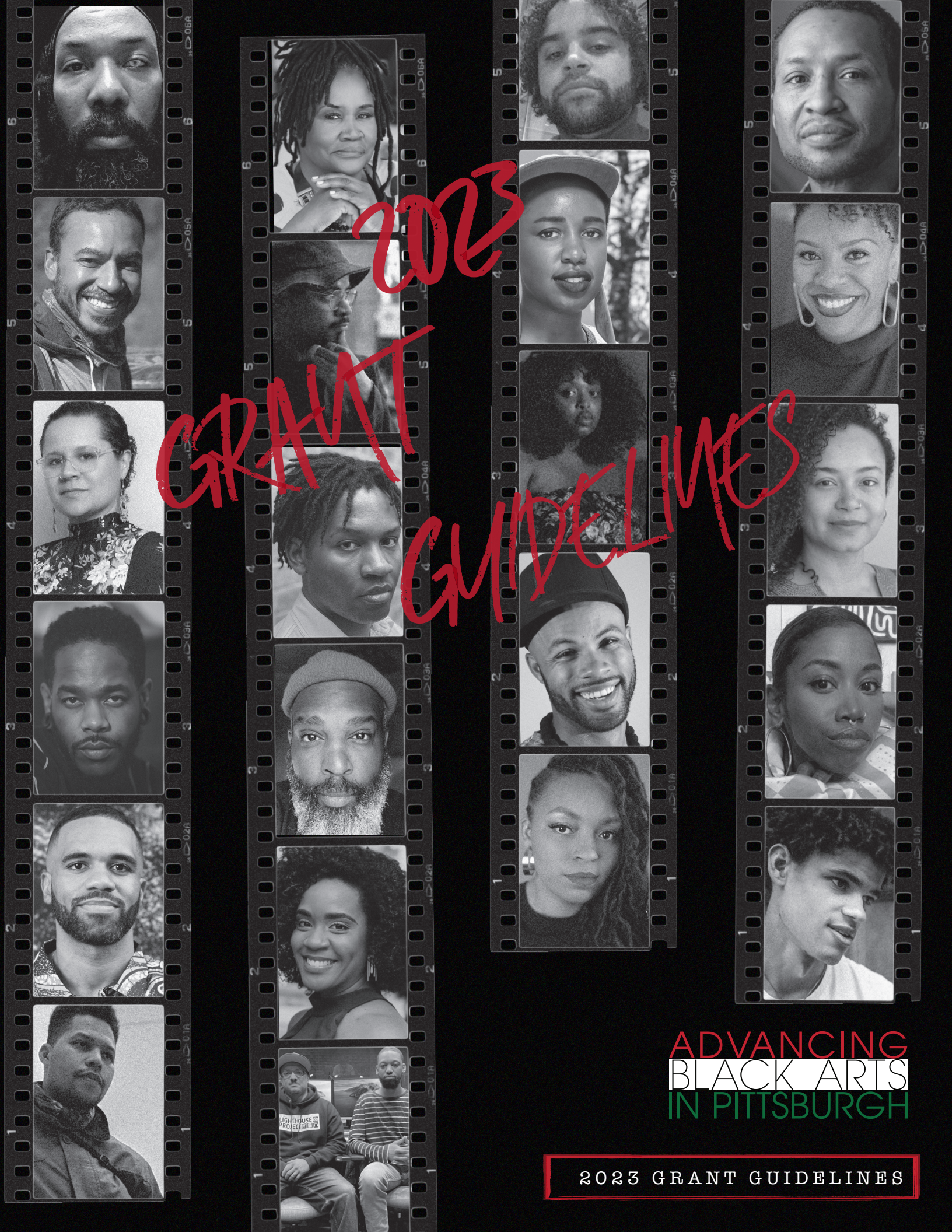


2023 GRANT GUIDELINES



ADVANCING
BLACK ARTS
IN PITTSBURGH

2023 GRANT GUIDELINES



Cheutan Jones

Black arts.

Black culture.

Black resources.

Black abundance.

Advancing Black Arts in Pittsburgh.

Advancing Black Arts in Pittsburgh is intentionally designed to enhance the support made available to Black artists and Black-led arts organizations that have historically been under-resourced. Its grantees are artists, programs and organizations advancing the art of the African diaspora. Since its inception in 2010, Advancing Black Arts has awarded 691 grants totaling \$9.46 million to support excellence in artwork rooted in the Black experience.



For a greater Pittsburgh.

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VISION

Advancing Black Arts in Pittsburgh envisions a greater Pittsburgh region where Black artists and organizations advancing Black culture have access to opportunities to thrive.

MISSION

Advancing Black Arts in Pittsburgh celebrates the acknowledgement, celebration, preservation and perpetuation of Black arts and culture.

PURPOSE

We center Black people, Black communities and Black culture because Pittsburgh - despite its rich history as the home of internationally renowned Black artists - is among the most oppressive places in the U.S. for Black residents to live and create. Advancing Black Arts in Pittsburgh acknowledges, uplifts and celebrates Black culture and its contributions. It is critical to preserve and perpetuate Black culture and its value because white supremacist systems are set up to co-opt and erase Black voices and Black creation.

When we say Black culture, we mean music, dance, fashion and all other arts, sports, history, values, traditions, games, crafts, literature, languages, faiths, cuisine and social habits.

We also hold that **Black culture** means identity, legacy, revolution, ritual, ceremony, spirituality, creation, innovation, joy, diasporic perspectives, freedom, community, Sankofa, resilience, resistance, revival/inspiration, empowerment and Black space outside of the white gaze.

Why do we need an Advancing Black Arts in Pittsburgh program?

When we commit to reconciling the disparity gaps in Pittsburgh for Black artists and organizations, we are investing in a better Pittsburgh.

Program



Petra Floyd



GOALS

Modeling an equitable arts ecology within the region is a core objective/goal of Advancing Black Arts in Pittsburgh.

The program aims to:

- Help build careers and support the lives of individual artists.
- Increase the sustainability of cultural organizations that focus on Black arts by working to eliminate racial disparities within the larger arts sector.
- Support collaboration in and community awareness of the Black arts sector.
- Prioritize the documentation and discussion of Black artists' work and well-being as part of the region's cultural health.
- Support work that directly addresses and calls for the eradication of systemic and structural racism.

VALUES

JUSTICE. Racial justice is central to Advancing Black Arts in Pittsburgh. All competitive applications will elevate race and ethnicity through the art of Black people, African Americans, Africa and the larger African diaspora. The program also values equity in gender, age, economic diversity, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, physical ability and intersectionality.

BEHAVIORAL READINESS. We value behavioral readiness for transformation. To effectuate cultural shifts and system transformation, we cannot be siloed, nor can we afford to use our resources for incremental transformation. We are in the service of building abundance and effectuating transformation for the social good.

BUILDING GENERATIONAL WEALTH. As is evidenced by the practice of philanthropy, the program will encourage the practice of building wealth for artists and art organizations for the purpose of effectuating transformation for social good in perpetuity.

ECOSYSTEM. To support cultural shifts and sustained systems transformation, design thinking methods will be used to develop programs and practices that focus on people's needs and center empathy, interdependence and authentic collaboration for the purpose of advancing artists, organizations and culture bearers. In addition to supporting the eradication of historic underfunding to Black artists and organizations, a primary focus is the successful navigation of a broad array of both local and national resources.

INTERDEPENDENCE. The program is predicated upon an interconnected arts ecosystem that promotes the fundamental belief of lifting as we climb, thereby multiplying the overall impact of Black arts and its production and eliminating a competitive deficit approach to this grant-making program. This "economies of scale" approach seeks to amplify impact within and beyond Pittsburgh's creative community.

BUILDING PATHWAYS. The program embraces grantmaking as a tool for lasting, long-term transformation. To deeply engage creatives over time and build pathways for creative advancement, the cultural shifts needed must be executed in a manner that is transformational, and not solely transactional.

DOCUMENTATION. Reflection, learning and evaluation are essential to charting an appropriate and effective pathway forward and are necessary for overcoming historic obstacles to advancement.

THEORY OF TRANSFORMATION

We believe that the state of a society is measured by assessing the conditions and livability of its most disenfranchised residents.

To achieve an equitable society, we must realize, acknowledge, and then commit to eliminating the gaps that have been created by oppressive systems. Working with others within the arts and culture ecosystem, we support Black artists and Black cultural institutions' abilities to exist, then sustain and then thrive.

Advancing Black Arts in Pittsburgh will effectuate this theory of transformation through the following strategic pathways towards long-term outcomes of self-determined success:

- Grantmaking.
- Collective accountability.
- Evaluation and learning.
- Tools and resources.
- Thought leadership.
- Broader support for the arts ecosystem.



Ricardo Iamuri Robinson

Eligibility

ELIGIBILITY

All applicants may only apply to one (1) stream of funding per year. If the applicant applies to more than one funding stream, the Foundation reserves the right to select which application will be allowed to move forward for consideration. General operating support and core programmatic support organizations are not eligible for other funding streams.

PROGRAM DEADLINES

All applications are due on **May 3 at 5 p.m.**, unless otherwise noted. Prospective applicants may only apply to one (1) funding stream.



Individual Artists

WHO CAN APPLY:

- Be at least 18 years of age by the time of submission.
- Identify as Black, African American, African, Caribbean, Afro-Latinx or of the African diaspora.
- Be in the Pittsburgh region. Applicants in the following counties are eligible to apply for funding: Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Mercer, Lawrence, Somerset, Venango, Washington and Westmoreland.
- Previous grantees of this program are eligible to apply again 12 months after the submission of a final report.

All applicants are **strongly encouraged** to attend the **Community Q&A session** prior to applying for funding.

This will be held on **March 23, 2023, at 4 p.m.** via Zoom. *Advance registration is required.*

For questions, email arts@pghfdn.org

[PLEASE REGISTER HERE](#)



Organizations

WHO CAN APPLY:

- Be a Black-led and serving 501(c)(3) organization, a fiscally sponsored organization or collective working with a Black fiscal sponsor. If utilizing a fiscal sponsor: Please confirm that the organization is eligible to utilize a fiscal sponsor that meets the requirements included [here](#).
- Have a history of producing or presenting Black art and culture.
- Be in the Pittsburgh region. Applicants in the following counties are eligible to apply for funding: Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Mercer, Lawrence, Somerset, Venango, Washington and Westmoreland.
- Previous grantees of this program are eligible to apply again 12 months after submission of final report.

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PLEASE REGISTER

Funding Streams

PROJECT SUPPORT

UP TO \$50,000

OVER 2 YEARS - \$25,000/YEAR

Provides grants to individual artists, nonprofit organizations and fiscally sponsored organizations and collectives. Applications are due via the Foundation's online portal by 5 p.m. on May 3.

Individual artists, nonprofit organizations and fiscally sponsored collectives/groups identifying as Black or Black-led may apply. This funding stream accepts projects that align with the goals of the program and embraces the mosaic of varied artistic disciplines. Although not an exhaustive list, applications may include one or more of the following example elements:

- Planning a project.
- Hosting an artist or administrative residency based in an organization.
- Designing and attending a self-curated artist residency.
- Presenting and/or producing work.
- Marketing a previously completed project.
- Projects that advance the community of Black artists writ large.
- Projects in Black media and journalism.
- Projects that specifically address issues of social justice.
- Season support for a presenting organization/collective.
- Literary publishing.
- Construction, purchase, or renovation of facilities.
- Regranting
- Black arts related research and cultural criticism.
- Projects that advance the role of artists and the Black community in shaping public policy and narrative change that advance racial justice.

ABOVEGROUND RAILROAD GRANT

UP TO \$10,000

ONE YEAR

Provides grants to individual Black students pursuing a degree in higher education towards a career in arts administration. Applications are due via the Foundation's online portal by 5 p.m. on May 3.

The Aboveground Railroad grant is an annual unrestricted award up to \$10,000 that honors up to three Pittsburgh-based Black students pursuing a degree in higher education focused on arts administration. Eligible applicants must be currently enrolled in an academic program and pursuing a career in arts administration in the Pittsburgh region or, if attending a school outside of Pittsburgh region, must have a current home address in the Pittsburgh region. Applicants in the following counties are eligible to apply for funding: Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Mercer, Lawrence, Somerset, Venango, Washington and Westmoreland.

Informed by the City of Pittsburgh's Gender Equity Commission's 2019 report on "Pittsburgh's Inequality Across Race and Gender", this funding stream will consider racial and gender equity explicitly, with a strong preference towards students identifying as Black women. Awardees may only receive this grant once.

GENERAL OPERATING OR CORE PROGRAMMATIC SUPPORT

UP TO \$50,000 ANNUALLY
FOR TWO YEARS

*Submissions by invitation only

Provides grants to Black-led and -serving nonprofit organizations and fiscally sponsored collectives/groups.

A select group of Black-led nonprofit cultural organizations will be invited to apply for two years of operating support and/or core programmatic support. Grantees must have a history of consistent annual programming. In addition, participants must have clear goals, strategies and meet annual measures of success developed in consultation with Foundation staff.

PLEASE NOTE:

- Arts organizations seeking support must be Black-led/serving and have a history of producing or presenting Black, African American, African or diasporic art.
- Grantees must show reasonable attendance and accessibility to a broad and diverse public audience.
- General operating and core programmatic support recipients are not eligible for other funding streams.

Before You Apply

We recognize the immense creativity and work represented by each of these proposals and would like to express gratitude for the time, energy, effort and invisible labor already put forth throughout this process.

COMMUNITY Q&A SESSION

All applicants are strongly encouraged to attend the Community Q&A session prior to applying for funding. This will be held on March 23, 2023, at 4 p.m. via Zoom. Advance registration is required.

[PLEASE REGISTER HERE](#)

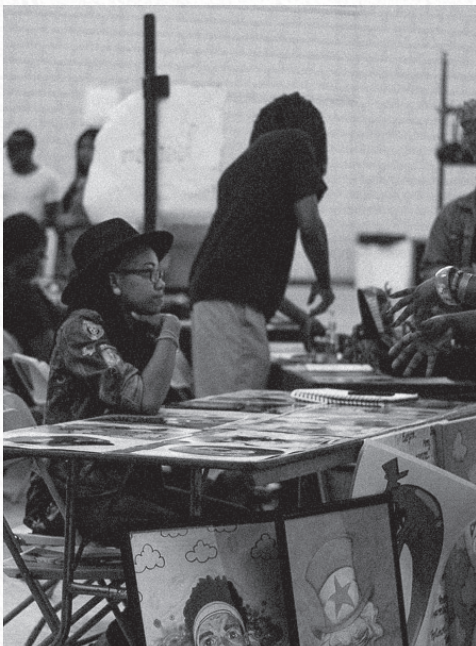
After registering, you will receive a confirmation email with information about joining the meeting.

For questions, email arts@pghfdn.org.

ONLINE PORTAL

APPLY THROUGH THE ONLINE PORTAL

Applicants must establish an accurate personal account on the online application portal. Once you have an account, you may start and complete your application in the same session or save your work and finish the submission later. All applications (unless otherwise noted) are due by **5 p.m. on May 3**. (General operating support is provided by invitation only and has a separate deadline for submission. Please see the guidelines for eligibility and instructions.)



Review & Notify

REVIEW PROCESS

Applications are reviewed by Foundation staff members for eligibility and a panel of local and national artists from varied artistic disciplines make funding recommendations to Foundation staff.

NOTIFICATIONS

Applicants approved for a grant will be notified within six months of the application deadline. Activities to be funded by this grant request should not begin sooner than Nov. 1. Grantees must submit a final report on the project after the duration of the grant period (one to two years). An interim report is required for all multi-year grants. For further inquiries please contact arts@pghfdn.org.

TAX IMPLICATIONS

Funds awarded to individuals through this grants program are not excludable from gross income and must be reported to the IRS. Please consult a tax professional to review the impact of this grant on your personal tax liability. Grantees will be required to submit an individual IRS Form W-9.

ART Art is generally understood as any activity or product done by people with a communicative or aesthetic purpose—something that expresses a culture, an idea, an emotion or, more generally, a world view.

ARTISTIC DISCIPLINE: Although not an exhaustive list, the following art forms may be represented in the applicant pool:

- Craft (ceramics, fiber, glass, jewelry, metals, textiles, etc.).
- Dance (dancers, choreographers; aerial, ballet, hip-hop, jazz, tap, etc.).
- Design (fashion, graphic, industrial, object, all forms of architecture, etc.).
- Film (animation, documentary, episodic, experimental, narrative, etc.).
- Media (work at the intersection of technology, aesthetics, storytelling, and digital cultures, etc.).
- Multidisciplinary (combining or involving several artistic disciplines).
- Music (composers, musicians; classical, contemporary, experimental, folk, instrumental, jazz, pop, world, etc.).
- Theater and performance (directing, experimental, live action, playwriting, puppetry, tactical and site performance, etc.).
- Traditional arts (work related to the continuity and evolution of a tradition and/or cultural heritage such as cultural dance, cultural music, oral expression, and traditional crafts, etc.).
- Visual art (installation, painting, performance art, photography, sculpture, sound art, video, etc.).
- Literary arts (fiction, nonfiction, poetry, literature for children, criticism, graphic novels, journalism, arts writing, etc.).

ARTS ADMINISTRATOR: An arts administrator merges an interest in the arts with business acumen and fundraising skills to manage the operations of an arts organization. This involves interacting with artists, teaching artists, performers, supporters and organizational staff. Finance, grant research/ application, accounting, marketing, curatorial and personnel management are key parts of an arts administrator's skills.

ARTS ORGANIZATION: An arts organization is an IRS-registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation or organization working with a fiscal sponsor and with a mission to produce or present work in dance, film/ video, digital applications, literature, music, theatre, traditional/folk arts, visual arts or interdisciplinary work. Eligible organizations may be of any budget size and must demonstrate the capacity to implement proposed activities. University arts departments, history museums or other nonprofit cultural entities are also eligible if a strong record of accomplishment and/or effective support system for working with creative artists can be demonstrated. See cultural relevance definition below for more.

ARTIST RESIDENCY: A residency is an immersive period during which an artist, arts worker, curator or arts administrator has access to resources for the expressed purpose of developing or supporting artistic work. The individual does not need to reside continuously in the region, but both the individual and organization must engage each other in an active exchange that adds value to both the artistic work and the host organization. Residencies should last at least three months to a maximum of 18 months.

BLACK: A racialized classification of people who may identify as Black, African American, African, Caribbean, Afro-Latinx or of the African diaspora.

BLACK-LED: An organization that is Black-led has a CEO that self-identifies as Black, a predominantly Black

board, AND its mission statement and charitable programs aim to predominantly serve Black communities or populations. This definition is adapted from Association of Black Foundation Executives (ABFE).

BLACK-SERVING: An organization that is Black-serving operates charitable programs that predominantly serve Black communities or populations.

CULTURAL RELEVANCE: Cultural relevance celebrates the unique cultural strengths of people of the African diaspora. The lens of cultural relevance gives first-person voice to the people of the African diaspora, so that the artists may share and celebrate their lived experiences and build on the artistic traditions of the diaspora. Cultural relevance is rooted in historical context, and considers contemporary issues, such as social climate and intersectionality in the artistic work and in the creative approach. Competitive projects will be designed by artists who bring their culture and experience to the development and execution of the plan. This will result in work that matters to a broad array of Pittsburgh residents and deepens understanding of the current social context in which the work is created.

DISABILITY: A person who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits major life activities. This includes people who have a record of such an impairment, even if they do not currently have a disability. It also includes individuals who do not have a disability but are regarded as having a disability.

FISCAL SPONSOR: The practice of nonprofit organizations offering their legal and tax-exempt status to groups—typically projects—engaged in activities related to the sponsoring organization’s mission. Please review to confirm your organization is eligible to utilize a fiscal sponsor and that the fiscal sponsor meets the requirements listed here.

IMMIGRANT: a person who migrates to another country, usually for permanent residence.

INDIVIDUAL ARTIST: A professional artist is an individual who has devoted significant time and training to building a career creating or interpreting works of art. Our definition includes playwrights and choreographers, as well as those who bring works of art to life for audiences, such as stage directors, actors, dancers or designers. Interpreters of art, including journalists, art critics and curators, may also apply. Professional artists may be emerging, mid-career or established. In assessing an artist’s qualifications, we will take the following into consideration as appropriate to the art form and stage of career: quality of creative work; evidence of formal or informal training; history of exhibitions, performances, screenings or other public sharing of work; and critical reviews or letters of recommendation from professionals in the field.

LGBTQ+: An acronym for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer or questioning. These terms are used to describe a person’s sexual orientation or gender identity.

PITTSBURGH REGION: The Pittsburgh region is defined as the following counties: Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Lawrence, Mercer, Somerset, Venango, Washington and Westmoreland.

REFUGEE: A person forced to leave their country to escape war, persecution or natural disaster.

VETERAN: A former member of the armed forces of the United States (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard) who served on active duty.

I AM:

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <p><input type="radio"/> An artist, nonprofit organization or fiscally sponsored project/group/collective applying for</p> <p>PROJECT SUPPORT.</p> | <p><input type="radio"/> An individual Black student pursuing a degree in higher education towards a career in arts administration applying for</p> <p>ABOVEGROUND RAILROAD GRANT.</p> | <p><input type="radio"/> A Black-led and -serving nonprofit organization or fiscally sponsored project/group/collective invited to apply for</p> <p>GENERAL OPERATING OR CORE PROGRAMMATIC SUPPORT.</p> |
|---|---|--|

I HAVE:

- Selected an eligible funding stream.
- Register for and attended the **Community Q&A Session** on March 23, 2023 at 4 PM.
- Created an account on the online application portal to complete my application.
- Submitted my application via the online application portal by 5 p.m. on May 3 (for non-operating support applicants).
- Taken a moment to celebrate. You did that!

FOR QUESTIONS:

arts@pghfdn.org

IMPORTANT DATES:

Community Q&A Session: 4 p.m. March 23, 2023

Application Deadline: 5 p.m. on May 3 (for non-operating support).

NOTES:

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We acknowledge those who came before us.

In 1989, The Multicultural Arts Initiative was created to advance culturally diverse arts programming, with an emphasis on Black and African American programs, and to celebrate the diverse cultures of western Pennsylvania by supporting and strengthening arts programming through funding, advocacy and technical assistance.

In 2010, the board of directors voluntarily dissolved the organization and disbanded the board. Later that same year, Advancing Black Arts in Pittsburgh was launched as a shared initiative of The Pittsburgh Foundation and The Heinz Endowments. In 2021, after a large donation from philanthropist Mackenzie Scott, the Advancing Black Arts in Pittsburgh team dreamed with community members about the program's future. In 2022, both Foundations decided to move the program to The Pittsburgh Foundation and, beginning in 2023, it will be solely managed by The Pittsburgh Foundation with monetary support from The Heinz Endowments. We remain grateful for all the artistic excellence our partnership has allowed for both now and in the future.

It is with gratitude that we acknowledge the artists, ancestors, individuals, donors, research and evaluation efforts, foundation and program staff whose vision, hard work and dedication to Black art has made today's Advancing Black Arts in Pittsburgh program possible.

PHOTO CREDITS

from top to bottom, left to right

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Deavron "The Urban Explorer" Dailey.
Petra Floyd.
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Atiya Jones.
Harrison Kinnane Smith

PAGE 8

Elijah Roberts.
Deavron "The Urban Explorer" Dailey.
*Image by Nathan Shaulis.
Leigh Solomon Pugliano.


PAGE 9

The BlackteaBrownsuga Network.
Image by JR Ishara Henry.
Protohaven.
Eshu Game Session at Lighthouse.

PAGE 14

Gavin Benjamin.
*Image by Adam Miliron.
Xan Phillips.
Zeal Eva.



Melissa Kimble (she/her) 
@Melissa_Kimble

This world does not move without Black creativity.

2:15 PM · 6/17/20

670 Retweets **40** Quotes **1,124** Likes

