

# ADVANCING BLACK ARTS IN PITTSBURGH

2024 GRANT GUIDELINES





**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 programs and organizations advancing the art of the African diaspora.

# CONTENTS

	PAGE
<b>ABOUT</b>	
Vision	2
Mission	2
Purpose	2
Goals	2
Values	3
Theory of Transformation	4
<b>ELIGIBILITY</b>	
Eligibility	5
what we don't fund	5
Deadlines	6
Assistance opportunity	6
Who can apply: Individual artists	7
Who can apply: Organizations	8
<b>FUNDING STREAMS</b>	
Project support	9
Aboveground Railroad support	10
Operating support	11
<b>PROCESS</b>	
Before you apply	13
Community Q&A	13
Online portal	13
Review and notify	14
<b>NOTES</b>	
Definition of terms	15
Acknowledgements	18
Credits	18



# ABOUT THE PROGRAM

## 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 honors 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.

## 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 selfdetermined success:

- **Grantmaking.**
- **Collective accountability.**
- **Evaluation and learning.**
- **Tools and resources.**



## 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 grantees are not eligible for other funding streams.

## WHAT WE DON'T FUND

- Organizational start-up support.
- Statewide or national organizations unless they have an established local office or chapter that meets the above eligibility criteria and priorities.
- Projects that expressly advocate for or endorse a candidate for elected office.
- Annual appeals or event sponsorships.
- Episodic and/or one-time programs and events.
- Capital expenses and/or campaigns.
- Payments on organizational debt.
- Costs and activities that are completed before a requested grant has received a decision from our board.
- University overhead costs.
- Single-disease support organizations.
- Educational scholarships.
- Academic Research.



# DEADLINES

All applications are due on **June 13, 2024 by 5 p.m.**, unless otherwise noted.

*Prospective applicants may only apply to one (1) funding stream.*

**NOTE:** Due to the large number of requests expected in program initiatives, requests for assistance should allow for ample time prior to the day of the deadline (**June 13, 2024**). Please note that questions received on the day the application is due may not be answered due to capacity constraints. Application deadlines will not be extended to consider last-minute tech issues or questions.

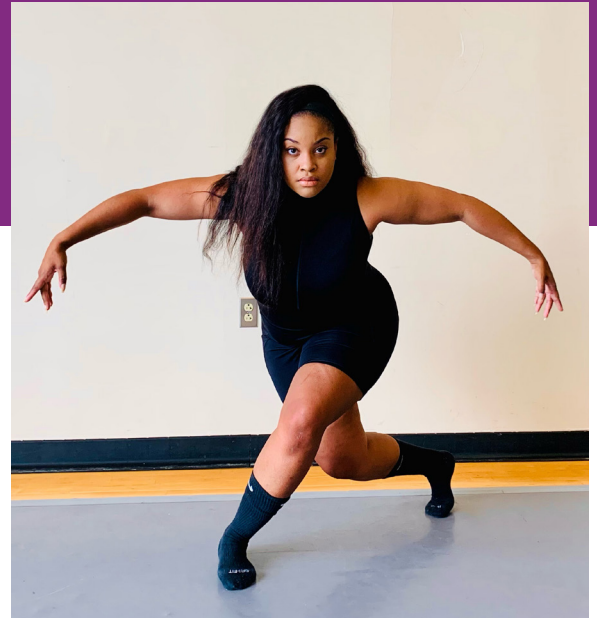
**ASSISTANCE:** Are you considering applying to the Advancing the Black Arts in Pittsburgh by **June 13 at 5 p.m.**? If so, please connect with Christiane Dolores who will be meeting with potential grantees to talk about your application. You can register for a session here <https://www.noboxengagements.com/abap2024>



## WHO CAN APPLY

# INDIVIDUAL ARTISTS

- **Must** 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.
- **Must** have their primary residence within the Pittsburgh region to be eligible to apply for funding. This includes applicants whose primary residence is within Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Mercer, Lawrence, Somerset, Venango, Washington and Westmoreland counties.
- **Note:** Previous grantees of this program are eligible to apply again for a grant decision that is 12 months after completion of the previous grant and 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 **May 14, 2024, at 3 p.m. via Zoom**. Advance registration is required.

For questions, email [arts@pghfdn.org](mailto:arts@pghfdn.org)

[PLEASE REGISTER HERE](#)



## WHO CAN APPLY

# ORGANIZATIONS

- **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** located within the Pittsburgh region and/or primarily serve Pittsburgh area residents. 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.
- **Note:** Previous grantees of this program are eligible to apply again for a grant decision that is 12 months after completion of the previous grant and 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 **May 14, 2024, at 3 p.m. via Zoom**. Advance registration is required.

For questions, email [arts@pghfdn.org](mailto:arts@pghfdn.org)

[PLEASE REGISTER HERE](#)



# FUNDING STREAMS

## PROJECT SUPPORT UP TO \$50,000

OVER TWO YEARS \$25,000/YEAR

Provides grants to individual artists, nonprofit organizations and fiscally sponsored projects and collectives. Applications are due via the Foundation's online portal **by 5 p.m. on June 13.**

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 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.
- 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.

# FUNDING STREAMS

## **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 June 13, 2024**.

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. If attending a school outside of the Pittsburgh region, applicants must have their primary residence within the Pittsburgh region to be eligible to apply for funding. This includes applicants whose primary residence is within Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Mercer, Lawrence, Somerset, Venango, Washington and Westmoreland counties.

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.

# FUNDING STREAMS

## GENERAL OPERATING SUPPORT

UP TO \$100,000

OVER TWO YEARS - \$50,000/YR

Provides grants to Black-led and -serving nonprofit organizations. Grantees must have a history of consistent annual programming.

- 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 support recipients are not eligible for other funding streams.

### **To be eligible for a general operating support grant, the applicant must:**

- Have been in operation for at least two years.
- Not be a current grantee receiving operating support through The Pittsburgh Foundation's [Foundation-directed grantmaking](#).
- Have a mission and core programs consistent with the guidelines of this program.
- Be able to report on the results achieved by its programs.
- Have an executive director or staff person in an equivalent leadership role that has been in place for at least 12 months.
- If the organization is undergoing a leadership transition, must demonstrate that there is a board-led transition plan that includes a defined strategy for interim leadership.
- Have an audit completed within the last two years (if applicable) and/or up-to-date financial records (current board-approved budget, balance sheet, profit and loss statement, etc.) that demonstrate sound financial management.

**Continued on next page.**

Continued from page 10.

**Applicants using a fiscal sponsor are not eligible to apply for operating support.**

Please review our [fiscal sponsor guidelines](#) for more information.

**REMINDER:** All applications are due on **June 13, 2024 by 5 p.m.**, unless otherwise noted.

For questions, email [arts@pghfdn.org](mailto:arts@pghfdn.org) or visit: [pittsburghfoundation.org/abap](http://pittsburghfoundation.org/abap)

**REMINDER:** Are you considering applying to the Advancing the Black Arts in Pittsburgh by **June 13 at 5 p.m.**? If so, please connect with Christiane Dolores who will be meeting with potential grantees to talk about your application. You can register for a session here: <https://www.noboxengagements.com/abap2024>



# 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 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 May 14, 2024, at 3 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](mailto: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 are due by **5 p.m. on June 13, 2024.**

# REVIEW AND NOTIFY

## REVIEW PROCESS

Applications are reviewed by Foundation staff members for eligibility and a grant review panel of local and national artists from varied artistic disciplines make funding recommendations to Foundation staff. General operating requests will be reviewed by Foundation staff.



## 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.



## NOTIFICATIONS

Applicants approved for a grant will be notified within five months of the application deadline. Activities to be funded by this grant request should not begin sooner than Dec. 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](mailto:arts@pghfdn.org).

# DEFINITION OF TERMS

**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.



# DEFINITION OF TERMS

**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.

# DEFINITION OF TERMS

**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 haring 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.

*Definition of terms provided by [artistrelief.org](http://artistrelief.org).*

# 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, as of fall of 2023, it has been managed by The Pittsburgh Foundation with monetary support from The Heinz Endowments. We remain grateful for all of 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

**COVER:** Clockwise from top left:  
Christian Brown, photo by Sade Finn  
Bonita Lee Penn, photo by Kahmeela Adams  
Tara Fay Coleman  
Jorge Olivera Castillo, photo by Renee Rosensteel  
Staycee Pearl, photo by Joshua Franzos  
Harambe IV Collective  
Nathan Cephas, photo by Princes Gonzalez  
INEZ, photo by PIXELRAY Photography  
Emmai Aliquiva  
Balafon West African Dance Ensemble, photo from Legacy Arts Project  
Indira Cunningham, photo by AJ Smith  
Sean Baker, photo by Colleen Stepanian



P. 1: Artwork by Marquita Sams  
P. 2: Dominique Chestand, photo by Rayni Shiring  
P. 3: Diarra Imani, photo by Jaquan Brockman  
P. 4: (L-R) Sean Beauford, photo by Gavin Benjamin  
LoRen, photo by Jenna Wallace Photography  
Damola, aka Da Great Deity Dah,  
photo by Damola Idowu  
P. 5: Zuly Inirio, photo by Dominic Bordelon  
P. 6: Film stills from artist Alisha Wormsley  
P. 7: (T-B) Kontara Morphis, photo by Bodiography  
Marvin Touré  
Abreihona, photo by Wavebeast Productions

P. 8: (T-B) Guradians of Sound Hip Hop Orchestra, photo by Zo Zielinski.  
Sankofa Village  
LoRen/No Covers, photo by Nairobi Jones  
P. 12: (L-R) Alicia Volcy  
Jordan Taylor, photo by Kevin Lorenzi  
a.k. payne, photo by Nomè SiDone  
Rueben Brock, photo by Soul Notez Photography  
P. 14: Top right: Artwork by Marvin Touré, photo by Frank DiNardi  
Left: Khan | Kuma, photo by Taylor Cole  
Back cover: Boom Concepts