



BRONX COUNCIL  
ON THE ARTS

# Bronx Cultural Visions Fund 2024 Guidelines

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## Conceptual Development and Production Grants

**for Bronx-Based Performing Artists, Performance Collectives,  
and Nonprofit Performing Arts Organizations**

*LOI Deadline: July 31st, 2023*

*Full Proposal Deadline: October 23, 2023*

*For projects beginning January 1, 2024*

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*This program is supported by a grant from the*



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Questions? Contact us at [bcvf@bronxarts.org](mailto:bcvf@bronxarts.org) !

## **What Is Bronx Cultural Vision Fund (BCVF)?**

BCVF was created to support the live performing arts scene in the Bronx, by funding the development of new concepts and the production of new work. It is open to Bronx-based individual artists, collectives, and nonprofit arts organizations working in theater, music, dance, or multidisciplinary forms. Grants are project-based and will focus support on artists at emerging and mid-career levels.

Our definition of performing arts is work that happens live, in front of an audience. BCVF seeks to make significant investments in the borough's performing arts community. Grants will provide a full spectrum of support, and BCA will develop long-term relationships with all grantees. Grantees will be required to participate in at least three BCVF cohort meetings during the one-year grant period. Applicants must be conceiving, generating, and/or producing the proposed work themselves; BCVF does not support curators, festival organizers, or presenters.

## **How Can Funds Be Used?**

Two types of support are available: CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT GRANTS will award up to **\$10,000** for developing live performance ideas or projects in their earliest stages. If you have a concept for a performing arts project that you want to develop further, this track is for you. Bronx-based playwrights, directors, choreographers, performers, collectives and small organizations are all eligible for Concept Development grants. Grantees can then apply for a Production Grant in BCVF's next grant cycle.

PRODUCTION GRANTS will award up to **\$20,000** for the realization of a new project. If you are a Bronx-based individual artist, collective, or nonprofit arts organizations looking to produce a live performance of a new work, this grant is for you. Productions do not have to take place in The Bronx, but do have to take place in NYC.

At least 5 Concept Development and 5 Production Grants will be awarded each cycle. All grantees will also be eligible for PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT support of up to \$2500. These funds can be used for skill-building or capacity-strengthening activities, such as consultancies, classes, or the purchase of critical equipment or software.

### **Who Can Apply?**

Will a BCVF award meaningfully impact your career, or your organization's development? Is the work you are proposing intended to be performed live, for a live audience? Can you show proof of Bronx residency/incorporation? Then you can apply! (IF you are not currently a grantee of The Howard Gilman Foundation.)

Applicants will be required to show proof of Bronx residency and/or incorporation that matches the application address. See page 5 for acceptable types of proof. Independent producers, festivals, and curators are not eligible.

**Individuals, Ensembles, And Collectives** can apply if:

- you identify as an emerging or mid-career performing arts practitioner
- you/the lead ensemble member is a Bronx County resident
- you/all ensemble members are 18+ years old
- you have generated/will be developing the concept or idea yourself

**Organizations** can apply if:

- you have been incorporated as a nonprofit for at least one year
- your most recent annual budget is \$250,000 or less
- you are located in The Bronx, with a Bronx mailing address
- you are the entity producing/developing the performance

## Grants Timeline (All Dates in 2023)

June 14 – July 31	Letters of Intent (LOIs) Accepted
June – July	BCVF Information Sessions (live and remote)
September	LOI Review Panel
September 18 – October 23	Full Proposals Accepted (if invited)
November	Full Proposal Panel Review
December	Award Notifications

### HOW TO APPLY

The BCVF application process consists of two stages: submitting a Letter of Intent (LOI), and then if invited, submitting a full proposal. You can submit your LOI in written or video format. You will submit your application through [Submittable.com](https://www.bronxarts.org/grants/bronx-cultural-visions). You can find the link on our website here: <https://www.bronxarts.org/grants/bronx-cultural-visions>.

BCA staff is here to help you throughout the process! Email or call us. We would be happy to talk through any questions about eligibility, the application process, or evaluation criteria. We will also be happy to review a draft of your proposal if you email us a request before July 21<sup>st</sup>.

#### Tips: What To Put In Your Letter Of Intent (Written or Video)

This is your chance to introduce yourself and your project. Tell us about your concept (if applying for a Concept Development Grant) or your plans for production (if applying for Production Grant). Your written or videotaped statement should also include:

- **Biographical Info.** Your name/organization name, a brief history of your practice, and your accomplishments as you define them.
- **General Timeline and Goals.** For Concept Development grants, what is the tangible goal you want to achieve by the end of the grant period? (A new play, a new dance work, a new score,

etc.) For Production grants, what is your general production timeline and when do you intend for the new work to premiere? Where? Performances must take place in New York City, but don't have to take place in The Bronx.

- **Impact.** How will a BCVF grant impact your career or your organization's development?

### Instructions: How To Submit

A link to the application will be available on our website starting June 15<sup>th</sup>. Find it here:

[www.bronxarts.org/grants/bronx-cultural-visions](http://www.bronxarts.org/grants/bronx-cultural-visions)

- **Videos** can be a simple cell phone recording; the quality should be clear, but it is not meant to be an artistic sample. If you feel more comfortable speaking than writing, this option is for you. Maximum length 3 minutes, English preferred, but Spanish accepted if English subtitles/translation are provided. You will be able to upload your video directly through Submittable.
- **Written Statements** should be no longer than 500 words (about 2 pages).
- **Work Samples:** We want to see a sample of your previous work. Website links, writing samples, or links to video clips (max 5 minutes) can be submitted through the above link.
- **Proof of Eligibility for Individuals, Collectives, and Ensembles:** Include one of the following - NYS Driver's license or ID, NYC ID, Voter Registration Card, mortgage/rent agreement, the first/address page of a utility bill, tax return, credit card or bank statement. For ensembles, lead members should apply for the group; documentation should pertain to the lead member.
- **Proof of Eligibility for Organizations:** Include one of the following – incorporation letter from IRS (501c3) or NYS Board of Regents, NYS Bureau of Charities Filing Receipt, IRS Form 990.

*LOIs will be accepted from June 14 through July 31, 2023*

## How Will LOIs Be Evaluated?

After BCA staff screens submissions for eligibility, they will be reviewed by BCA staff and an invited panel of performing arts professionals. Decisions will be made according to the 5 criteria below – submissions that meet at least 3 will be considered strong.

BCA is committed to creating a fair, transparent, and impartial panel process. We ensure our panels represent a range of ethnicities, genders, ages, and artistic styles. Want to know more about our grant panel processes and ethics? Please call or email us!

Evaluation Criteria:

- Is the project stewarding cultural heritage, innovating, sharing a new perspective, or probing/pushing boundaries? Is there a compelling vision or original voice?
- Is technical expertise and/or proficiency evident in the work samples?
- Are the outcomes achievable? Are the plans realistic?
- Does the project represent a new direction or growth for the applicant?

## What's Next?

Selected applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal in September. The full proposal will include specific questions asking for more detail about the project and project budget. It will also require the upload of a resume/CV and ask for additional work samples. BCA staff will be available to assist every applicant in crafting their proposal.