

ADVANCING BLACK ARTS IN PITTSBURGH

T

he City of Pittsburgh is known for its rich contributions to the canon of Black cultural creativity. Cultural experiences and creative innovations have always reflected the expressions and imaginations of people from the African diaspora. The *Advancing Black Arts in Pittsburgh* program is where access and opportunity connect with Pittsburgh artists who are thriving in their creative process as a means and a way of life.

Advancing Black Arts in Pittsburgh is a joint grantmaking program created and managed through a partnership between The Pittsburgh Foundation and The Heinz Endowments. The program is committed to helping create a vibrant cultural life in Pittsburgh and the region. Both foundations have made consistent investments in the initiative since 1988. In recent years, both foundations have codified their longstanding efforts toward equity into aspirational visions that seek to support the development of a more inclusively imagined future. The Pittsburgh Foundation's *100 Percent Pittsburgh* organizing principle imagines a region where courage, voice and racial equity are the norm as our region moves authentically toward the mutual goal of economic sustainability for all. The Heinz Endowments' *Just Pittsburgh* is an aspirational vision meant to inspire thought and action toward creating a region that is inclusive and equitable.

Learn more about the foundation initiatives here:
The Pittsburgh Foundation | [100 Percent Pittsburgh](#)
The Heinz Endowments | [Just Pittsburgh](#)

ADVANCING
BLACK ARTS
IN PITTSBURGH



Creating an equitable arts ecology within the region is a core value of *Advancing Black Arts in Pittsburgh* and its funders. The program goals are to:

- Help build the careers and support the lives of individual artists.
- Increase the sustainability of cultural organizations that focus on Black arts.
- Build community awareness of the Black arts sector.
- Support efforts toward greater collaboration and the elimination of racial disparities within the larger 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 that allows for disparities to exist.

The program's values include:

- **Equity.** Racial equity is central to *Advancing Black Arts in Pittsburgh*. While all competitive applications will elevate race and ethnicity through the art of African Americans, Africa and the larger African diaspora, the program also values equity in the areas of gender, age, economic diversity, sexual orientation/gender identity, religion, physical ability and intersectionality. Creating a just and equitable arts ecology for 100 percent of Pittsburgh's residents is complex, and we welcome applications that reflect the many ways in which identity is expressed.
- **Readiness.** The application process is not meant to attract and/or reward the perfect applicant, but rather an applicant that is ready and willing to make changes that will result in their desired outcomes and improve the overall health and vitality of the greater cultural ecosystem.
- **Wealth building.** 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 change for the social good.
- **Ecosystem.** In order to create cultural shifts and sustained system change, ecosystem design thinking will be utilized in program design and practice for the purpose of advancing artists, organizations and culture bearers.

ADVANCING
BLACK ARTS
IN PITTSBURGH

3

- **Interdependence.** The program is predicated upon an interconnected arts ecosystem that promotes economies of scale that amplify impacts within the creative community in Pittsburgh and beyond.
- **Building pathways.** The program embraces grantmaking as a tool for lasting and long-term change. We believe that the cultural shifts needed must be executed in a manner that is transformational, not solely transactional, in order to deeply engage creatives over time and build pathways for creative advancement.
- **Documentation.** Reflection, learning and evaluation are essential to charting an appropriate and effective pathway forward and are necessary for overcoming historic obstacles to that advancement.

In addition to these goals and values, the program employs the following imperatives as a means to further the mission of *Advancing Black Arts in Pittsburgh*:

- Financial capital.
- Collective accountability.
- Evaluation and learning.
- Tools and resources.
- Thought leadership.
- Broader ecosystem support.

PROGRAM DEADLINES

- Letters of intent are received once in a calendar year and are due on March 15, 2019, by 11:59 p.m.
Applicants are required to submit a letter of intent before being invited to apply for support in the following funding streams: Planning Grants, Individual Artist Support, Culturally Relevant Residency Support, Festival Support, Advancing the Field Support and Special Project Support.
- Operating support reports and renewal applications are due Aug. 1, 2019.
Operating support is provided by invitation only.
- All letters of intent are due by 11:59 p.m. on the day of the program deadline.

4

FUNDING STREAMS

Planning Grants

Letter of intent is due March 15, 2019, by 11:59 p.m.

Planning grants of up to \$5,000 are available to help cover expenses related to developing a full project proposal, including data gathering and research, convening partners, consensus building and problem definition. After successful completion of planning grant activities as evidenced in a final report, applicants are eligible to apply for project support the next calendar year.

Individual Artist Support

Letter of intent is due March 15, 2019, by 11:59 p.m.

Individual artists in any discipline whose work focuses on Black art – defined as the art of African Americans, Africa and the larger African diaspora – may apply for grants of up to \$15,000 to support creative and career development, self-curated artistic professional development, creation of new works and self-productions. Presentation of a fully realized work is not required.

Culturally Relevant Residency Support

Letter of intent is due March 15, 2019, by 11:59 p.m.

Artist residency support is available to any arts or culturally relevant organization interested in hosting artists whose work focuses on the art of African Americans, Africa and the larger African diaspora. Organizations seeking residencies may apply for amounts of up to \$20,000.

Festival Support

Letter of intent is due March 15, 2019, by 11:59 p.m.

Festival support through the *Advancing Black Arts in Pittsburgh* initiative is intended to support individuals and small arts organizations seeking to participate in local, regional or national festivals. Grants of up to \$10,000 will be made to support projects that culminate in a programmatic activity with public presentation and/or participation in an artist market with the award recipient's own artistic product and wares.

5

Funding Streams (Continued)**Advancing the Field Support**

Letter of intent is due March 15, 2019, by 11:59 p.m.

In addition to creating and presenting artwork, special efforts are needed to improve the overall arts ecosystem for Black cultural workers in the region. As a result, funds are available to support projects aimed at shared challenges, barriers or opportunities. Nonprofit organizations, researchers and arts advocates may apply for grants of up to \$25,000 for collaborative projects, research or marketing/advocacy efforts that increase the health and visibility of the Black arts sector beyond a single artistic engagement. Broad-scale, sector-wide advocacy aimed at the Pittsburgh community as a whole is encouraged. All proposals must provide evidence that the project is rooted in a collective effort (such as a memo of understanding signed by partners, establishment of a project advisory committee or a collaborative project structure).

Historic challenges that have plagued Pittsburgh's Black arts community and may ignite innovative project proposals include:

- Cultural criticism.
- Audience engagement and marketing.
- Board development.
- Limited access to affordable cultural space for presentations and productions.
- Professional development and retention of cultural workers.
- Social media strategies and implementation.
- Mentorship.
- Succession planning.

Special Project Support

Letter of intent is due March 15, 2019, by 11:59 p.m.

Nonprofit organizations may apply for grants of up to \$20,000 to present and/or produce work. Preference will be given to arts organizations; however, other nonprofits may apply if they can demonstrate ability to present/produce work. Preference will also be given to those organizations that emphasize significant community involvement/engagement in the project. Projects in the areas of Black media and journalism, as well as projects that specifically address issues of social justice and equity are welcome.

6

Funding Streams (Continued)

Special Opportunity

Applications are ongoing. Requests must be emailed to:
fundingarts@pghfdn.org.

Support for unique opportunities is available to any artists or culturally relevant organization that has an unexpected artistic opportunity arise during the course of the year. The opportunity must be clearly centered on the art of African Americans, Africa and the larger African diaspora, and participants must have clear goals and strategies outlined in their request. Applicants seeking support may apply for amounts up to \$10,000. If awarded, the applicant will receive a grant agreement within four weeks of the submission. Grantees may only apply for this funding stream every three years.

General Operating Support

(By invitation only)

Final reports and renewal applications are due on Aug. 1, 2019, by 11:59 p.m.

A select group of nonprofit cultural organizations will be invited to apply for general operating support. Grantees must have a history of consistent annual programming. In addition, participants must have clear goals and strategies and meet annual measures of success developed in consultation with foundation staff.

Definition of TERMS

INDIVIDUAL ARTIST: A professional artist is defined as 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, but not limited to 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, etc.; and critical reviews or letters of recommendation from professionals in the field.

7

Definition of Terms (Continued)

CULTURALLY RELEVANT: 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. Host organizations applying to this program will reflect the African diaspora in their overall approach to their everyday work. 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 and deepens understanding of the current social context in which the work is created.

ARTS ORGANIZATION: An arts organization is defined as an IRS-registered, 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation or organization working with a fiscal sponsor 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. For the purpose of this application, a culturally relevant organization is one that works at a local level to improve life for residents and has a mission-focus other than in the arts. 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 track record and/or effective support system for working with creative artists can be demonstrated.

RESIDENCY: A residency is defined as an immersive period during which an artist has access to the resources of a host arts organization (and/or multiple cultural organizations and cultural influencers) for the expressed purpose of developing artistic work. The artist does not need to reside continuously in the region, nor work directly with a single organization, as a residency may be self-curated. However, both the artist and partners selected must engage each other in an active exchange that is beneficial to the resident artist and the host organization, if applicable.

PITTSBURGH REGION: Artists and organizations located in the following counties are eligible to apply for funding: Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Lawrence, Mercer, Somerset, Venango, Washington and Westmoreland.

If you are outside of these 13 counties and have a project that is competitive though not eligible, please contact Celeste Smith at smithc@pghfdn.org. We would still like to hear from you. There may be opportunities to form authentic partnerships with artists and organizations within the qualifying Pittsburgh region.

8

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 IRS Form W9 as an individual and a signed grant agreement.

How to **APPLY**

To begin, applicants must establish an account on the program's applicant portal <https://pittsburgharts.slideroom.com>. You will be asked to submit your letter of intent. Once you have an account, you may start and complete your submission in the same session or save your work and finish the letter of intent at a later date.

All letters of intent must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. on March 15, 2019 (general funding streams.) and all final reports and renewal applications by 11:59 p.m. on Aug 1, 2019 (operating support). Projects may begin when the required grant documents are returned. Please see the full requirements here:

LOI review: Foundation staff will review letters of intent and will notify applicants by April 15, 2019 if they have been selected to submit a full application.

Full application review: Only applicants who have submitted a letter of intent and have been invited to apply will be considered for funding. If invited to submit a full proposal, applicants will receive detailed instructions on how to apply. Applications will be reviewed and recommendations made to foundation staff by a peer panel of local and national experts and cultural influencers from a variety of artistic disciplines.

Applicants who progress to the full proposal stage and are approved for a grant will be notified by July 15, 2019. Activities to be funded by this grant request should not begin sooner than Aug. 15, 2019. Grantees will be required to submit a final report on the project one year from the date of the grant award. Festival Support requests will be reviewed and notified based on the timeline of the event.

9

ELIGIBILITY

Individual Artist Support

- Artists must be at least 18 years of age and residents of the Pittsburgh region.
- Previous grantees are eligible to apply one year after the close of their grant. Grantees in 2018 are eligible to apply again in 2020.

Culturally Relevant Residencies

- Applicant organizations must be 501(c)(3) organizations (or work with a fiscal sponsor) located in the Pittsburgh region.
- Competitive residency proposals will demonstrate significant artist involvement in the development of the residency.
- Two-thirds of project costs should be directly related to artist fees or production expenses.
- Previous grantee organizations are eligible to apply one year after the close of their grant. Grantees in 2018 are eligible to apply again in 2020.

Arts Organizations must meet the following minimum eligibility requirements:

- Classified as tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or have a relationship with a fiscal sponsor. Please see information on fiscal sponsorship [here](#).
- Operate in the Pittsburgh region.
- Have a history of producing or presenting.
- Demonstrate reasonable attendance by, as well as accessibility to, a broad and diverse public audience.
- Previous grantee organizations are eligible to apply one year after the close of their grant. Grantees in 2018 are eligible to apply again in 2020. Operating support recipients are not eligible for other funding streams.

ADVANCING
BLACK ARTS
IN PITTSBURGH

10 For More **Information**

The Pittsburgh Foundation

<https://pittsburghfoundation.org/advancing-black-arts-pittsburgh>

The Heinz Endowments

<http://www.heinz.org/strategic-areas/creativity/advancing-black-arts-in-pittsburgh>

Contact: fundingarts@pghfdn.org or 412-394-2617