

SLINGSHOT

The 2023 "10 to Watch" List

Application Guide

Thank you for your interest in applying to the Slingshot “10 to Watch” List. We hope this guide will answer any questions you have. Also, the Slingshot staff is always here to help.

Important Dates

Applications are open through November 21st at 5pm EST.

The reviewers may have questions about your application. If they do, Slingshot staff may come back to you to get more information. This part of the process will be completed **December 16th**.

Notifications of our final decision will be sent in **February 2023**.

Background on the Slingshot “10 to Watch” List

The Slingshot “10 to Watch” list builds on our history of showcasing innovative ideas and investing in positive change.

This list is an evolution of The Slingshot Guide. For 13 years, the Guide served as a resource to help Next Gen funders find the most innovative projects and organizations in Jewish life. In 2018 Slingshot announced a bold new strategic plan which included the “10 to Watch” list, a more focused approach to highlighting emerging innovation.

The annual “10 to Watch” list features organizations and projects that use creative approaches to respond to current and timely needs — and have great potential to enrich the Jewish future. Eligible organizations serve a North American audience, have been in the field for less than five years, and provide a fresh way to address a relevant problem.

Once again, we are not requiring applicants to fill out a standard application form, given the strains on time and resources that may disproportionately affect marginalized communities — including Jews of Color, Jews with disabilities, LGBTQ Jews, and Jews who do not live in urban centers.

Instead, we invite applicants to submit something you’ve already written, such as :

- An existing report that captures your work
- A recent grant proposal
- An annual report

We hope this approach will ease the burden on applicants and make it possible for more organizations and projects to apply.

In the event that you do not have something you wish to use we have a template available to use as your guide for writing a narrative.

Note: While we hope this drives funding and attention to these ventures, there are no grants associated with the list.

The Application, Eligibility Requirements, and Selection Criteria

How Do I Apply?

In order to be considered, please submit two documents [here](#):

1. **A Descriptive Narrative:** Tell us who you are, what you do, and who you do it for! Your readers will be evaluating you on the selection criteria outlined below so make sure your narrative addresses the following questions: Most importantly, what makes you innovative? How do you provide leadership to the field? What is your impact or potential for impact? How do you excel in execution? How do you meaningfully serve your communities? We leave it up to you about what type of document is submitted, this could be a grant report, annual summary of work, etc.
2. **A Financial Document:** This should be something you already have: an income/expense statement, audited financials, a budget, etc.

If you don't already have something to share, we are happy to provide you with a template document. Please email Rachel Hodes at rachel@slingshotfund.org.

Word Limit: While there is no designated word or page limit, brevity is appreciated.

Evaluators will review these documents with the selection criteria outlined below. Use that as a guide for what type of document to upload.

You can upload these documents [here](#).

Eligibility Requirements

Applicants must represent an organization or a project of an organization that:

- Has been actively in the field for a **minimum of one year and maximum of five years**. Ideas or plans are not eligible; you must be able to demonstrate that you have already implemented programs/served an audience.

- Serves a **North American audience**. Global organizations without significant North American activities, beyond fundraising, will not be considered. Fundraising within North America is not considered a significant activity for “10 to Watch.”
- **Is not primarily focused on fundraising.**
- **Offers a new, fresh idea for addressing a unique and relevant problem.**

Selection Criteria

Applicants will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- **Innovation:** Addressing a relevant, strong need in a fresh way. This applies to both what an initiative is doing and how they are doing it, showing a culture of perpetual risk-taking and improvement.
- **Leadership in the Field:** Applicants are a model for the field. They may possess a strategy, an approach, or programmatic content that could be replicable elsewhere and/or that is elevating the work of its peer organizations.
- **Potential for Impact or Demonstrated Impact:** Applicants can show they are making change in their community, and/or beyond. Or they show promise towards change-making.
- **Excellence in Execution:** The product put in the field is of a high quality and caliber.
- **Audience Engagement:** Serves its target communities with meaning and relevance and reflects, or is working to reflect, diversity within the Jewish community.

Selection Process

Each application will be evaluated by at least 3 evaluators. Their feedback is both quantitative and qualitative and drives the final list.

Help

If you have questions or concerns, or are having trouble with your application, reach out to Rachel Hodes at rachel@slingshotfund.org.