
  - Incorporating ArtPride’s commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion in all of its management practices, products, and services.

“There is a broad spectrum of knowledge within ArtPride’s membership, and a variety of EDI-focused work being done by our members,” said Adam Perle, President & CEO of ArtPride New Jersey. “In order to best serve our cultural community, we must feel confident that EDI policies and practices guide all facets of our governance and programs.”

The expected scope of work outlined in the RFP includes collaborating with ArtPride trustees and staff to establish a common foundation and shared language, develop an EDI plan, and precipitate conversations with other regional cultural organizations regarding the field’s collective responsibility.

The request for proposals may be obtained from the ArtPride New Jersey website, [www.ArtPrideNJ.org](http://www.ArtPrideNJ.org), or by [clicking this link](#). Proposals must be submitted by February 21, 2020.

**About the ArtPride New Jersey Foundation**

The ArtPride New Jersey Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) organization that promotes the value of the arts to New Jersey’s quality of life, education and economic vitality through research and a variety of programs and services. For more information about ArtPride, visit [www.ArtPrideNJ.org](http://www.ArtPrideNJ.org).