



GRANTS FOR INDIVIDUAL ARTISTS AND ARTIST COLLECTIVES

Exposure Artists Program

← A work from artist Annie Heisey's portrait series.
Image by Nate Smallwood.

Sponsored by The Pittsburgh Foundation and the Opportunity Fund, the Exposure artists program is guided by a shared belief in the need to support creative practice, to cultivate and fund diversity, and to advocate for racial justice in the arts community. Though the Foundations recognize that the funding available cannot solve inequities in the arts nor serve all artists, this program provides resources toward the creative artistic process and offers a self-directed pathway for artists to pursue new ideas, opportunities and skills that are essential to the region's cultural vitality. This program acknowledges that the field of arts and culture is evolving, and, as we learn with and alongside artists in our region, this program seeks to be responsive and evolve along with it. The Foundations endeavor to invest multiple resources dedicated to the arts where it is needed most – in the hands of individual artists. The Exposure program aims to elevate the work of artists through activities that create/generate/enhance visibility for the creative process, artwork and societal issues of our time.

Program Goals

With the initial investment in 2021, we seek to:

- Serve individual artists and collectives.
- Attempt to address the lack of equity in Pittsburgh's arts and culture community by establishing a funding stream that directly serves Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) artists who are working at the intersection of arts and activism.
- Support access to funding for individual artists who have not previously received Foundation support.
- Facilitate connections among grantees and other artists in the field who are promoting equity in arts and culture and working at the intersection of arts and activism.



PROGRAM GUIDELINES

Exposure Artists Program

← LeFawn Barefoot, a multidisciplinary artist, puts the finishing touches on her latest pieces. Her current body of work is centered on ancestor veneration, snake medicine, mindfulness, and release. Image by Kitoko Chargois.

Program Deadlines

Prospective applicants may apply to no more than one (1) of the following funding streams per year. Instructions on how to apply can be found later within this document.

Applications to the following Exposure funding streams are due by Sept. 13, 2021, at 11:59 p.m.

- Individual artists and collectives
- Transformative justice
- First-time grantees

Eligibility

- At least 18 years of age.
- Resident of Allegheny County. Collectives must be located within Allegheny County.
- Prospective applicants may apply to only one (1) funding stream per year.
- *For collectives:* Members of a collective may also be eligible to apply as individual artists. One collective may only submit one application as a collective. Collectives must apply with a fiscal sponsor. Please [click here](#) to learn more about the guidelines for applying to The Pittsburgh Foundation through fiscal sponsorship.
- *For transformative justice applicants:* Individuals and collectives identifying as BIPOC may apply.
- Individual artists and collectives that currently have an open grant or plan to make an application to another Pittsburgh Foundation grant program are still eligible to receive funding through the Exposure program.
- Previous grantees of this program are eligible to apply again 12 months after the submission of a final report.

Applicants must attend at least one information session prior to applying for funding. A direct link to the application will be provided to information session attendees after the information session.

- Register for the information session at the following links:
 - July 20 at 11 a.m.- Register [at this link](#).
 - Aug. 12 at noon - Register [at this link](#).
- If unable to attend an information session, please email arts@pghfdn.org.

What We Do Not Fund

- This grant opportunity is for individuals and collectives ONLY. Nonprofit organizations, LLCs and other organization types are ineligible to apply for this grant program. However, collectives must apply through a fiscal sponsor organization that has been designated as tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Please [click here](#) to learn more about the guidelines for applying to The Pittsburgh Foundation through fiscal sponsorship.
- Additionally, grant funds cannot be used to support projects/activities that expressly advocate for or endorse a specific candidate for elected office or encourage voter registration or voter turn-out for a particular party.

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.



PROGRAM GUIDELINES

Exposure Artists Program

← Artist Annie Heisey paints inside her studio on May 12, 2021. Image by Nate Smallwood.

Applications to the following Exposure funding streams are due by Sept. 13, 2021, at 11:59 p.m.

The program will support individual artists and collectives through the following funding streams.

Individual artists and collectives – up to seven grants:

Individual artists - Two-year grants of up to \$20,000 (up to \$10,000 each year for up to two years).

Collectives - Two-year grants of up to \$30,000 (up to \$15,000 each year for up to two years).

Individual artists or collectives working in any discipline may apply for grants to support their artistic practice throughout the grant period. Grants will be practice-based and are aimed at supporting the full scope of artistic work, rather than one individual project of an artist or collective. While the grant does not require the presentation of a fully realized work, it provides artists an opportunity for the creation and/or development of work that may consequently culminate in an artistic product and/or portfolio enhancement. Applicants may represent multiple artistic disciplines, including but not limited to film and video, visual arts, literary arts, craft, music, dance, curation, theater/performance, producing, etc.

First-time grantees – a total of three, one-year grants up to \$5,000:

Grants for individual artists who have yet to receive any support exceeding a total of \$2,500 from any arts grants program for the creation of work. Supporting emerging artists is a critical component of promoting and elevating the next generation of creators in the region and expands and further diversifies the regional arts ecosystem.

Transformative justice – a minimum of three grants:

Individual artists - Two-year grants of up to \$20,000 (up to \$10,000 each year for up to two years).

Collectives - Two-year grants of up to \$30,000 (up to \$15,000 each year for up to two years).

Individuals and collectives identifying as BIPOC may apply for grants for projects at the intersection of arts and activism with a racial justice lens. Applicants will be artists who are involved in serious artistic practice geared towards an intended transformative impact on social outcomes. The Foundations are committed to supporting artists creating their own narratives, and this funding stream will provide dedicated resources and recognition to BIPOC artists in our region doing this work.

APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS AND TIMELINE

Exposure Artists Program

Application Process and Timeline

- Applications will open in the SlideRoom online grant portal on Thursday, July 8, 2021. Applicants must attend at least one information session prior to applying for funding. A direct link to the application will be provided to information session attendees after the information session.
- Applications will be accepted through Monday, Sept. 13, 2021.
- Applicants will receive a decision on their application by Nov. 30, 2021.

Successful applicants will have opportunities to participate in Foundation-sponsored activities that promote field-building, networking, strengthen capacity and investigate other ways the Foundation can support artists' work.

Selection Process

A panel comprised of regional and/or national artists will review applications and make recommendations to the Foundation for funding. Panelists will be identified by their engagement in a variety of lived experiences and their expertise in the artistic disciplines represented in the applicant pool.

Applications will be evaluated on the proposal narrative, sample work and project feasibility. In assessing an artist's qualifications, panelists will take the following into consideration as appropriate to the art form and stage of career:

- Quality of creative work.
- Evidence of training (formal or informal).
- History of exhibitions/performances/screenings and/or relevant artistic experience.



↑ Box Dance, by Chandra Rhyme, singer, songwriter and classically trained dancer. Image by Joshua Franzos.

Exposure Artist Program

The “how to apply” guidelines below are relevant for the following funding streams: 1) individual artists/collectives; 2) transformative justice; and 3) first-time grantees.

Applicants must attend at least one information session prior to applying for funding. A direct link to the application will be provided to information session attendees after the information session.

- Register for the information session at the following links:
 - July 20 at 11 a.m.- Register [at this link](#).
 - Aug. 12 at noon - Register [at this link](#).
 - If unable to attend an information session, please email arts@pghfdn.org.
1. Create a user profile at <https://pittsburghfoundation.slideroom.com/#/Login>.
 2. Receive a direct link to the application by attending an information session.
 3. Follow the prompts to complete the contact and eligibility section.
 - *For collectives, Fiscal Sponsor Information:* A section of the application will request fiscal sponsor organization name, EIN and address. Please [click here](#) to learn more about the guidelines for applying to The Pittsburgh Foundation through fiscal sponsorship.
 4. Follow the prompts to complete the narrative section of the proposal. Application questions include:
 - *An artist’s statement.*
 - *Vision statement for use of funds:* This grant may be used to cover the support of both the artist and artistic process throughout the grant. Please describe your vision for the use of these funds for the grant and beyond. Refer to the guidelines for additional details on the grant.
 - *Vision for artistic process during the grant:* Describe your vision for artistic process and idea(s) that you plan to pursue/continue while in the grant. Describe how this grant will impact your work, including, but not limited to, opportunity to enhance creative process, artistic goals, etc. Describe how this work will continue after the grant.
 5. Follow prompts to complete the publicity section of the proposal. This section will ask you to provide links to your website and/or and social media accounts. Uploads in this section will include the following:
 - *Headshot:* Please provide a headshot of the applicant artist (with photo credit). This photo will be used for publicity purposes. By including this attachment, you grant permission for this image to be used for promotional purposes.
 - *Artist promotional image:* Please provide one (1) image that is representative of your work (with photo credit) to be used for promotional purposes, if awarded. If others are present in this image, please include each of their first and last names, left to right, in the file title as well. By including this attachment, you grant permission for this image to be used for promotional purposes.
 6. **Attachments: Follow prompts to complete the attachments upload section.**
 - W-9 Form: All individual applicants will be asked to upload a completed W-9 form.
 - Fiscal Sponsor Agreement: All collectives will be asked to upload a current Fiscal Sponsorship Agreement.
 7. **Portfolio: Each applicant is allowed a total of five (5) media uploads. Applicants must use at least one (1) media upload to submit sample work. The remaining four (4) uploads are available to submit work samples and/or background materials.**
 - *Sample Work (PDF, video, images, MP3):* Sample works receive considerable weight in the review process and, consequently, they should be of the highest quality possible and present your strongest artistic achievements to date. Panelists will review a maximum of ten (10) pages of written work or fifteen (15) images or a five-minute video or audio selection. To present multiple images, save them as a multi-page PDF and upload as a PDF document or upload a PDF image list with a link to an online gallery (personal website, Flickr, Tumblr, etc.). Multi-disciplinary artists may submit more than one type of media, but the overall amount of work submitted should roughly equal the single media work sample sizes described above. Be sure to label all work samples properly (title of work, medium, date created, size/length). If work is the product of a collaboration, include a description of your role in the work’s creation. You may provide links to works available online (e.g., YouTube, Vimeo, SoundCloud) but should include instructions on where the video or audio files are to be cued to start the selection to be reviewed by panelists. Material must be accessible without a password in order for it to be viewed within the SlideRoom platform. If you require password protection, please submit a link and the password in a PDF document. Work samples over the limits described above will be viewed at panelists’ discretion. Please indicate which samples are your primary work samples for review.
 - *Background Materials:* These uploads may include materials other than sample work that show the applicant’s complete body of work, such as resume/CV, floor plans, reviews, media coverage, letters of support, etc.

For more information, visit: <https://pittsburghfoundation.org/exposure>

Or contact arts@pghfdn.org or call 412-394-2603

Exposure Artists Program

Definitions of Terms

Artist: An artist is defined as an individual who has devoted significant time and/or training to create and/or interpret works of art in any discipline. For example, our definition of theater/performance 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 and other non-traditional forms of art. Artists may be at any stage in their careers.

Artist collective: A group of artists working together with a common mission and goals.

BIPOC: Black, Indigenous or People of Color.

Craft: Craft emphasizes the handmade and the custom made. It is centered on the concept of materiality, by which we mean the materials used and the skill in using them, both manually and conceptually. Craft artists work with materials associated with folk and/or contemporary craft traditions: clay, glass, fiber, wood and metal. We celebrate practices rooted within a common ethnic heritage, geographic region, religious affiliation or occupation, just as we do those that expand upon these traditions through non-traditional materials, new technologies and experimental approaches.

Racial justice: Using the definition from [Philanthropic Initiative for Racial Equity](#), we define racial justice as the systematic fair treatment of people of all races through the proactive elimination of policies, practices, attitudes and cultural messages that reinforce differential outcomes by race. A racial justice lens:

- Analyzes data and information about race and ethnicity.
- Understands disparities and reasons they exist.
- Looks at structural root causes of problems.
- Names race explicitly when talking about problems and solutions.
- Understands and acknowledges racial history.
- Creates a shared affirmative vision of a fair and inclusive society.
- Focuses explicitly on building civic, cultural and political power by those most impacted.
- Emphasizes an aim toward transformative solutions that impact multiple systems.

Transformative justice: Using definitions from various organizers [at this link](#), we define transformative justice as a framework and approach for responding to violence, harm and abuse. At its most basic, it seeks to respond to violence without creating more violence and/or engaging in harm reduction to lessen the violence.

Advisory Committee

These guidelines were developed in collaboration with an advisory group comprised of Pittsburgh-based artists representing multiple disciplines, identities and lived experiences. The committee informed the grant criteria and supplemental supports to be planned over the course of the grant period along with direct input from grantees. The Exposure Program Grant-making Advisory Committee was convened to inform and refine the Foundation's Exposure program grant-making criteria and more-than-money supports. Committee members will also offer feedback on the progress of the first year of the program's grantmaking. With an intentional effort to work with and alongside the field, the Foundation aims to improve its collective understanding of how philanthropy can be more responsive to the needs of artists in our region.

Advisory Committee Member's Eligibility to Receive Funding

The Pittsburgh Foundation values the wisdom and lived experience of those most directly affected by the issues we seek to address and the work we aim to support. To most effectively create a learning community with those that we are seeking to serve, we invited artists and creatives to join the advisory committee. We recognize that, in some cases, committee members may be eligible for funding through the Exposure program. Advisory Committee members do not evaluate individual grant applications or participate in funding decisions. Serving on this Advisory Committee does not preclude an artist from receiving funding from the Exposure Program. However, in the spirit of transparency, the advisory committee is listed below.

Exposure Advisory Committee

- [Alisha Wormsley](#)
- [Andrés Franco](#)
- [D. S. Kinsel](#)
- [Mikael Owunna](#)
- [Naomi Ruth Allen](#)
- [Sarika Goulatia](#)
- [Staycee Pearl](#)