

BIPOC Arts Network & Fund

2023 ARTIST AWARDS Guidelines and Information

[Enlace a la *Lineamientos para aplicar en Español*](#)

BIPOC Arts Network & Fund

Thank you for your interest in the 2023 BIPOC Arts Network & Fund (BANF) grant opportunity. The following document details the grant application process, requirements, and key dates and shares a little about us.

On behalf of the BANF steering committee and our accountability and advisory council, made up of Black, Latinx, Asian, Indigenous, and LGBTQ+ arts community leaders, we are grateful for your participation in building a thriving arts ecosystem in Houston.

About BANF

The Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) Arts Network & Fund (BANF) is a multi-year initiative dedicated to providing resources that support the vibrant BIPOC arts community of Greater Houston in fully displaying their power, values, and traditions. Established in 2021 as a collaborative community effort, BANF is guided by the very artists, nonprofit organizations, and local leaders it seeks to serve through grant funding, advocacy, and community-building networking initiatives.

How We're Funded

Tethered to the Ford Foundation's America's Cultural Treasures (ACT) national initiative, BANF is one of seven regional initiatives addressing structural discrimination and inequities in arts funding. With lead funding from Houston Endowment and the Ford Foundation, this grant is made possible with early commitments of four other local foundations, including The Brown Foundation, The Cullen Foundation, Kinder Foundation, and Powell Foundation.

First Round of Funding: \$2M Invested in 2021

At its launch, BANF invested \$2 million into BIPOC-founded and led organizations and fiscally-sponsored artist collectives that promote, preserve, and celebrate Black, Indigenous, Latinx, Asian, and other communities of color through arts and cultural programming. This investment was an effort to provide direct and urgent support for Houston's BIPOC arts ecosystem in the face of the pandemic and compounded crises.

BANF continues a process that listens and then acts on the needs of BIPOC arts organizations and artists. We collaboratively design programs and build community networking initiatives that revolutionize the local funding landscape, break down silos within the arts ecosystem, and welcome everyone to support and learn from BIPOC communities.

BANF 2023 Artist Awards

BANF recognizes that individual artists are essential to Houston's arts ecosystem. We are announcing an investment of \$1M over three years to create transformative opportunities for artists whose artistic practice demonstrates a history of service and support for and with Greater Houston's BIPOC communities.

The BANF Award for Individual Artists will provide a one-time investment of up to \$20,000 each to 50 artists who are members of Greater Houston's Black, Indigenous, Latinx, Asian American, Pacific Islander, Middle Eastern and/or other communities of color. The awards will be distributed in two rounds of 25 awardees over three years.

These awards are an investment in these artists and their commitment to Houston's communities of color. This funding provides significant support to individual artists who contribute to the rich BIPOC cultural legacies of Houston – past, present, and future – and demonstrate a substantial contribution to their chosen community.

Further, to echo the commitment to sharing and building community-based wealth, awardees commit to learning with and from each other and creating a learning community that can facilitate adaptation and thriving. All grantees and awardees are essential to building a network of arts leaders, practitioners, and organizations committed to building a thriving arts ecosystem in the Greater Houston region.

Who should apply?

This round is open to artists who reside and work in the Greater Houston area. The BIPOC Arts Network and Fund does not have a strict definition of the term "artist" and believes that the awardees will reflect multiple disciplines, media, processes, and ways of working. We encourage artists, creative individuals, community organizers who employ creative techniques, culture workers, culture bearers, and any self-defined artist who can demonstrate a history of creative process and/or product and meets the criteria to apply.

The BIPOC Arts Network and Fund is a regional partner for the Ford Foundation's America's Cultural Treasures (ACT). Over its five years, BANF aims to resource and nourish the arts sector that celebrates and serves the Black, Latinx, Asian, Indigenous, and other communities of color in the Greater Houston Region. The BANF Artist Award invests in artists who have demonstrated consistent and ongoing creative engagement and interaction that has benefitted Greater Houston's communities of color through arts and creative service. We believe that by investing in these artists, the greater Houston community will also benefit.

Expectations of Awardees

This award is not tied specifically to any project or grant, so there are no questions about budget or expectations of a written final report.

Artists awarded in this process will commit to actively participating in an 18-month learning community to share experience, opportunity, and inspiration with other BANF Awardees. BANF will work with the awardees to determine shared ways of working and collective goals. While we do not determine a specific outcome from the time together, we believe that through the relationships built in the learning community, these artists will strengthen their capacities, open up the potential for new collaborations and ways of thinking/working, and as arts leaders, they will share their knowledge and experience with the city, region, and beyond.

COMMUNITY-ENGAGED DESIGN PROCESS

BANF is committed to building processes informed by and inclusive of community members. BANF's Operational Partners, Community Consultants, Steering Committee, Accountability & Advisory Council will be joined by community-nominated reviewers (independent artists, educators, patrons, community leaders and organizers) who help our review panels be more reflective of the Greater Houston BIPOC arts ecosystem.

Panelists are asked to disclose all potential conflicts of interest so that no panelist can unduly advocate for proposals from which they may benefit or have a perceived benefit. [See Conflict of Interest Policy.] We will share the names of all panelists and readers at the end of the review process.

In response to the concerns, hopes, and recognitions that emerged from the 2021 organizational grants, BANF has engaged community-specific design teams with particular focus on the two most populous communities of color in Houston: Latinx/Hispanic and Black/African American artistic communities. The partners and the community-specific panelists will engage in dialogue about the interpretation and prioritization of the criteria to reflect nuance, history, aesthetics, and representation according to their respective communities.

Community-Specific Design Teams (*indicates First Round BANF Grantee)

Latinx/Hispanic

- *[MECA](#) Executive Director Alice Valdez and Armando Silva
- [Latin American Women Artists of Houston](#) Founder Arielle Masson and Gabriela Magana
- *[Nuestra Palabra](#) Founder Tony Diaz

Black/ African American

- *[The Ensemble Theatre](#) Artistic Director Eileen Morris
- *[Community Artist Collective](#) Co-Founder & Executive Director Michelle Barnes
- *[Urban Souls](#) Executive Director Walter Hull

These operational partners have helped define this opportunity's parameters by refining the guidelines and determining processes for applications and review. Further, each design team will lead a review process for all applicants whose self-identification fits within the team's identified parameters.

Key Dates

APPLICATION OPEN: Tuesday, January 10, 2023 at 10 AM Central

DEADLINE TO REGISTER IN [SUBMITTABLE](#): Friday, February 17 at 12 PM Central

APPLICATION MATERIALS DEADLINE: Monday, February 20, 2023 at 9 AM Central

APPLICATION REVIEW: Monday, February 20, 2023 through May 1, 2023.

AWARD NOTIFICATIONS

BANF plans to notify all applicants by May 15, 2023. If volume of applications exceeds current predictions, BANF may extend the timeline for review and notification.

Grant Application Review Process

Applications undergo a multi-step community review process as follows:

Step 1: Eligibility Review – BIPOC Arts Network and Fund Administration

Applications are reviewed by BANF Administration team to verify eligibility.

Step 2: Panel Reviews

All applications will be reviewed and scored in relationship with the criteria. A general panel will review all the applications to determine its list of finalists. Each community panel will review applicants who self-identify as part of that community to determine their list of finalists. These three determinations may overlap.

Step 3: Finalist Review

A panel of reviewers will review the finalists' applications and determine a slate of awardees who will be named part of the learning community.

Step 4: Verifications, Approvals, and Acceptances

Upon confirmation and administrative verifications (including a valid Social Security Number or an [Individual Taxpayer Identification Number](#)), the Project Director will notify awardees for acceptance and disbursement calendar. After all agreements are executed, first payments are projected to be released by May-June 2023.

Eligibility Overview

Applicant must:

- Demonstrate continuous residency in the 9-county region (including Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, and Waller Counties) of Greater Houston for a minimum of 2 years.
- Be at least 21 years of age by January 1, 2023.

Individual artists who are affiliated with BANF Round 1 Grantees are eligible to apply. Reviewers will be notified of the association and may take that into consideration in identifying final awardees.

Review Criteria

Awardees will share these characteristics and experiences:

- Artists who self-identify as a member of Greater Houston's Black, Indigenous, Latinx, Asian Pacific Islander and/or other communities of color will receive particular consideration.
- Artists whose creative work has been recognized by local, regional, or national cultural organizations, leaders, artistic professionals, *or other community advocates and leaders*¹.
- Artists have demonstrated a history of service and support for and with a community of color in Houston.
- Artists have demonstrated a history of and commitment to artistic activity/production.
- Artists have demonstrated a commitment to learning, offering expertise, and engaging with others in a productive and active manner.

¹ Announced the revised language on 1/26/2023

Inherent within BANF's Listen and Learn approach, other criteria may surface as we experience the stories our community shares with us through the application process. We will continue to update the Support.HoustonBANF.org page with any further clarifications.

Award Determination

Over the next three years, BANF will invest \$1 million in 50 artists in the Greater Houston Area. This first round of artist awards will name 25 individuals of different media and communities whose artistic careers and creative practice have demonstrated transformative service to Greater Houston's communities of color. As arts leaders, these awardees' commitment to supporting their communities and learning from each other will serve as a significant investment in Greater Houston's BIPOC arts ecosystem.

The process to name the next 25 awardees will begin by the fall of 2024.

Use of Funds

Allowable	Ineligible
<p>The following is a nonexclusive list of costs that are eligible expenditures for this award:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Artist Fees/Salaries • Research • Paying off organizational debt/financial solvency • Equipment and infrastructure • Existing or new programming • Training and expertise building • Rent, mortgage, or downpayments • Insurance 	<p>The following is a nonexclusive list of costs that would not be eligible expenditures for this award:</p> <p>Activities that promote or engage in violence, terrorism, bigotry or the destruction of any State</p> <p>Activities that attempt to influence the outcome of any election or legislation</p>

[**Click here to view the BANF Application Worksheet.**](#)

Enlace a [lineamientos para aplicar a la beca \(2023 Artist Awards\)](#):

<https://bit.ly/2023lineamientos>

Enlace a la [Planilla de Aplicación y Guía de para registrarse en Submittable](#):

<https://bit.ly/2023aa-guia>

Roles & Responsibilities

BANF is structured as a collaborative, multi-phase fund and a resource network guided by the region's funders, artists, and nonprofit leaders. Acknowledging historical underinvestment in Houston BIPOC cultures and art communities, the initiative aims to increase philanthropic support to collective grantmaking and facilitate new connections between funders and prospective grantees through shared decision-making authority.

BANF is led by Project Director Sixto Wagan with a Steering Committee that currently guides core programmatic goals and sets immediate priorities. The Accountability and Advisory Council (AAC), a diverse group of artists, curators, scholars, and organizational leaders, advises the Project Director on the strategic vision, language, and community impacts. BANF engaged members of its network - including grantees, artists, and community partners - as programmatic design teams and primary consultants to co-design guidelines, criteria, and support mechanisms. BANF leadership utilizes dialogue and collective process to engage thought leaders from different sectors of Greater Houston's BIPOC arts ecosystem to better educate ourselves, each other, and build a more cohesive and powerful community.

The following describes primary roles for each group in relationship with this award opportunity and process:

Community Design Team/Operational Partners

- A selected group of Latinx and Black-identified and serving Round One grantees and community partners who connect multiple communities of artists
- Worked with BANF Director to define and refine parameters, guidelines, criteria and review processes for opportunity
- Serve as first-round community-specific review of applications that determine a slate of finalists
- Identify community-specific histories, nuance, and aesthetics that speak to Greater Houston's Latinx and Black communities.

Community Consultants, Community Nominated Reviewers and Panelists

- Panels of community consultants will determine Finalists and Awardees
- Artists, creatives and BIPOC community advocates who read and rate applications according to published criteria

Accountability & Advisory Council and Panel

- Review applications using the review criteria
- Documents scores and comments
- Steering Committee
- Finalize allocations
- Approve for funding

Houston Arts Alliance

- HAA is an operational partner to BANF
- HAA acts as the initiative's fiscal sponsor; thus all financial and legal documents are executed by and with HAA.
- HAA has no decision-making power within the BANF grantmaking process.

Assistance

The BANF Team provides application support via information sessions, written guidance and FAQs, and by phone and email.

- **Scheduled live and recorded information sessions** will cover a range of topics, including a general introduction to the award, a demonstration of Submittable, and specific topics like requesting a statement of support from an advocate or ways to answer the narrative questions.
- **BANF's Support Desk** provides written guidance for applicants, answers to FAQs, and links to recorded information sessions. Please visit <https://support.houstonbanf.org/a/solutions>

If you have a question not already addressed at the Support Desk, please submit it by clicking "New Support Ticket" no later than **Monday, February 13, 2023, 5 p.m.** CST to have it answered before the submission deadline. Questions received, and the answers provided, will be shared with the Support Desk. The Support Desk is updated once a week.

- Visit www.houstonbanf.org to learn more about dates and registration for information sessions and to sign up for email updates. We will also provide information there to connect to community-based information hubs and other kinds of support.
- To be sure BANF provides transparent support to all substantive questions and because the volume of inquiries will likely grow, BANF staff will be able to provide only technical support with the online application in the week before the application deadline.
- Spanish language assistance is available upon request. If you need translation services beyond Spanish, please send an email to see how/if we can provide adequate translation support.
- BANF staff is available to provide technical assistance to people with disabilities.

Starting January 10, BANF staff can be contacted by email or phone about this award opportunity, generally **from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. CST Monday through Friday**. We will aim to respond within one business day or will propose a time to connect.

info@houstonbanf.org

713-581-6125

BANF Conflict of Interest Statements for Panelists

The BIPOC Arts Network and Fund recognizes that much of our BIPOC arts sector is built upon relationships. We are continuing to build on a history that was made possible because of the partnerships, collaborations, mentorships, and mutual support. We would not be successful if we did not work together. That network informs our processes and is reflected in this more participatory approach to grant allocations. We also value equity and transparency.

Panelists are asked to disclose all potential conflicts of interest, so that no panelist can unduly advocate for proposals from which they may benefit, or have a perceived benefit.

A panelist will be considered “affiliated” with a fellowship applicant if they are related to that individual in any of the following ways:

- as an employee or a contractor;
- a featured artists, guest, or expert that is paid or unpaid;
- a fundraiser or public relations person, or;
- an independent contractor who has received fees or payments in the year preceding the filing of the affiliation statement and
 - has had and or is having a relationship of an intimate nature with the applicant or
 - will benefit directly from the grant applicant’s funding from BANF.

In the event of “affiliation” with an applicant, such person:

- Will not participate in any aspect of the decision-making process in connection with any matter that involves the applicant directly, and
- Will be required to leave the room before the discussion, scoring, or presentation of any matter relating to the application of that individual or organization, and
- Will be forbidden from participating in any discussion or vote concerning the application at any open meeting.

Note:

Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) is a term adopted to expand on the more recognized term "People of Color" to acknowledge the historic anti-Blackness and Native American/Indigenous erasure that has shaped much of U.S. history. In our current utilization of BIPOC, we include Black, Latinx, Indigenous, Asian American, Pacific Islander, Middle Eastern, and other communities of color.