



BRONX COUNCIL  
ON THE ARTS

**2023**

# Arts on the Block Guidelines

***Deadline: Monday, June 5th, 2023 at 11:59 PM***

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For Bronx-based  
**Block Associations,  
& Non-profit Arts and Community Organizations**

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**Council on  
the Arts**

*This program is made possible with funds from the New York State Council on the Arts Decentralization Program, with the support of Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature.*

# Bronx Council on the Arts Community Engagement Grants

Arts Fund | New Work | Community Arts | Arts on the Block

## ARTS ON THE BLOCK

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**Grant Amount: up to \$750**

Bronx Council on the Arts Community Engagement Grants aim to contribute to the cultural life of the borough through their support of community-based, high-quality arts projects in all disciplines, genres, and styles.

The Bronx Council on the Arts (BCA) **Arts on the Block** is a grassroots initiative designed to support small local organizations and block associations to increase attendance to their neighborhood block parties and/or single block festivals. A limited number of small grants of up to \$750 are available through this initiative. Funds are specifically earmarked for arts activities open to all block party and single block festival participants and can only be used for artist fees. (Examples include DJ's, spoken word artists, musicians, singers, dancers, etc., or other artists whose activities will enhance block party attendance.) The initiative is especially focused on supporting the work of organizations that are new to BCA and could become future grantees for arts programs. Therefore, preference will be given to smaller organizations and those who have not applied for a grant from BCA in the past. **Funded activities must take place between July 1, 2023, and December 31, 2023.**

### **BASIC ELIGIBILITY FOR ARTS ON THE BLOCK GRANTS:**

- Organizational applicants must:
  - be based in the Bronx with a Bronx address.
  - have existed for at least one year.
  - show proof of non-profit status and have an active board of directors.
- Block, tenant or resident associations must:
  - be based in the Bronx with a Bronx address.
  - have existed for at least one year.

### **APPLICANTS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR BCA GRANTS IF:**

- They received a BCA grant in a previous year, and failed to submit a Final Report.
- They received funding from NYSCA in the same fiscal year.
- They are a public university or college, a public, private or parochial school, or a New York City or State agency or department.

### **FUNDING FOR ARTS ON THE BLOCK IS EXCLUSIVELY PROVIDED FOR:**

- Artists fees for arts activities at block parties or single block festivals in the Bronx.

*This document contains guidelines for **Arts on the Block**. BCA also offers community engagement project funding through **Community Arts, Arts Fund and New Work** each year, with application deadlines in the fall. For more information visit [bronxarts.org](http://bronxarts.org).*

Please note the following: Applicants can apply yearly for all three grants with different projects for each grant: Arts on the Block (ATB), New Work (NW) and Community Arts (CA). The total amount requested must not exceed \$5,000.

Eligible applicants **CANNOT** apply to Arts on the Block for any project already funded by BCA through other grants programs.

## **APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:**

All applicants must fill out a complete online application using Submittable.com, accessible through [www.bronxarts.org](http://www.bronxarts.org).

### **For Organizations:**

Applicants must upload the following in order to be considered for funding:

- **One of the following forms of proof of non-profit status:**
  - Internal Revenue Service 501(c)3 letter.
  - Charter from Board of Regents under Section 216 of the NY State Education Law.
  - Current NY State Bureau of Charities (Office of the Attorney General) filing receipt.
  - Certificate of Incorporation under S. 402 of the NY State Not-For-Profit Law.
- **Current Organization Budget**
- **List of current Board of Directors**
- **Not have applied directly to NY State Council on the Arts for funding for the Fiscal Year 2023.**

### **For Block, Tenant or Resident Associations:**

Applicants must upload the following in order to be considered for funding:

- **Provide one of the following forms of proof of Bronx residency for one member of the association (*with same address as that of the application*):**
  - *NYS Driver's license*
  - *New York State or New York City ID*
  - *Voter Registration Card*
  - *Mortgage, rent receipt or lease agreement*
  - *Utility bill (e.g., electricity, cable, gas, etc.)*
  - *Credit card or bank statement (first page only; social security number/financial information blacked out)*
  - *NYS or Federal tax return*
- **Letter from, or contact person at, local Community Board to verify association status**

## **For All Applicants:**

Applicants must complete the following information in order to be considered for funding:

- Event description
- Event budget
- Names and number of artists and planned activities
- Artist fees
- Date of block party or single block festival
- Location
- Community benefit
- Estimated attendance

## **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:**

Applicants may optionally upload the following to strengthen their application:

- Work samples of the artists performing the activities.
- Copies of block party or single block festival permit.

# Review Criteria

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The Bronx Council on the Arts (BCA) is committed to funding a diverse array of artists and arts activities throughout the Bronx. The emphasis of Arts on the Block is on artist activities that take place at local block parties or single block festivals and that contribute to the cultural life of the neighborhood. Priority is given to organizations that are new to BCA and could become future grantees for arts programs.

Arts on the Block funding decisions are made by panels of Bronx residents selected and trained by BCA. To create a fair and impartial environment, BCA selects panelists that represent a range of ethnicities, genders, ages, neighborhoods, artistic mediums and artistic styles from across the borough. Panels recommend a level of funding according to the following equally important criteria:

- Overall quality and clarity of application narrative.
- Demonstrated audience and community benefit to be derived from the project.
- Non-duplication of similar events in the neighborhood.
- Clearly defined ability to successfully complete the project.
- Artistic merit of the proposed arts activity.

# Grantee Responsibilities

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BCA grant awardees are recipients of public funding and are subject to the responsibilities that it brings.

## **Arts on the Block grantees must:**

- Sign an agreement with BCA, stipulating the amount of the award and the details of the block party/single block festival.
- Include the appropriate credit line and BCA logo on any promotional materials for the event. Exact wording will be provided in the contract.
- Provide BCA with copies of project-related publicity and promotional materials at least three weeks in advance of the funded event.
- File a Final Report by January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024.
- **In the event of rain:** grantee agrees to engage an artist in another community event free and open to the public by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023.

# Appeals

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The appeals process is intended for situations in which the applicant believes a serious administrative error was made that denied them a fair hearing of their proposal. Applicants should only initiate an appeal if, after discussing panel notes with BCA Grants staff, they have reason to believe that one of the following occurred at the panel:

- Non-presentation of pertinent information that was included in the application.
- Misrepresentation of pertinent information.
- Improper procedure.

An applicant not awarded funding by the Grants panel who wishes to appeal must initiate a formal appeal, in writing, to the Grants Director within 10 business days after the date of the denial letter. Organizations or block associations that receive funding at less than the requested amount are not eligible to appeal.

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**QUESTIONS?** Contact: Dionne Norton, [Dionne@bronxarts.org](mailto:Dionne@bronxarts.org)

## 2023 BCA Arts on the Block Grant Funding Cycle

### **May 2023**

Arts on the Block application opens 5/4.

### **June 2023**

Arts on the Block application deadline 6/5.

BCA Grants staff prepare applications for panel meetings.

Panels convene; funding decisions made.

Notifications regarding funding decisions are sent to applicants via email 6/23.

Funds distributed 6/28