

Public Artist-in-Residence Open Call:

Applications are due May 19, 2024 at 11:59 p.m. EST

OPEN CALL FOR ARTISTS

FROM ROOTS TO ARTS: CELEBRATING NYCHA'S CULTURAL HERITAGE

Call Type: Public Art/Residency

Eligibility: City Resident

City: New York City

Entry Deadline: May 19, 2024 by 11:59 p.m. EST

Residency: July 2024-March 2026 (20 months)

Award: \$70K/yr + Benefits

The Public Housing Community Fund (PHCF), in partnership with the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA), NYC Public Design Commission and NYC Department of Youth and Community Development is seeking up to five (5) artists to join the From Roots to Arts: Celebrating NYCHA's Cultural Heritage artist-in-residency program.

One (1) selected artist will be placed in residence with each of the following NYCHA communities /community-based organizations: Bronx River Houses, Bushwick Houses, King Towers Houses, Astoria Houses, and Richmond Terrace Houses.

About the Program

From Roots to Arts: Celebrating NYCHA's Cultural Heritage is an innovative artist-in-residency pilot program designed to enrich and expand the narratives of culture, heritage, and art within public housing. This first of its kind collaboration is led by the Public Housing Community Fund, in partnership with the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA), NYC Public Design Commission, NYC Department of Youth and Community Development, NYCHA residents, and NYCHA Cornerstone nonprofit organizations. The program is funded by the Mellon Foundation. By placing local artists and residents at the forefront of this endeavor, we aim to redefine how stories are told and the type of art that is produced and featured in public housing.

Harnessing the framework of the city's Cornerstone Program across five NYCHA campuses spanning all five boroughs, this endeavor offers dedicated spaces within community centers, fostering an environment where artists can immerse themselves and interact with residents and the community at large. With its sights set on catalyzing positive change, the program envisions artists as catalysts of transformation, collaboratively shaping visions for the future, addressing community challenges, and fortifying communal bonds. The artists will work collaboratively with NYCHA residents

to conceive public art programming and installations that celebrate the enormous cultural value of NYCHA communities.

The program will be documented by a video storyteller, a NYCHA Art Liaison, who will capture the oral histories, challenges in participatory public art, and community joy, and provide an archival record of the impact while bridging work from all five sites through this program with historic work from NYCHA.

Residency Structure

The 20-month artist-in-residency begins with a kick-off celebration, meet-and-greet for inaugural artist cohort members, and a half-day orientation session, which kicks off a four-month community engagement portion of the residency. This phase is a time for the artist to establish mutual trust and grow a relationship with resident stakeholders. The artist hosts office hours, workshops, talks and visits at their community center space, in collaboration with the resident and site partner organization. The **Engagement Phase** continues with the implementation of artist proposals designed in collaboration with the community, to produce during the remaining 16 months of the residency.

The **Implementation Phase** of the residency is marked by approval of the project proposal and initiation of the work. The proposed project must be collaborative in nature and include public-facing events. PHCF and partners will continue to provide the artist support during the project's production for the duration of the residency, with bi-monthly virtual or in-person check-in meetings to assist in project development.

Artist Fee and Materials

Each selected artist will be employed by the Public Housing Community Fund, earning \$70,000 annually with benefits. Artist salaries and benefits are not inclusive of related project expenses (e.g., materials, fabrication, participant stipends, etc.). Each community is allotted up to \$155,000 for programming and fabrication support. Selected artists will be responsible for developing a budget for use of the funds, in collaboration with public housing residents. The budget and use of funds will be approved by PHCF.

In addition to the annual salary, the artist will also receives:

- Program space at the partner community-based organization, with access based on regular building hours
- Networking, professional, and legal support
- Competitive benefits package, including health, dental, vision, and retirement savings account.
- Programming and fabrication budget of up to \$155,000.

Artist Agreement and Intellectual Property Rights

PHCF understands the importance of artists' intellectual property rights. Prior to the start date of each phase of the program, the selected artists will be required to sign one (1) Public Artist in Residence Agreement. This agreement includes fixed provisions regarding intellectual property and makes the following distinction: artist(s) own and maintain rights over artistic works developed during the program (such as visual art, performances and literary materials) that are not intended to be used by PHCF, a city agency or program partner, subject to certain restrictions. Materials developed specifically for the *From Roots to Arts* program or for PHCF purposes (such as reports, promotional materials, and campaign content) will be owned by the PHCF. *Selected artists are strongly encouraged to review the Agreements with trusted legal counsel as soon as they are received to avoid delays.*

About PHCF, NYCHA, and Department of Youth and Community Development Cornerstones.

The [Public Housing Community Fund](#) (PHCF) is a nonprofit that forges partnerships to power transformative programs that enhance the lives of over 500,000 residents across New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) communities. PHCF engages people and partners to build a stronger, more equitable New York City by investing in public housing communities. PHCF invests in programs focused on leadership development, financial empowerment, community health, and workforce training for residents of the NYCHA community.

NYCHA is the largest public housing authority in North America with a mission to provide decent and affordable housing in a safe and secure living environment for over a half-million low- and moderate-income residents throughout New York City through its public housing and Section 8 programs. [DYCD Cornerstones](#) Cornerstones provide engaging, high-quality, year-round programs for adults and young people. Programs are located at 99 New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) Community Centers throughout the five boroughs.

As an Artist-in-Residence, you will be part of a small but impactful five borough team working closely with senior leadership at PHCF, NYCHA, Resident Associations, and site partners in a fun, exciting, and ever-changing work environment. Ideal candidates will have a love for art and community building, a passion to work with underserved communities, a willingness to be flexible and listen to community members wants and needs, and be a driven artist that aims to change the way public art and associated programming serves public housing communities.

Artist-in-Residence | Responsibilities:

1. Develop and document resident and community engagement plans with benchmarks and schedules over a 20-month period involving community art workshops and programs.
3. Coordinate with PHCF, Site Partner, and Stakeholder Advisory Group to moderate programs that foster creative participation with residents, local history and culture, community knowledge, and art.
4. Develop and oversee a programming and fabrication budget with support from PHCF and Site Partner.
5. Implement an art project proposal in coordination with PHCF, Site Partner and the Stakeholder Advisory Group. This may include supporting PHCF and the Site Partner in applying for and securing permits and or agreements as needed.
6. Collaborate with PHCF's NYCHA Art Liaison to document the residency journey.
7. Participate in bi-monthly virtual or in-person check-in meetings to review project progress and receive support from PHCF and agency partners.
8. Provide reports to PHCF as needed throughout the residency.

Minimum Qualifications:

1. 18 years of age or older, High School Diploma or G.E.D.
2. One year of experience working in programs and community engagement.
3. Experience co-creating artistic projects with community members and diverse populations, incorporating their perspectives and cultural heritage into the creative process.
4. Sensitivity to cultural nuances and a commitment to representing the diverse voices and experiences within NYCHA communities respectfully.

The ideal candidate will have:

1. Prior experience working with NYCHA or another housing authority.
2. Excellent organizational, time management, and communication skills.
3. Flexibility to accommodate a dynamic work schedule. An ability to work in a dynamic environment, adapt to changing circumstances, and collaborate effectively with a diverse range of stakeholders.
4. An entrepreneurial spirit, creative, and self-starter passionate about talking with residents about art in NYCHA communities.
5. Bi-lingual preferred (English & Spanish)
6. Resides within or around Bushwick Houses development.

We strongly encourage all applicants to apply, even if they do not possess all of the skills outlined above. If you are passionate about community engagement, public art, and making a positive impact in public housing communities, and a willingness to learn and grow are important qualities in our ideal candidate. We welcome individuals from diverse backgrounds and experiences who are enthusiastic about engaging with NYCHA communities and contributing to collaborative art projects.

From Roots to Arts: Celebrating NYCHA's Cultural Heritage | Applications

The program will launch five (5) inaugural residencies with the following partner NYCHA Cornerstone nonprofit organizations:

- Children's Arts & Science Workshops, Inc. - Bronx River Houses
- Grand Street Settlement, Inc. - Bushwick Houses
- SCAN-Harbor New York Volunteer Parent-Aides Association, Inc. - King Towers Houses
- HANAC, Inc. - Astoria Houses
- The Jewish Community Center of Staten Island - Richmond Terrace Houses

A Site summary is provided on the [From Roots to Arts website](#) to give some background pertaining to each community partner. Artists may apply to multiple open calls but can only be selected for one position. A separate application must be submitted for each NYCHA community.

The Call Application Submission

Interested artists must submit all of the following application materials:

1. **Framing Question or Area of Inquiry (100 words)** Based on the background information provided in this Call Out, what resonates with you, and what framing question or area of inquiry would you hope to address during the residency? Please note that this open call is not a request for project proposals or predetermined projects; we expect questions and areas of inquiry to evolve during the residency.
2. **Statement of Interest (250 words)** How does your previous work and process of collaboration relate to your framing question or area of inquiry? Using examples from your past work, explain how your practice has intersected with public housing constituents and/or areas of focus. Describe a challenge that you previously faced during this work and how you addressed it. Please be specific.
3. **Artist Statement (250 words)** Provide a statement describing your artistic practice.
4. **Resume or CV.** Provide a resume or CV, highlighting artistic excellence and any community engagement work, foreign language skills, teaching experience, experience working with multiple stakeholders, and/or any experience related to the challenge set forth in this call.

5. **References.** Provide the names, phone numbers and emails of three (3) professional references. Please indicate your relationship to each reference.
6. **Work Samples.** Provide up to 10 digital images of recent works and/or up to 3 links to video or audio with maximum lengths of 5 minutes. For literary projects, submit samples no longer than 2-3 pages of scripts, poetry, prose or other relevant materials.
7. **Work Sample List.** Provide a list of submitted work, including title, date, materials, and dimensions, or running times. Include 1-2 sentence descriptions as needed.

Selection Process and Evaluation Criteria

Artist applications will be reviewed by a panel of representatives from PHCF, NYCHA, PDC, and DYCD, a NYCHA resident, and invited professionals with expertise in public art. The panel will review applications for completeness, eligibility, and quality, as well as:

- Clarity of framing question or area of inquiry to address during residency
- Quality and relevance of the applicant's prior work
- Evidence of experience creating socially engaged art and working collaboratively with communities
- Evidence of experience working at the intersection of art and politics and/or using art for social or political change
- Evidence of experience developing and engaging in a collaborative process with multiple partners with a high level of competency
- Evidence of flexibility, adaptability, and ability to maneuver through different situations and populations

Finalists will be asked to interview with the panel prior to final selection.

Applicant Eligibility

The selected artist should be deeply interested in New York City's physical landscape and/or neighborhood planning and development, have demonstrated experience with social interventions through artistic practice, and have a desire to work specifically within diverse communities.

In addition:

- Applications will be accepted from individual artists only.
- Artists can apply directly and if selected, will become employees of the Public Housing Community Fund for the duration of the 20-month residency.
- Artists must be 18 years of age or older and residents of New York City.
- Artists must be eligible to work in New York City.
- Artists may not be currently enrolled in school.

Other Requirements:

Candidates must successfully complete NYSDOH Fingerprinting Screening; New York State Clearance Review Background Check; Three (3) Reference Checks; and Physical w/ updated TB Test.

Timeline

- **Application Deadline:** Sunday, May 19, 2024 by 11:59 p.m. EST.
- **Virtual Info Session:** April 30, 2024; 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. EST. Recording added to the site.
- **Artist Finalist Interviews:** Mid-June 2024 (June 24 - 28) Interviews; conducted on site in person.
- **Artist Notifications:** End of June 2024
- **Residency Start Date:** Early July 2024
- **Residency End Date:** March 2026

This Open Call does not represent any obligation or agreement whatsoever on the part of the PHCF or its partners. PHCF is under no legal obligation to select an artist for the residency, and the PHCF reserves the right to reject any or all applications, amend or withdraw this open call in whole or in part, and negotiate with one or more artist(s).

A virtual information session will be held for all five Open Calls on Tuesday, April 30, 2024; 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. EST, via Zoom. Candidates interested in joining the virtual information sessions must register by clicking [here](#).

Questions: If you have questions about the application process or residency structure, please contact us at art@communityfund.nyc or call 212-210-2369. All questions and answers will be published on the *From Roots to Arts* [website](#) by Sunday, May 5, 2024. Please refer to the FAQs page on our website for frequently asked questions.